



# PROCEEDINGS

## UNECE/FAO Policy Forum

Public Procurement Policies on Wood and Paper Products and their  
Impacts on Sustainable Forest Management and Timber Markets

Geneva, Switzerland, 5 October 2006

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**UNECE**  
United Nations  
Economic Commission  
for Europe





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This document is the proceedings and summary of the discussions from the UNECE/FAO Policy Forum on Public Procurement Policies for Wood and Paper Products and their Impacts on Sustainable Forest Management, held in October 2006 during the Timber Committee's annual session. It captures the essence of the presentations and discussions, and incorporates the background document. Expert papers and presentations are available at: [www.unece.org/trade/timber](http://www.unece.org/trade/timber)

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## Preface

UNECE and FAO work together to promote sustainable management and the use of forests and forest products. In most countries in the UNECE region, good forest governance assures sustainable forest management and legal trade in timber and paper products. However, forest governance deficiencies in some countries within and outside the region, as well as the globalization of trade flows, increase the risk that illegally sourced or unsustainably produced timber may enter the market.

The public sector, as a major consumer of wood and paper products, wishes to regulate its purchasing to exclude any illegally harvested wood from its supply chain. At the same time, the public sector would like to accomplish this without creating unnecessary barriers to trade or discriminating against forest products by imposing more stringent requirements than those for competing products – many of which are less environmentally friendly. Governments are aware of their double role as consumers and regulators and several national governments, as well as regional and local authorities, in Europe, North America and Japan have recently adopted or are developing specific public procurement policies on timber and paper products.

The UNECE and the FAO jointly organized a Policy Forum in October 2006 that provided an overview of national and international conditions as well as international agreements that influence such policies. It also provided information on recently adopted national procurement policies and the viewpoints of international organizations and different stakeholders affected by such policies. This was accompanied by an informative discussion which showed that, despite different opinions and approaches, promotion of the sound use of wood remains the main goal of all parties.

These proceedings provide a status report on the public procurement policy discussion and make available the content of this Policy Forum both to the participants and to all those interested in the topic who could not be present. We hope that this publication will be useful for our member Governments and other stakeholders, and will contribute to their work. We would like to convey special thanks to all the speakers and participants in the Forum. Without the voluntary involvement of many individuals and organizations this event would not have been possible.

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This discussion paper presented in Part II was prepared by Markku Simula in close liaison with Wulf Killmann, Director of FAO Forest Products and Economics Division and Kit Prins, Chief, UNECE Timber Branch. Several people have kindly assisted the author in the collection of necessary background information and commenting on an earlier draft version of the report. They include Bob Andrew, Alhassan Attah, Tasso Azevedo Rezende, John Bazill, Ulrich Blick, Jairo Castaño, Georges Césari, Charlotte Cudby, Amber Duncalfe, Ben Gunneberg, Berndard de Galembert, Carl-Éric Guertin, Reinhold Glauner, Osamu Hashiramoto, Steven Johnson, Janneke de Jong, Véronique Joucla, Werner Kloos, Sinichiro Kobayashi, Christian Lundmark Jensen, Jill Michielssen, Taina Nikula, Christian van Orshoven, José Augusto A. K. Pinto de Abreu, Ed Pepke, Kit Prins, Birger Rausche, Jean-Marc Roda, Saskia Ozinga, Brigid Shea, Florian Steierer, Kenichi Suzuki, and Michael Virga. Nicole Roux-Simula played a key role in production of the report.