



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 31 January 2020
(OR. en)

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Second informal consultations on negotiations for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe 27 - 29 January 2020, Geneva - <i>Summary report</i>

With a view to the Working Party on Forestry on 6 February 2020, delegations will find attached the estimated budget for the negotiations of the above-mentioned agreement, issued by the UNECE Secretariat for the purpose of the above-mentioned meeting.

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

Project title: Servicing the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests hosted by UNECE										
Expected timing/ duration: <i>June</i> March 2020 – December 2021										
Objective and brief summary of the project: <p>Forests play an active role in the sustainable development and well-being of societies. There is currently no comprehensive legally binding instrument on forests. Ministers responsible for forests in Europe decided to establish a regional process including an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). The mandate for negotiations for a legally binding agreement on Forests in Europe was signed at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe that was organized by Forest Europe (June 2011, Oslo, Norway). The negotiations of the text stalled, and no final consensus could be found by the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference (Madrid, 21 October 2015). Through a Ministerial Decision dated 6 December 2018, signatories of the Forest Europe invited the UNECE, to convene, together and servicing jointly with FAO, further negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe by setting up a negotiating process in an appropriate format based on the parameters contained in this decision ("invite the UNECE, with the support of FAO to convene and service jointly further negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe by setting up a negotiating process in an appropriate format based on the parameters contained in this decision"). Due to its joint nature, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is best placed to start negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in the European sub-region.</p> <p>The objective of this project is to facilitate negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe. This project will enable the secretariat to have sufficient resources available to service the process without relying on regular budget resources. This objective will be achieved by implementing the following activities:</p> <p>A1.1. Organisation of 3 meetings to negotiate a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe; A1.2. Providing legal advice to the UNECE member States on the legally binding agreement on forests; A1.3. Editing and translation of official documents (including annotated agenda, meeting documents and reports from the three meetings as well as upon agreement reached, editing and translation of official outcome of the negotiations (Legally Binding Agreement).</p> <p><i>Special Note to EXCOM: The proposed project is exceptionally submitted for consideration to the 109th Session of the EXCOM, pending the outcome of EXCOM's deliberation on the Agenda item XX.</i></p>										
Expected results of the project: EA1. Strengthened cooperation of UNECE member States on sustainable forest management in the UNECE region										
Target group and beneficiaries of the project: Beneficiaries are the UNECE member States. The main target group is ministerial-level policy makers or advisors to policy makers on matters related to forests, and foreign affairs.										
Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: The proposed project is directly linked to the objective of the Subprogramme 7 "Forestry and Timber" "to strengthen sustainable management of forests and enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to sustainable development in the ECE region" of the UNECE programme budget for 2020.										
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff): 1 week of P3/ RB										
Estimated extra budgetary resources: <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Donors</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">878,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Donor 1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">XX</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Donor 2</td> <td style="text-align: right;">XX</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Donors	Amount (USD)	Total	878,000	Donor 1	XX	Donor 2	XX
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Project Manager: Florian Steierer	21.01.2020	Section/Division: Forestry and Timber Section/Forests, Land and Housing Division								
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Catherine Haswell Chief	21.01.2020	Approved by EXCOM¹ <div style="text-align: right;">17.02.2020</div>								

¹ See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A (65).

Annex - Results-based budget for the extrabudgetary project

Expected accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs
EAI. Strengthened cooperation of UNECE member States on sustainable forest management in the UNECE region	<p>A1.1. Organisation of 3 meetings to negotiate a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe P4 project management for servicing as secretary to the process x 12 months x \$17,550 P2 to assist the project manager in the implementation of the tasks x 12 months x \$11,450 G4 to provide administrative support x 12 months x \$12,300 General operation expenses (office space, office supplies, IT computing packages, stationary etc) x \$20,700 x 3 staff Contractual services (venue, interpretation) x 3 meetings x \$13,000 Travel of participants from the Caucasus and Central Asia x 8 participants x \$2,500 x 3 meetings 60,000</p>	<p>656,900 210,600 137,400 147,800 62,100 39,000 60,000</p>
	<p>A1.2. Providing legal advice to the UNECE member States on the legally binding agreement on forests 1 senior international consultant/ P5 x 4 months x \$13,750 Travel of international consultant to attend informal consultations (currently planned to be held in Geneva, Switzerland) and other relevant meetings x 3 missions x \$1,500 4,500</p>	<p>59,500 55,000 4,500</p>
	<p>A1.3. Editing and translation of official documents Contractual services (translation English-French 75 pages x \$250 and English-Russian x 75 pages x \$250) Contractual services (editing) x 75 pages x \$100 82,500 37,500 7,500</p>	<p>82,500 37,500 7,500</p>
Budget summary		
2% for evaluation of the project		761,400
13% of Programme Support Costs		15,300
Subtotal (rounded)		101,000
1% donor coordination levy		878,000
		TBC
Total (rounded)		878,000