

Concept Note for Sub-forum 1 of GLSTF 2026

Specialized Sub-forum 1 **on Timber Legality and Sustainability:** *Navigating Strategies to Ensure Timber Legality and* *Sustainability in Disrupted Global Timber Trade*

Co-organized by

ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization)

ETTF (European Timber Trade Federation - TBC)

Room 1: (23 September 2026, 09:00-13:30)

I. Background

We are witnessing increasing uncertainties in the global economy that navigate high disruption driven by geopolitical rifts, trade tensions, and regional conflicts. Key impacts include supply chain disruptions, rising oil process hiking up trade and production costs, and shifting manufacturing strategies. As a result, global timber industries must deal with many difficulties, and challenges on several interacting market factors can cause further deforestation and forest degradation. Policy action, therefore, requires using multiple policy interventions simultaneously. Ensuring legal and sustainable supply chains of tropical timber requires optimizing the utilization and improving the productivity of production forests, efficient timber processing, supportive national policies and regulations, strong human resources and a robust platform for consumer-producer collaborations. A key requirement of legal and sustainable timber supply chains is compliance with all relevant legal frameworks.

When timber is legally and sustainably produced, processed, traded, and used, the industry and trading sector enhance the value of timber and timber products along the supply chains. The economic viability of sustainable tropical forestry is often marginal at best, with returns from sustainable timber production and other marketable goods and services comparing poorly to those of alternate land uses.

II. Terms of Reference

Purpose and Scope

This specialized sub-forum will discuss current disruption issues related to global timber legal and sustainable supply among different stakeholders. Understanding the issues will support stakeholder readiness from both timber consumer and producer countries enabling their responses to challenges and opportunities encountered.

Producer countries need to consider strengthening their policies and regulations, production infrastructures efficiency, and quality human resources to ensure strong resilience capacity to trade legal and sustainable timber along legal and sustainable supply chains. Likewise, consumer countries simultaneously need to examine impacts of market challenges towards the resilience of timber trade and industry in meeting the requirements of agreed international trade rules. At the same time, the opportunity to utilize and develop advanced adaptive technology and innovations should be explored to support addressing challenges and opportunities caused by the dynamics of timber trade disruptions.

Session 1: Global perspectives on current legal and sustainable supply chains disruptions and the solutions

Session 1 will discuss the dynamics of timber and timber products trade with regard to current global disruption that needs to be dealt with and anticipated for its development by all actors along the supply chains. Regulations are of course essential to build legal and sustainable supply chains, but trade regulations in major timber consuming markets need to be reasonable, implementable and attainable where producer countries need support and investment in capacity building to allow continued market access.

The extent of the impacts of global disruption will affect industry and trade economies in both producer and consumer countries. This will lead to a synthesis of lessons that can inform the development and implementation of timber trade policies, strategies and action plans by governments, private sector, (including SMEs), civil society organizations, and local communities.

Session 2: Innovations best practice in response to evolved challenges of legal and sustainable timber supply chains

Session 2 will highlight the role of advanced technologies and innovations to support the stakeholders along the supply chains of timber and timber products to address challenges and opportunities of timber trade to minimize its negative impacts.

Technology and governance innovation are driving sustainable use of tropical wood and legal supply chains for wood products globally. Discussion in the session will bolster stakeholders of timber trade to adopt technology and innovation best practices to enhance forest industry and trade performance.

Key Topics

- **Global perspectives on current legal and sustainable supply chains disruptions and solutions**
 - A scenario to survive for forest industry sector amid the global disruptions.
 - Dealing with global disruptions for the resilience of European timber industry and trade.
 - How to deal with global disruptions? Australian forestry policy perspective.
 - How to deal with global disruptions? Indonesian forestry policy perspective.
 - How to deal with global disruptions? North American forestry policy perspective.
- **Innovations best practice in response to evolved challenges of legal and sustainable timber supply chains**
 - Response to global disruptions: Strengthening forest enforcement activities at log export points through innovation initiatives and stakeholder collaboration.
 - Response to global disruptions: The Use of block-chains technology to support legal and sustainable supply in global uncertainty.
 - Response to global disruptions: Development of innovative integrated timber data in the Asia-Pacific for enhancing timber sector resilience.
 - Response to global disruptions: Technology-driven approaches to legal and sustainable timber supply chain in the Philippines.

Participants

120-150 participants are expected to represent government, business actors, trade and industry organizations, academics, and civil society. Ensuring diversity among stakeholders present at this event will allow for fruitful debate and strengthening collaboration and partnership among stakeholders.

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Concept Note for Sub-forum 2 of GLSTF 2026

Specialized Sub-forum 2 on Sustainable Timber Resources, Markets and Trade:

Digital Empowerment, Innovation-Driven Development

Co-organized by:

China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association (CTWPDA)
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Room 2: (23 September 2026, 09:00-12:30)

I. Background

The global economy is currently experiencing uncertainties with a predicted slowdown, regional divergences are significant, and global disruptions are prominent. The international timber trade and further-processing industries face both opportunities and challenges. With the rapid advancement of digital technologies and intelligent manufacturing, new business models and formats are emerging, continuously driving transformation and upgrading of the global timber and wood products industry chain.

At this critical stage of industry transformation, sustainable use of timber resources, innovation in trade models, and optimization of market systems have become core breakthroughs for the timber industry to overcome challenges and improve quality. Promoting the industry's transformation and upgrading toward high-end, brand-oriented, and intelligent development is a key measure to unlock new growth drivers and build a new industrial ecosystem for the global timber industry. This forum, as part of the high-level platform of the Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF), brings together global timber industry, government, enterprise, and research resources, creating an international and professional platform for exchange and collaboration, helping stakeholders explore new pathways for high-quality and sustainable development of the timber industry.

II. Purpose

In 2026, the China Timber and Wood Products Distribution Association (CTWPDA) will continue to organize the *"Sustainable Timber Resources, Markets and Trade Subforum"*

under the theme "*Digital Empowerment, Innovation-Driven Development*". Focusing on the three aspects of "resources, markets, and trade," the forum will explore how domestic and international enterprises can work together to build a sustainable timber trading system and a high-quality development timber and wood products market amidst the changing international political and economic environment.

Main Contents

- Timber and wood products market situation and trends in key global regions: Focus on the characteristics of China's tropical timber market, EU market access policies (EUDR), Africa's tropical timber supply and processing industry policies, and the opportunities and challenges of Southeast Asia's processing industry. Senior experts and executives from leading enterprises will be invited to analyze the impact of the international economic situation, geopolitics, and new global trade patterns on the industry, and to forecast future development trends based on current market dynamics.
- Transformation and innovation practices in resources, markets, and trade: Share corporate case studies on transformation and innovation in resources, markets, and trade, explore the application of intelligent tools, green finance, etc., in the timber industry, promote the industry's transition from traditional models to sustainable, high-value-added models, and help enterprises adapt to global supply chain changes.
- Building an efficient and coordinated development pattern for the timber industry chain: Focus on the application of new products, new technologies, new models, and new concepts in the fields of "resources, markets, and trade," enhance the technological content and product value added across the industry chain, and strengthen the resilience of the industry chain as well as the competitiveness of enterprises' products and services.

Key Topics

- China's tropical timber and wood products market situation and characteristics
- Sustainable wood supply chain management in Europe – Interpretation of EUDR
- African tropical timber supply and processing industry policies and market status
- New pattern of international trade – Opportunities and challenges for the timber processing industry in Southeast Asia
- Corporate transformation and innovation practices in resources, markets, and trade
- Intelligent technologies enabling high-quality development of the wood industry
- New product launch: new trends, new consumption, and new technologies in the timber market

Participants

- Government departments, industry associations, consulting organizations, research institutes, etc.

- Industry representatives such as forest owners, log suppliers, lumber suppliers, traders, logistics providers, financial experts, etc.
- Floor, door, wood-based panel, and furniture manufacturers, builders and other timber downstream enterprises.
- News media.

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Concept Note for Sub-forum 3 of GLSTF 2026

Specialized Sub-forum 3 **on Furniture & Customized Home Furnishings:** *Market Trends and Industry Innovations in Furniture & Home Furnishings*

Organized by

China Wood Protection Industry Association (CWPIA)

Supported by

- Guangdong Shunde Bomuyuan Education Technology Co., Ltd.;
- Interior Architecture Design Exchange Center (Guangdong);
- Dingfeng Hui; Macau Interior Design Commercial Association;
- Lunjiao Woodworking Machinery Chamber of Commerce;
- Home Furnishing & Building Materials Industry Committee of China Chamber of International Commerce;
- Central Asian and Chinese Furniture and Building Materials Industry Association; Guangdong Custom Home Association;
- Guangdong Intelligent Manufacturing Association;
- Guangzhou Custom Home Furnishing Industry Association;
- Qingfeng Furniture Association; Ningjin County Furniture Industry Association;
- Ganzhou Nankang District Furniture Association;
- Zhongshan Office Furniture Business Association

Room 3: (23 September 2026, 09:00-12:30)

I. Background

Against the dual backdrop of profound adjustments in the global economic landscape and the accelerated evolution of industrial transformation, the furniture and home furnishings industry stands at a critical juncture for a new round of transformation and upgrading. As we move into 2026, the environment facing the industry is becoming more complex and diverse. On one hand, cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, and digital twins are reshaping the industrial ecosystem at an unprecedented pace. On the other hand, the global carbon neutrality

process is accelerating, making the construction of green supply chains shift from an "option" to a "necessity," and the exploration of circular economy models is entering a substantive stage.

Concurrently, the rise of emerging markets like Southeast Asia and Central Asia provides new opportunities for the industry's international layout, while geopolitical changes and the restructuring of trade barriers place higher demands on supply chain resilience. Consumer demand also showing new characteristics: shifting from simply meeting product functionality to a composite pursuit of health, environmental friendliness, personalized experience, and intelligent interaction. Against this backdrop, this sub-forum will continue the core concept of "Green-Intelligent Integration" and focus on the new theme of "Resilient Coexistence," delving into innovative pathways and practical strategies for the high-quality development of the furniture and home furnishings industry amidst change.

II. Terms of Reference

Purpose and Scope

This professional sub-forum aims to build a top-tier exchange platform that gathers global industry leaders, technical experts, design pioneers, and innovative enterprises, deeply promoting the transformation and upgrading of the furniture and home furnishings industry towards greening, intelligence, and resilience. By systematically exploring pathways for industrial sustainable development, strategies for digital transformation, and solutions for building supply chain resilience, it provides forward-looking insights and actionable solutions for participating enterprises.

The forum will focus on the following areas:

Green Transformation and Circular Economy Practices: Exploring innovative applications of eco-friendly materials, production efficiency improvements, product lifecycle management, and the construction of circular business models.

Deep Integration of Digital Technologies: Analyzing the innovative application of technologies like AI, big data, IoT, and digital twins across the entire chain, including home design, intelligent manufacturing, supply chain management, and user experience.

Supply Chain Resilience Building and International Market Expansion: Researching risk response strategies in the context of global supply chain restructuring, and seizing opportunities in markets like Southeast Asia and Central Asia.

Design Innovation and Evolving Consumption Trends: Discussing international design trends, application of color psychology, innovation in spatial aesthetics, and the impact of changing consumer behavior on product development.

Policies, Regulations, and Standard System Development: Sharing global policy dynamics such as green certification, carbon trading mechanisms, trade compliance,

and corporate response strategies.

Key Topics

- **Green, Sustainable Development and Innovative Transformation of the Furniture and Home Furnishings Industry**
 - New Opportunities in the Southeast Asian Home Furnishings Industry and Supply Chain Resilience Building.
 - Transformation Practices of Furniture Enterprises Under Carbon Neutrality Goals.
 - Green Supply Chain Innovation: Full Lifecycle Management from Materials to Products.
 - Exploring the Circular Economy in the Home Furnishings Industry: Business Models and Technological Innovation.
 - Green Innovation and Sustainable Development Pathways.
- **Digital Transformation and Design Innovation in the Furniture and Home Furnishings Industry**
 - AI-Driven Innovation in Home Design: From Concept Generation to Personalized Customization.
 - Integration and Interconnectivity of Smart Home Ecosystems.
 - Application of Digital Technology in Home Furnishings Manufacturing: Efficiency Improvement and Quality Control.
 - International Design Trends 2026-2027: Color, Materials, and Spatial Aesthetics
 - Intelligent Technology and Future Industry Innovation.

Participants

An estimated 150-200 participants are expected from domestic and foreign government departments, furniture and home furnishings manufacturers, trading companies, design institutions, industry associations, research institutes, technology companies, investment institutions, and media representatives. The participant composition will ensure diversity and representativeness.

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Concept Note for Sub-forum 4 of GLSTF 2026

Specialized Sub-forum 4 on Green Finance and Innovative Facilitation Measures:

Unlocking Forest Commercial Value: Boosting High-value Timber Utilization via Green Finance

Organized by
Global Green Supply Chain of Forest Products (Macao) Federation

Room 4: (23 September 2026, 09:00-12:30)

I. Background

Beyond conventional end-uses including furniture, home goods and construction, sustainable timber has expanded its applications to automobile, high-speed rail, aerospace and new energy sectors amid technological advances. It is widely recognized globally as the nature-based climate solution, driver of economic growth and cornerstone of circular bioeconomy. The global timber value chain is undergoing a pivotal shift from raw log exports toward high-value segments such as engineered wood, timber construction and bioenergy. Only the deep integration of sustainable forest management, transparent trading systems and green finance can transform undervalued eco-friendly timber into high-value renewable feedstock.

However, such transition is hampered by prominent constraints: numerous high-potential timber projects struggle with financing due to insufficient credit standing or lack of dedicated trading platforms, while systematic financial packages covering the full chain from forest resources to finished high-end goods and bioenergy remain largely unavailable.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) launched the Framework for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Timber Supply Chains at the 2024 Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum and co-initiated the GF&GS (Green Finance & Green Supply Chain) Initiative alongside Global Green Supply Chain of Forest Products (Macao) Federation, Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and Global Green Supply Chain Initiative (GGSC). Under ITTO's LSSC Programme and in cooperation with the Commerce

and Investment Promotion Institute of the Macao SAR (IPIM), the BTTs platform is now in its fifth phase, with phased achievements registered across all development tasks. In parallel, aligned with the Macao SAR Government's strategic goals of appropriately diversifying its economy and fostering emerging industries, the local administration has set up a government guidance fund this year. Through continued innovations in investment and financing mechanisms, the fund is scaling up the leveraging effect of fiscal capital to bolster the real economy and advance industrial diversification.

Against this backdrop, this forum adopts the theme '**Unlocking Forest Commercial Value - Boosting High-value Timber Utilization via Green Finance**'. It aims to facilitate in-depth cross-sector dialogues between financial and industrial stakeholders to address commercialization bottlenecks, build actionable cooperation links among timber manufacturers, bioenergy developers and financial institutions, and enable green finance to accelerate the global shift toward sustainable, high-value timber development.

II. Purpose

Through multi-stakeholder dialogues spanning timber and bioenergy enterprises, financial institutions, international organizations and government authorities, the forum intends to identify core industrial and financing barriers restricting high-value timber exploitation and deliver implementable solutions covering innovative green finance instruments, global timber trading platforms and commercial bioenergy models. These solutions will be scaled up across the full industrial chain to cut corporate financing costs, expand market access and advance the sustainable high-value transformation of global forest resources.

III. Scope

The discussion covers four key dimensions:

- Analyze financing hurdles constraining high-value timber development and best proven practices from enterprises, industrial associations and government authorities.
- Showcase actionable solutions including green finance instruments, global forest product trading platforms and commercial bioenergy development models.
- Discuss potential opportunities brought by Macao's newly launched industrial guidance fund and innovative investment frameworks to advance sustainable timber trade and high-value processing via synergy between the fund, forestry sector and green finance.
- Host interactive roundtable discussions among participating stakeholders to explore innovative green finance pathways for forest resource development and build cross-industry consensus.

IV. Key Topics

Session 1: Industrial Pain Points & Benchmark Cases for Value-added Timber Development

- Practical remedies for cross-border financing gaps along timber supply chains (from overseas plantations to processing facilities in China)
- Full-cycle timber traceability plus green finance: pathways to lower financing costs and access high-end markets
- Successful bioenergy projects converting timber residues into renewable energy
- Local cases of high-value forestry development under rural revitalization (Linyi, Western Hunan, Guangxi and other regions)
- Cost-effective certification solutions for SMEs to obtain legal and sustainable forestry credentials

Session 2: Innovative Green Finance Solutions for Sustainable High-value Timber Utilization

- New business ecosystem built by the LSSC Trading Platform
- Digital innovation of green finance empowering forestry under the AI era
- Synergy potential between Macao's innovative investment & financing mechanisms (including government guidance funds)
- Practical deployment of international policy-oriented funds including CFC, CAFI and Green Climate Fund (GCF)

V. Participants

120-150 participants are expected, representing government, business actors, financial institutions, trade and industry organizations, academics, and civil society. Ensuring diversity among stakeholders present at this event will allow for fruitful debate and strengthening collaboration and partnership among stakeholders.

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