



## Economic and Social Council

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## Food and Agriculture Organization

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### Economic Commission for Europe

### Food and Agriculture Organization

#### Timber Committee

#### European Forestry Commission

##### Sixty-ninth session

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda

##### Market Discussions

##### Thirty-sixth session

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

### UNECE Timber Committee: election of officers

#### Note by the secretariat

##### *Summary*

This note contains a proposal, based on a request from the Timber Committee Bureau, on how to modify the current composition of the Timber Committee Bureau.

1. At their joint meeting on 16 June 2011, the bureaux of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission discussed the composition of the Bureau of the Committee. They believed that the Bureau could benefit from having an additional member, thus bringing the total to four, which would be in line with the practice and rules of the Commission. They also believed that such a change would help strengthen the participation and involvement of member States, as well as introducing more flexible arrangements and terms of office for bureau members.

#### **Current composition of the Timber Committee Bureau**

2. The Bureau currently comprises one Chair and two vice-chairs. Members are elected for a one-year term, with the possibility of extension. Vice-chairs and the Chair are usually re-elected for a second term. For continuity, the outgoing Chair remains in the Bureau as Vice-Chair. The newly elected Vice-Chair, after two years in office, is expected to become Chair. Members are normally expected to serve in the Bureau for six consecutive years. However, as elections take place every year, there is no obligation on members to present their candidature the following year, and they could thus step down at any time before the six years have elapsed.

#### **Proposed changes**

3. It is proposed to change this practice as follows:

(a) At the end of each session, the Committee will elect a Chair and three vice-chairs from among the representatives to the Committee. Elected officials will remain in office until a new Chair and vice-chairs are elected at the following session. The outgoing Chair and vice-chairs will be eligible for re-election, and the office of Chair will not normally be held for more than two consecutive periods by the representative of the same member State.

(b) In practice, Bureau members will continue to be elected for a one-year term, with the possibility of being re-elected. The current practice of re-electing Bureau members for a second term will be maintained. For continuity, the outgoing Chair could remain in the Bureau as Vice-Chair. The longer-serving Vice-Chair who had not already served as Chair would normally be expected to be elected as Chair. The practice outlined here would be subject to the availability of the candidate and could be modified upon the agreement of member States.

(c) This practice would allow the Committee to elect a Chair to remain in that function for two consecutive years, as it is the current practice, or to step down from the function after one term. As elections are held every year, this means that the minimum term to be served by one member is one year, with eight being the maximum.

4. **Timber Committee members are invited to consider the proposal above and, should they endorse it, elect an additional Bureau member at this session to bring the number of Bureau members to four.**

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