



ITTO

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

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TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
24-30 May 2000
Lima, Peru

DECISION 9(XXVIII)

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY
IN THE RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE ITTO**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling the cross-cutting strategies identified in the Libreville Action Plan, which encouraged the participation of civil society, including industry and trade associations and environmental organizations, in the relevant activities of ITTO,

Further recalling ITTA 1994, in particular, Article 2(3) and Article 15,

Noting the recommendation of keynote speakers and the Council Chairman at this session to encourage the active participation of members of civil society in the ITTO,

Further noting the related concerns and comments raised by Producers, Consumers, and Observers at this session,

Recognizing the observations contained in the report by Dr. Duncan Poore and Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew entitled, "Review of the Progress towards the Year 2000 Objective" regarding the lack of participation by civil society in ITTO,

Further recognizing the importance to the ITTO of the contribution and participation of members of civil society,

Also recognizing the recommendations in a number of ITTO guidelines and manuals regarding the benefits of engaging partners in promoting and implementing sustainable forest management,

Decides to:

1. Invite trade and industry representatives and environmental organizations to establish open-ended Advisory Groups to contribute to the work of the Council;
2. Facilitate the inclusion of civil society by:
 - a) Amending Rule 34 of the ITTO Rules of Procedure [Document ITTC(XXIII)/15] regarding the restricted nature of Council documents to state the following:

Unless "Restricted," all ITTO documents shall be available to interested parties. The Council may, however, at any time decide that certain information contained in any of its documents may be restricted or otherwise treated as sensitive information;
 - b) Requesting the Executive Director to provide a list of those documents which should be designated as "Restricted" at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Council for subsequent action by the Council;

/ . . .

- c) Requesting the Executive Director to ensure that there is access to information through the ITTO website, including but not limited to outreach and educational materials; trade data and market information; approved projects and pre-projects, summaries and/or reports of ex-post evaluation of projects; and Council documents for past and future meetings of the ITTO;

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