

## Guidance Note

### Item 7.1 — Building the future with wood

#### 1. Date & Time

Tuesday, 24 February 2026, from 10:10 to 13:30 CET .

#### 2. Context

The renewable resource wood stands right at the center of a thriving sustainable forest-based bioeconomy. Its unique characteristics offer long-term climate-friendly solutions that can be affordable, scalable and circular by nature. Designing and building with wood has the potential to shape a new lifestyle approach across the globe. It offers a vital chance to tackle global challenges, delivering benefits like carbon sequestration, job creation, and sustainable development. However, increasing demands and expectations pose management challenges, with risks and trade-offs to consider. According to FAO (2022), global consumption of forest products may rise by 37% by 2050, driven by a 25–45% increase in raw material demand. Meeting this growth requires innovation, investment, and expanded production capacities across value chains.

Taking into account [COLI Webinar 5 “Building the future: innovative wood solutions for carbon neutrality and sustainable bioeconomy”](#), this session is highlighting wood as a versatile, renewable resource that can transform building and living practices. When sourced from responsibly managed forests, it supports affordable housing, low-carbon infrastructure, and resilient communities. With 96,000 new housing units needed daily by 2030 and over a billion people living in informal settlements, wood-based construction offers a scalable solution for durable, affordable housing. It also alleviates pressure on urban infrastructure and helps forests continue providing vital services like carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection.

#### 3. Objectives

This thematic session aims to identify:

- i. Successful strategies and practices that have facilitated the upscaling of sustainable wood use, across technical, policy, and market dimensions.
- ii. Priority actions and partnerships to accelerate short-term efforts and support the sustainable expansion of building with wood.

#### 4. Guiding questions

- i. What has enabled the **successful uptake of sustainable wooden buildings**, including renovations and extensions, in different regions? e.g. **wood-based material, process innovations, and practices**
- ii. Which **barriers** hinder wood-based construction from being widely adopted in national housing, forestry, climate and other sectoral strategies?  
e.g. technical, policy, or economic
- iii. Which proven technologies, policy instruments or value chain practices provide the **greatest potential** for the immediate and large-scale expansion of sustainable wood use in the construction sector?
- iv. What **coordinated actions across sectors** are needed most to establish **enabling environments for upscaling sustainable wood solutions in construction** and to accelerate this transition?

#### 5. Format and modalities

The thematic session will be hosted by the session lead. The session will comprise an expert panel on the guiding questions, a poll, and an open discussion. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to raise them during the open discussion.

The key points from the parallel sessions will be presented in the plenary followed by an exchange of views giving participants the opportunity to contribute to the discussion of all topics.

#### 6. Draft programme

<b>Location: Room 1 (“Maria Theresia”)</b>		
	<b>Moderator: Ewald Rametsteiner,</b> <i>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</i>	<b>Speaker</b>
10:10	Opening by session lead	<b>Canada</b> (tbc)
10:15	Keynote	tbd
10:30	Stakeholder views by Countries	<b>Eliška Trnková</b> (tbc) Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic  <b>Farrukh Shavkat ugli Yokubjanov</b> (tbc) Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan  <b>Boniface Mulwa</b> (tbc) Forest Service, Kenya
10:45	Panel discussion  <i>1<sup>st</sup> round: interventions by panelists based on guiding questions (20’).</i>	<b>Paul King</b> Built by nature, UK

	<p><i>Interaction with audience via word cloud-poll (10').</i></p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> round: reaction to the poll by the panelists (15').</i></p> <p><i>Open discussion with audience (30')</i></p>	<p><b>Joshua Maviti (tbc)</b> Programme manager, United Nations Human, Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat</p> <p><b>(tbd)</b></p> <p><b>Sonja Geier (tbc)</b> Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, Switzerland</p>
11:55	Closing by session lead	
12:00	Coffee break	<i>Reconvene in plenary</i>

<b>Location: Room 10 ("Orangerie")</b>	
<b>Moderator: Tiina Ryttilä-Broere</b> <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</i>	
12:35	<i>Pitch of key points from Item 7.1 and 7.2</i>
12:55	<i>Exchange of views</i>
13:15	<i>Conclusion by Co-Chairs</i>

## 7. References

- i. FAO. 2022 Global forest sector outlook 2050. Assessing future demand and sources of timber for a sustainable economy. Rome, FAO.  
<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/9f646b14-28d2-496e-9728-0b1c281339b5/content>
- ii. FAO. 2025. *Background paper of Webinar 5. Building the future: innovative wood solutions for carbon neutrality and sustainable bioeconomy*. Rome, FAO.  
<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd7200en>
- iii. COP 30 Acceleration Plan "Building for Forests: Accelerating responsible wood construction for climate, forests, and livelihoods"
- iv. IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations). 2025. *Wood for Globe*. <https://www.iufro.org/wood-for-globe>
- v. IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations). 2026. Policy Brief [link will be provided upon availability]