



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

#### Eighty-third session

Geneva, 4-6 (am) November 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Opening and adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the eighty-third session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XII, starting on 4 November 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Forest economics and markets:
  - (a) Market Discussion: Trade and forest products;
  - (b) Innovation and the future of forests products;
  - (c) Draft forest products market statement.
3. Matters arising since the last session:
  - (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
  - (c) Recent developments in other organizations.
4. Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work:
  - (a) Forests in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region
    - (i) Key findings on forests in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;
    - (ii) Focus: Boreal forests;
  - (b) Urban forestry work;
  - (c) Teams of Specialists – mandate extension;
  - (d) Programme of work for 2026 and key components of the programme of work 2027;
  - (e) Central Data Platform – update;
  - (f) Communication and activities 2025 and 2026.



5. Improved assessment of forest damage in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
6. Report of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management:
  - (a) Report;
  - (b) Update: Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future including forest fires.
7. Youth, gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry.
8. Capacity-building and technical assistance.
9. Election of officers.
10. Date and place of the next session.
11. Any other business.
12. Adoption of the report.

## II. Annotations

### 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/1*

The eighty-third session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) meeting will be opened by the Chair of the session. Delegations will adopt the agenda of the meeting.

### 2. Forest economics and markets

#### (a) Market discussion: Trade and forest products

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/3*

Keynote speeches will provide an overview of market developments in various forest products for 2024 and 2025. The presentations will highlight observed and potential implications of various trade-related measures on forest product production, trade, and consumption in 2025 and 2026. These may include, but are not limited to, evolving sustainability regulations, deforestation-free trade policies, tariff and non-tariff measures, and other broader geopolitical or regulatory factors impacting trade.

Delegations are invited to discuss, share their experiences from their respective countries and insights on the current situation and expected developments for the coming year. Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided.

A detailed programme will be available at: <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/398812>.

#### (b) Innovation and the future of forests products

Wood products, with their low carbon footprint, are pivotal for a just transition to a more circular bioeconomy. Innovation is a key driver for this shift, developing new applications for wood that replace less sustainable material feedstocks.

Experts will present the most recent trends and breakthroughs in forest products and innovation, highlighting their transformative potential.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share experiences from their countries.

#### (c) Draft forest products market statement

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/4*

The Committee is invited to review the Draft Market Statement and send their comments ahead of the session to the secretariat ([info.ece-faoforests@un.org](mailto:info.ece-faoforests@un.org)).

Delegates will be invited to discuss and adopt the statement.

### 3. Matters arising since the last session

#### (a) United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies

The secretariat will update on developments at the United Nations, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) having an impact on the work of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry. Delegates will be informed of and decide on the possible need to initiate the revision of the Terms of Reference of the Committee because of changes in collaboration modalities with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and internal changes at ECE.

**(b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be invited to update delegates on recent developments and activities.

**(c) Recent developments in other organizations**

Other organizations, processes and initiatives will be invited to provide information about their activities and any developments, with an impact on the Committee's work.

The Committee will be invited to take note and consider possible impact on its work.

**4. Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work**

**(a) Forests in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

**(i) Key findings on forests in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/5*

The secretariat will present the 2025 FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment key findings on global and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region forest state and trends of forests.

Delegates are invited to take note of the work, discuss the findings, and offer guidance for future activities.

**(ii) Focus: Boreal forests**

*Documentation: <https://unece.org/forests/boreal-forests>*

The Secretariat will present the recently published comprehensive study of the boreal biome's forests and forest sector, complemented by national overviews for six ECE member States: Canada, Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States of America.

Delegates are invited to take note and discuss the future direction and activities for boreal forest work.

**(b) Urban forestry work**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/6*

*ECE/TIM/2025/7*

*ECE/TIM/2025/8*

The secretariat will review activities in urban forestry during the past year and introduce the following documents which build on the San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan. They provide guidance for systemic, national and subnational approaches to sustainably manage and expand urban forests as a nature-based solution:

(i) Guiding urban forest planning and management with data (ECE/TIM/2025/6);

(ii) Scaling Urban Forestry with National Policy (ECE/TIM/2025/7);

(iii) Urban Forestry as a Rio Convention Delivery Mechanism: Practical Strategies for Integration into National Plans and Targets (ECE/TIM/2025/8).

Delegations will be invited to briefly inform the Committee of their actions to promote and support urban forestry, discuss next steps for advancing the implementation of the San Marino Regional Urban Forestry Action Plan and strengthen urban forestry governance and impact.

**(c) Teams of Specialists – mandate extension***Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/9*

The Committee will be invited to approve the extension of the Teams of Specialists listed below for the period of January 2026 to December 2027 for adoption by the ECE's Executive Committee (EXCOM) based on their revised Terms of References submitted by the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management:

- (i) Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests;
- (ii) Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;
- (iii) Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products;
- (iv) Team of Specialists on Forest Products- and Wood Energy Statistics.

**(d) Programme of work for 2026 and key components of the programme of work 2027***Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/10*

The secretariat will present the 2026 draft programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme which has been prepared based on the inputs received on document ECE/TIM/2024/Inf.2 by the Committee Forests and the Forest Industry at its eighty-second session (Geneva, 13-15 November 2024). Subsequently, it was submitted to the 137<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECE Executive Committee (Geneva, 9 December 2024) under document EXCOM 2024/42 - ECE 2026 Programme Plan. It is currently under consideration by United Nations General Assembly bodies under document A/80/6 (Sect.20), paragraphs 20.97 to 20.111<sup>1</sup>. A tentative calendar of meetings is in the Annex.

The secretariat will also present the key components of the draft proposed programme plan of the subprogramme for 2027, in the format in which it will be submitted, in the coming months, to the ECE Executive Committee and, thereafter, to the relevant bodies of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It shall be noted that the subprogramme's planned result for 2027 will be developed at a later stage.

Delegates are invited review the draft Programme Plan and provide comments.

**(e) Central Data Platform – update**

The secretariat will update on progress made in the development of the Central Data Platform for Forest Sector Statistics for data collection, processing, storage and dissemination processes.

Delegates will be invited to take note and provide comments and guidance on next steps and funding sources.

**(f) Communication and activities 2025 and 2026**

Delegates will be updated on communication work and activities implemented in 2025 as well as scheduled events in 2026.

Delegates will be invited to provide comments.

**5. Improved assessment of forest damage in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region***Documentation: ECE/TIM/2025/11*

<sup>1</sup> [https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/80/6%20\(SECT.%2020\)&i=A/80/6%20\(SECT.%2020\)\\_1745263862098](https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/80/6%20(SECT.%2020)&i=A/80/6%20(SECT.%2020)_1745263862098).

In response to Committee requests, the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, through its thematic task force, has developed a proposal to refine forest damage data collection in the ECE region via the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.

The secretariat will inform delegates about this development process, the proposed procedure and the new format for improved international reporting.

Delegates will be invited to provide feedback on the proposed format and decide on the next steps.

## **6. Report of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

### **(a) Report**

*Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2025/2*

The Chair of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will present the report of its forty-third session which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 - 15 May 2025.

The Committee will be invited to endorse the report.

### **(b) Update: Climate action and resilient infrastructure for a sustainable future including forest fires**

The secretariat will summarize the outcome of the Joint Working Party's thematic discussion related to landscape fire impacts on forests and trees across the rural-urban interface in the context of climate change, and associated approaches to adapting, managing and reducing risks and impacts of such fires.

Delegates are invited to take note and provide comments.

## **7. Youth, gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry**

Delegates are invited to provide updates on their inclusive development strategies and actions and provide guidance on further work in this area.

## **8. Capacity-building and technical assistance**

Delegates will be informed about ongoing capacity-building and technical assistance projects.

In addition, delegations will be invited to participate in a discussion and peer exchange workshop on strengthening non-wood forest product value chains. The discussion will particularly focus on developments in United Nations Development Account project countries of Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Detailed information will be made available on the website: <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/398812>.

The Committee is invited to engage in the discussion, provide national examples and provide feedback to the strategic roadmaps presented.

## **9. Election of officers**

The Committee is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the eighty-fourth session. At the eighty-second session, the following persons were elected to hold office until the end of the eighty-third session: Chair, Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic); and Vice-Chairs, Ms. Laura Coates (Canada), Ms. Anita Dedic (San Marino) and Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden).

**10. Date and place of the next session**

The secretariat will inform delegates about the date and place of the eighty-fourth session of the ECE Committee on Forests.

**11. Any other business**

None at the time of writing.

**12. Adoption of the report**

The Committee will adopt its report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

### III. Tentative timetable

#### Tuesday, 4 November 2025

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00	<b>Item 1</b>	Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
10:15- 13:00	<b>Item 2 (a)</b>	Forest economics and markets
15:00 – 18:00	<b>Item 2 (b) and (c)</b>	Forest economics and market (cont.)
	<b>Item 3</b>	Matters arising since the last session.
	<b>Items 4 (a), (b) and (c)</b>	Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work

#### Wednesday, 5 November 2025

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
9:30 – 12:30	<b>Items 4 (d), (e), (f)</b>	Reporting on the Committee's Programme of Work
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Item 5</b>	Improved assessment of forest damage in the ECE region;
	<b>Item 6</b>	Report of the Joint Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;
	<b>Item 7</b>	Youth, gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry

#### Thursday, 6 November 2025

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
9:30 – 12:30	<b>Item 8</b>	Capacity-building and technical assistance workshop
	<b>Item 9</b>	Election of officers
	<b>Item 10</b>	Date and place of the next session
	<b>Item 11</b>	Any other business
	<b>Item 12</b>	Adoption of the report