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Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Special segment on the Green Economy****Food and Agriculture Organization****European Forestry Commission****Thirty-sixth session**

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

**Guidelines to facilitate interactive discussions during the  
special segment on the Green Economy****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

This document is meant to facilitate discussions during the special segment on the Green Economy of “Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy”, the joint meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the ECE Timber Committee and the thirty-sixth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission. It contains a series of questions that should guide presentations and interventions during the different roundtables. The annex provides general guideline for speakers and interventions.

The document also explains how the meeting is expected to prepare a “take home message” containing the conclusions of the discussions and the main highlights that could provide powerful messages for further dissemination of the issues discussed during the roundtables.

This document should be read together with document ECE/TIM/2011/3 – FO:EFC/2011/3 containing the text of the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

## Introduction

1. The underlying theme of the joint meeting of the ECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission is Forests in a Green Economy. All discussions during the session, including the Market Discussions, will highlight what contribution the forest sector can make to a Green Economy and also which changes are required to make the sector greener. In particular, a special segment on the Green Economy, consisting of five roundtables, will explore in detail how forest-specific activities can or could contribute to the Green Economy. The roundtables are organized according to the same distribution of subjects as the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, which will be presented and discussed at the meeting, and discussions held during the roundtables will contribute to its further development.

### I. Theme questions

2. The themes to be addressed by the roundtables are as follows:

- (a) **Sustainable consumption and production of forest products**
- (b) **Low-carbon forest sector**
- (c) **Green jobs in the forest sector**
- (d) **Biodiversity, and valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services**
- (e) **Monitoring and governance in the forest sector**

3. Each of these themes will include three presentations of specific examples and case studies. Each presentation will be followed by interventions from the floor, and questions. Guiding questions are based on the objectives of the Action Plan. Answers emerging from the discussions will provide a direct input to the further development of the Action Plan.

4. The themes to be discussed:

- (a) **Guiding questions for the roundtable on sustainable consumption and production of forest products**
  - (1) What possible changes could be made to forest products and production to better satisfy, on a sustainable basis, the growing needs of society?
  - (2) What traditional practices with low environmental impact exist and how could they be further promoted?
  - (3) How is innovation in forest management and wood processing contributing to cleaner production cycles and more sustainable products?
  - (4) How can we make sure that users are fully informed about how sustainable their products are?
  - (5) What is the role of standards, or other tools (such as Life Cycle Analysis, or certification, etc.) to promote the sustainability of wood and wood products?

- (b) **Guiding questions for the roundtable on the low-carbon forest sector**
- (1) How to maximize the forest sector contribution to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change?
  - (2) How to encourage substitution of non-renewable materials and energy?
  - (3) How to encourage the cascading use of wood and in general, and its recycling?
  - (4) How can the capacity of forests to adapt to climate change be improved?
  - (5) How can the sequestration of carbon in forest ecosystems and storage in harvested wood products be further encouraged?
- (c) **Guiding questions for the roundtable on green jobs in the forest sector**
- (1) What is a green job in the forest sector?
  - (2) Which of the green jobs in the forests sector are new and emerging and have potential to grow?
  - (3) How to attract young generations to a career in the forest sector?
  - (4) What are the main challenges in terms of safety and health and how can they be addressed?
  - (5) What new methods should be used or which ones should be improved to make wood harvesting greener?
- (d) **Guiding questions for the roundtable on biodiversity, and valuation and payment for forest ecosystem services**
- (1) How to ensure that the contributions of forests to society (provision of services, including health, biodiversity, climate, etc) are properly valued and accounted for?
  - (2) How do Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes work?
  - (3) What are the challenges encountered in their implementation?
  - (4) What conditions have enabled PES schemes to work properly?
  - (5) How can best practices in the development and implementation of PES be promoted?
- (e) **Guiding questions for the roundtable on monitoring and governance in the forest sector**
- (1) How to ensure that policies and institutions, on both national and international levels, for a sustainable forest sector contribute to enhancing the sector's contribution to a greener economy?
  - (2) How should policy tools be developed in the light of the requirements for a Green Economy?
  - (3) What information systems are needed to facilitate the transition towards a Green Economy?

- (4) How can criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management be developed to support the decision-making process?
- (5) What should the forest sector change in order to be able to communicate to the public and decision makers its potential role in a Green Economy?

## **II. Preparation of the “take home message”**

4. Roundtables on the Green Economy are meant not only to contribute to the further development of the Action Plan but also to allow discussion on what suggestions participants could take back from the session and then use to encourage change or the strengthening of existing practices in their countries or organizations.

5. In order to properly develop the “take home messages” the bureaux of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission have requested the assistance of the Forest Communicators Network (FCN), a team of specialists of the Committee and the Commission focusing on developing strategies and messages to better communicate about forests in Europe. The Communicators Network will work with the participants in the meeting and develop concise, easy to communicate, punchy messages. These will be based on direct inputs from participants. For each roundtable, participants will be provided with forms to fill out with what they think were the highlights of presentations and discussions. These messages will be collected by the secretariat and provided to the Communicators Network as an input on which to base their work.

6. Delegates to the Committee and the Commission are kindly requested to follow the guidelines above for their presentations and interventions, and to contribute to the discussion also through preparing of the “take home messages”.

## **Annex**

### **Guidelines for speakers and interventions**

1. Speakers and interventions from the floor are invited to focus on the questions above when addressing different subjects in their presentations. Presentations should attempt to provide, through the examples showcased, a response to at least two of the questions under the relevant cluster.
  2. Presentations should be 12-15 minutes long. This time should not be exceeded to ensure that enough time is left for discussion and questions. Speakers can use PowerPoint slides as visual aids, however the number of slides should not exceed 8. Presentations could be delivered in English, French, Russian. However, it would be preferable that power point be in English. Speakers are also welcome to provide additional information in the form of leaflets or documents to be displayed during the meeting. Additional information on presentations could be obtained by contacting Eve Charles at [eve.charles@unece.org](mailto:eve.charles@unece.org).
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