



## Minutes of the 58th session of FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF), Berlin 17 May, 2017

### Participants

David Rhodes	CEO, New Zealand Forest Owners Association, New Zealand
Timo Jaatinen	President and CEO, Finnish Forest Industries Federation, Finland
Masataka Hayama	President, Japan Paper Association, Japan
Klaus Windhagen	Director General, German Pulp and Paper Association, Germany
Bernhard de Galembert	Innovation and Bioeconomy Director, Confederation of European Paper Industries
Naci Gungor	Brand and Corporate Communications Manager Kastamonu integrated wood-based panel company, Turkey
Carina Hakansson	Director General Swedish Forest Industries Association, Sweden
Kwame Asamoah Adam	CEO, Ghana Timber Millers Organization, Ghana
Maria Teresa Arana	Gerente General, Corporación Chilena de la Madera, Chile
Elizabeth de Carvalhaes	Executive President IBA, Brazil
Donna Harman	President and CEO, American Forest and Paper Association, United States of America
Paul-Antoine Lacour	Director General, Union Française de l'industrie des papiers, cartons et celluloïde, France
Shobhan Mittal	CEO, Greenply Industries, India
Jane Molony	Executive Director, Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa
Lorenz Klein v. Wisenberg	IFFA-International Family Forestry Alliance
Natalia Canova	IBA, Brazil
Sylvain Lhote	Director General, Confederation of European Paper Industries
Naoto Haraguchi	General Manager for International Affairs, Japan Paper Association, Japan
Jake Handelsman	Senior Director, International Trade at American Forest & Paper Association, USA
From FAO:	
Eva Muller	Director Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO
Mats Nordberg	ACSF Secretary, FAO
Till Neeff	Consultant, FAO

### Item 1 Opening of the Session

ACSF Chairman David Rhodes declared the session open and greeted its participants. He underlined the importance of the link that ACSFI provides between the forest industry and the FAO.

Eva Muller, Director of the Forest and Policy Division in FAO, pointed out that FAO is strengthening its partnerships with the private sector. In this respect, the ACSFI is a good model. It has existed for many decades and allowed the Forestry Department to establish close links with the private forest sector early on, while similar links did not yet exist in the other technical areas of FAO.

Director Gerhard Stiens, representing the International Department of German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture expressed his satisfaction that the German Pulp and Paper Association was hosting the ACSFI in Germany and underlined the importance of the dialogue that the meeting represented. The roots of sustainable management of natural resources are centuries old and connected specifically with forestry and with Germany. In the late 17th and early 18th century, Hans Carl von Carlowitz from Sachsen defined the concept of sustainable forest management based on the notion that annual harvesting volumes must be in planned balance with the annual forest increment. In our time, the importance of forestry is growing in the eyes of the public and of political leaders and policymakers, appreciating their potential in climate change mitigation, in fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goals and in protecting biodiversity. Forests are also crucial to rural employment and more wood should be used in construction. In Germany, the National Forest Strategy 2020 and a Wood Charter 2.0, together with the EU Forest Action Plans focus on these issues.



## Item 2 Organizational matters

### Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

### Last meeting's protocol minutes

The minutes from the 57th ACSFI session in Sydney were approved.

### Membership developments

It was noted that the committee presently lacks members from China and Korea. Members were invited to propose possible candidates to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will also continue to search for suitable candidates.

Peter de Marsh and Michael Peter have decided to discontinue their membership. Members present expressed their gratitude for their work with the ACSFI.

Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg and Jane Molony were supported by the ACSFI as new members. Jane Molony is the Executive Director of the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa (PAMSA) and also newly elected Chair of the ICFPA. Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg is a member of the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA), which represents more than 25 million forest owners. He is himself a forest owner and a forest consultant.

### Steering committee

Jane Molony and Bernard De Galembert were elected as new Steering Committee members.

### Rules of Procedure of the ACSFI

It has been noted for some years, that the Statutes of the ACSFI are not sufficiently detailed to cover a number of situations that regularly occur, which creates unnecessary work and risks leading to arbitrary decisions.

To improve the situation, the secretariat has developed a set of Draft Rules of Procedure (RoP), which were distributed to the members. It was agreed that members will provide comments within two weeks of the session to the ACSFI secretary. The final Rules of Procedure will be endorsed by FAO before entering into force.

## Item 3 Keynote presentation

Mr Klaus Windhagen, Director General of VDP, the German Pulp and Paper Association, presented an overview of the German forest industry.

Although the mechanical industry is by far the most important private business sector in Germany, the forest sector plays an important role. One third of the land area of Germany is forest and almost half is privately owned. This makes the forest sector an important driver of the rural economy and of rural



employment. 67 % of the forest area is under PEFC certification, 10 % under FSC certification. These figures cannot be added, since many are certified under both systems. Germany is now the world's fourth largest paper producer after China, USA and Japan, with an annual production of 22 Million tonnes of paper.

The market share of graphic paper, which was until recently the largest product group, has fallen to second place, and paper and board packaging materials now make up the largest group.

Paper recycling is on an internationally high level (64 % of the paper output is from recycled fibres). There are some image problems surrounding the use of paper that are not necessarily justified given the high recycling rates and the sourcing strategies from sustainably managed forests.

#### **Item 4 FAO report on Implementation on ACSFI 57<sup>th</sup> session's recommendations**

##### Bio-technology

As reported in the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the ACSFI, FAO conducted in 2016 an international symposium on "The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition", encompassing the crop, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors. The symposium covered a broad range of biotechnologies, including low-tech as well as high-tech approaches, such as those involving advanced DNA-based methodologies and genetically modified organisms.

Based on the symposium, it was decided to organize four regional consultation meetings in 2017-18, providing a dialogue forum for governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors, including the private sector.

As support a Task Force has been created, where the Forest Department is represented by Mr Jarkko Koskela. Regional Advisory panels will be formed, each with 10 experts, collaborating with the Task Force.

The first regional cross-sectoral consultation meeting will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September 2017, the second in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2017. During 2018, meetings are planned to take place in Latin America and the Near East.

Before each meeting, regional background studies are intended to be made. Possible topics to include in these studies could be:

- Work performed on genetically modified Eucalyptus
- Use of biotechnology for wood-based production of bio-fuel
- Use of biotechnology for wood-based production of textile
- Use of CRISP technology for turning off genes.

Members expressed their interest in attending the regional workshops and playing an active role. FAO was also asked to promote a visible role of the forest sector in the workshops.

It was agreed that FAO will inform the members of the modes of participation in the workshops and the possibility of preparing forest-related background studies.



### Promoting the use of wood in construction

At the 57<sup>th</sup> Session, the ACSFI requested FAO to carry out a study on policies surrounding the use of wood in construction. As a joint UNECE/FAO report was published in 2016 on precisely this issue, focusing on Europe and North America, FAO requested guidance from the ACSFI on how to proceed further.

ACCSI members considered that an expanded study with broader coverage would be desirable. Views expressed included the following:

- It is necessary to clearly define the target group of the study
- It is important to include both good and bad policies
- In many countries, wooden houses are perceived as inferior to e.g. buildings made from concrete
- Wood in some African countries is less affordable than alternative materials, whereas in others, such as India, it is considered a low-technology, low-price alternative. Turkey was mentioned as a third example, where the discussion on wood houses is not very high on the public agenda.
- Modern building materials and methods could be highlighted in the study

Key benefits of wood, including climate effects and positive effects of wood houses on health and on resilience against natural disasters should also be highlighted. There are studies of this that can be referred to. The envisaged study should focus on key timber-producing countries outside the European and North American region.

The meeting agreed that the study should concentrate on negative and positive policies on wood construction in major wood-producing countries outside the UNECE region and also point out other challenges and opportunities. A limited number of countries would be selected and the study should include recommendations on how challenges could be overcome.

### Communication networks for the forest sector

FAO has supported the establishment of Regional Forest Communicators Networks in six regions with more than 500 members, disseminating key messages, examples of best practices and communication materials on forests and forestry across the world.

A Global Group meets once a year to assist with the coordination of the networks.

FAO proposed the following actions to strengthen positive communication on forest products, in collaboration with the Regional Forest Communicators Networks, ACSFI and ICFPA:

- ACSFI and ICFPA could identify key messages they would like to disseminate regarding the positive role of wood products in the bio-economy and for sustainable development.
- FAO could help design such messages and visuals for social media and the Regional Forest Communicators Networks could serve as a channel for disseminating such messages at country level through social media networks.
- The global workshop “Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World” (see further under Item 5) provides an opportunity for a social media campaign on sustainable wood.



It was decided, that Bernard de Galembert will serve as contact person from ACSFI's side to the FAO Communication network. Efforts should also be made to connect the FAO's global communicators' network and the ICFPA's network.

FAO can assist in designing messages for campaigns of various types through its regional offices and a communication campaign is envisioned in the context of the planned International Workshop on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable Future.

#### Promoting bio-based packaging

At the 57<sup>th</sup> session in Sydney, FAO presented a background study on this subject prepared by an intern. Based on this study, the ACSFI requested FAO to prepare a shorter promotional document/brochure highlighting key messages on wood-based bio-packaging materials.

FAO proposed producing a video as a first step to promote bio-based packaging. Since the present preliminary video-script also has too little focus on wood-based packaging materials, it was agreed to add at least one scene showing wood-based packaging material and also that the narrative should describe wood-based dominating role in bio-based packaging. ACSFI members can on request provide film sequences.

It was underlined that the video should primarily focus on positive benefits from wood-based and other bio-based packaging materials.

The ACSFI supported the idea to launch the video together with a shorter fact-sheet, better balanced than the original report.

It was decided that the revised script should be shared with the steering committee for comments before proceeding with its production

#### Zero-deforestation initiatives

As requested by the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the ACSFI, Till Neeff presented a report focusing on zero net deforestation initiatives.

Over the last two decades, large forest industry companies have increasingly certified their forest management and wood sourcing through voluntary certification schemes. Certified companies typically go through a process of improving their forest management and wood sourcing. As a result, the zero-deforestation pledges often refer to certified suppliers.

The key question on how zero-deforestation pledges by retailers can affect producers, is mainly answered by that they increase the pressure on forest enterprises to be certified, and increase the business risk for those who are not.

The new report was welcomed by the Committee. Some improvements were proposed and will be incorporated in the text. ACSFI members considered that the survey among forest industry companies suggested in the report is not needed.



## **Item 5 ACSFI inputs to FAO's Programme of Work 2018-19 and Plan for 2018-21**

Eva Muller informed about COFO 23, COP 22, COP13, SOFO 2018 and made a short outlook for COFO 24.

Important focus areas from the Committee on Forestry 23 (COFO) concern forest value chain development, strengthened partnerships, climate change and sustainable woodfuel production. Accordingly, FAO is working on these topics. As an example, the International Day of Forests' theme this was Forests and Energy.

The Marrakech Climate Change Conference – COP 22 in November 2016 forms a basis for FAO's continued work on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including in forestry.

The 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 13) in Cancun included governments from 167 countries, who committed to develop legislation, policies, and actions over the next four years that will support the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as generate action for protected areas, ecosystem restoration, sustainable wildlife management, and for a range of other themes.

The FAO publishes biennially the report State of the World's Forests (SOFO). SOFO 2018 will focus on the positive role forestry and forest industry can play in meeting UN sustainable development goals (SDG-s), including on climate change mitigation. The process on developing the indicators for the SDG-s continues.

### **Programme of Work 2018-19, Medium Term Plan for 2018-21**

FAO's budget will most likely remain unchanged in 2018-19. The present five Strategic Programmes with indicators aligned with SDG-s, will remain.

### **New activities of relevance to the ACSFI**

#### Global Workshop "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World"

A two-day Global Workshop will be organized in FAO headquarters in October 2017, discussing the benefits of sustainable forestry and industries in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including the climate-related.

A steering committee will work on the organization on the event. ACSFI expressed its interest to take part in the planning and in providing material that could be highlighted on the event. Bernhard de Galembert was proposed by the ACSFI to participate in the steering committee.

#### Good examples where forest industry make a difference

A specific topic under development for the October 2017 workshop, concerns presenting good examples where the industry has made a visible difference in organizing sustainable forest management and on contributing to social development along the value chain from forest management to products with added value.

ACCSI expressed its willingness to provide such possible examples, including from South Africa and Chile.



## Item 6 ACSFI work planning

Important upcoming events include:

- October 2017 (Rome): sustainable wood conference
- November 2017 (Brussels): CEPI Paper Week
- November 29-30<sup>th</sup> 2017 (Brussels): ICFPA SC and ACSFI SC
- March 2018 International Conference on halting deforestation (TBC)
- March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 World Forestry Day
- Late May / early June 2018 (Tokyo): ICFPA session
- July 2018 (Rome): COFO
- February / March 2019 (South Africa): ICFPA strategy meeting

## Item 7 Closing Session of 58th Session of ACSFI

### Election of Officers

Masataka Hayama was elected new Chair of the ACSFI. The formal change of Chairman will take place during the next Steering Committee meeting, which Mr Rhodes and Mr Hayama will both attend in order to safeguard a smooth transition.

Nominations for vice-chair were requested.

### Date & Venue of ACSFI 59<sup>th</sup> session

During the 57<sup>th</sup> session the possibility of holding ACSFI meetings in Rome was considered. While it is logically more convenient and more cost-effective to hold meetings back to back with the ICFPA, holding meetings in Rome would increase the visibility of the ACSFI in the organization. It was also pointed out that ACSFI and the ICFPA are two different bodies with different functions and membership. After a thorough discussion it was decided to hold ACSFI meetings alternatingly in Rome and back-to-back with the ICFPA. ICFPA meetings should be convened before ACSFI meetings to allow for recommendations from the ICFPA to the ACSFI. The two Steering Committees will continue coordination. The following timetable was agreed:

November 2017:	ACFSI and ICFPA Steering Committee meetings, possibly in connection with CEPI paper week, Brussels, November 29-30 <sup>th</sup> 2017
March 2018:	ACFSI session, Rome, possibly in connection with International Day of Forests or International Conference by CPF on Halting Deforestation.
May/June 2018:	ICFPA session, Tokyo
October 2018:	ACFSI Steering Committee meeting
February/March 2019:	ICFPA meeting (Cape Town)
Summer-Autumn 2019:	ACFSI and ICFPA sessions jointly, possibly in Canada.

### Any Other Matters

The question on how to encourage participation from Korea, China and possibly Russia remains unsolved. In the case of China, FAO will ask relevant government agencies for recommendations. Mr Hayama has sent recommendations for a new member from Korea to the secretary, which will be acted



upon. Members were also asked to continue searching for new potential members and recommend these to the secretariat.

Although UNECE and some other countries have statistics on accidents in the forestry sector, there is presently no global collection nor publication of such data. FAO was recommended to investigate if this situation can be improved.

#### **Recommendations from the ACSFI 58<sup>th</sup> session to FAO**

1. Ensure that the forest work programme is adequately resourced given the recognized role of the sector in climate change, poverty alleviation, biodiversity and the SDG's
2. Continue efforts to mutually reinforce the role of the private sector in delivering sustainable benefits to society through improving communications including for example profiling the ICFPA sustainability report, the Blue Sky Young Researchers award
3. Establish contact links between the FAO and ICFPA communicators networks and identify key messages for two-way distribution to the regional networks for mutual benefit
4. Investigate the potential for FAO to provide additional forest and processing industry safety statistics
5. That FAO maintains the present definition of forests.
6. Include a nominated representative of the ACSFI in the Steering committee organizing the October 2017 Wood for a Sustainable World workshop
7. Ensure that the FAO Biotechnology regional dialogue meetings include adequate coverage of forestry applications of biotechnologies
8. Incorporate the ACSFI feedback on the bio-based packaging report into the video and include ACSFI in the on-going planning and development of the video for communicating the summary messages (SC)
9. Incorporate feedback on the Deforestation-free report and investigate options for communicating the implication messages to the forest sector.

#### **Closing of the session**

The Chair thanked Klaus Windhagen from the German Pulp and Paper Association VDP for hosting the session and all the participants for their active role in making the meeting successful.

The session was closed.



Appendix 1.

## **ACSF Members 2017-2018, by 18 May 2017:**

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David Rhodes CEO, New Zealand Forest Owners Association, New Zealand, david@nzfoa.org.nz

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Boris Zingarevich Chair, Ilim Timber Industry, Russian Federation, Boris.zingarevich@ilimgroup.ru

Recommended by the 58th session, pending FAO endorsement: Lorenz Klein von Wiesenberberg  
International Family Forestry Alliance, [lkleinwisenberg@aol.com](mailto:lkleinwisenberg@aol.com)

Secretary: Mats Nordberg, FAO, [mats.nordberg@fao.org](mailto:mats.nordberg@fao.org)

Members resigned during 2017: Peter de Marsh, Canada and Michael Peter, South Africa



Appendix 2.

## **ACSF1 2017-2018 Steering Committee, as of 18 May 2017:**

David Rhodes  
Masataka Hayama  
Elizabeth de Carvalhaes  
Bernard de Galembert  
Donna Harman  
Derek Nighbor  
Jane Molony.

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