



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

8 November 2021

Foresta2021

Invitation to the Joint Session of the 79th Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the 41st Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)

Rome, Italy, 22 to 25 November 2021

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have the honour to extend an invitation to attend Foresta2021: the Joint Session of the 79th Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the 41st Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), which will be held in hybrid format allowing for limited participation of one delegate per country in Rome from 22 to 25 November 2021. Further communications on this issue will be sent separately and closer to the date of the meeting. Interpretation in English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided.

The theme selected for the Joint Session is “Future of Forests”, and will feature:

- Launch of the Forest Sector Outlook Study;
- New Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) of COFFI and EFC;
- Forest landscape restoration and contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bio-economy;
- UNECE and FAO activities on sustainable forest management of relevance to the meeting.

Foresta2021 will be held in conjunction with the Sixth European Forest Week (EFW), which will provide an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of the growing challenges facing forests and the possible solutions as we enter the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Interested stakeholders can contribute to the EFW by holding a virtual side event, as well as by organizing national and local celebrations.

This Session is being convened under the relevant provisions of the UNECE Rules of Procedure and Article VI.1 of the FAO Constitution. The Session is open to all Members of COFFI and EFC and also to observers from member States of FAO and UNECE that, without being members of the Committee and the Commission, may indicate their wish to attend the Session on account of their interest in the work of COFFI and EFC.

The provisional annotated agenda of Foresta2021 is attached. All related official documents and additional information about Foresta2021 and the EFW will be available at: <https://unece.org/forests/events/foresta2021> and <http://www.fao.org/forestry/efc/en/>

The Director-General of FAO, the hosting Organization, would appreciate receiving before the start of the session, at the latest by 19 November 2021 an official nomination with the names,

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe/Food and Agriculture Organization

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official titles and addresses and email accounts of the representatives designated to participate in the Joint Session of the Committee and Commission at the following email: Ms. Leonie Meier (leonie.meier@un.org). Online registration for countries is available through the password-protected FAO Members Gateway: <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the Gateway. Online registration requires the insertion of an email account in the form for accreditation.

The link to access the virtual meeting will be made available upon receipt of the above information and the same email address will have to be inserted in the Zoom registration form to grant observers access to the virtual meeting platform.

For more information please contact the COFFI Secretary, Ms. Liliana Annovazi-Jakab (liliana.annovazzi-jakab@un.org) or the EFC Secretary, Mr. Ekrem Yazici (ekrem.yazici@fao.org)

Sincerely,



Vladimir Rakhmanin
Assistant Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations



Olga Algayerova
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission
for Europe