



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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FIFTIETH SESSION
3 – 8 November 2014
Yokohama, Japan

DECISION 3(L)

ADMISSION AND ACTIVITIES OF OBSERVERS DURING COUNCIL SESSIONS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 9(XXVIII) on 'Enhancing Participation of Members of Civil Society in the Relevant Activities of the ITTO', which invited the establishment of open-ended Advisory Groups to contribute to the work of the Council and led to the formation of ITTO's Trade Advisory Group (TAG) and Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG);

Recognizing the important role that observers play in bringing new issues, perspectives and concerns regarding tropical forests to the attention of ITTO members to promote cooperation among stakeholders ;

Noting that it was unable to reach consensus regarding the admission of one observer to the 50th session;

Emphasizing its desire to maintain positive and mutually respectful relationships with all observers;

Confirming its intention to ensure that sessions remain as transparent as possible and that its work continues to be disseminated to all stakeholders;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to compile a background paper including information on the procedures of relevant international organizations regarding the admission, the rights and responsibilities of, and the activities undertaken by observers at official sessions and side events;
2. Request the Executive Director to establish a working group consisting of 3 representatives each from producer and consumer members and one representative each from the TAG and CSAG to:
 - review the background paper along with ITTO's rules of procedure and any other relevant UN documents and develop guidelines for the admission and rights and responsibilities of observers that are consistent with the ITTA, 2006;
 - develop guidelines for the activities of observers that may be undertaken during sessions of Council (including side events);
 - make recommendations to Council to enhance its engagement with observers.
3. Consider the report of the working group at its 51st Session and adopt improved procedures to be applied in the admission of observers governing activities to be undertaken by them; and
4. Requests member countries to make voluntary contributions of \$13,000 for the consultant fee and \$27,000 for a working group meeting available through the 2015-16 Biennial Work Program to meet the financial requirements of implementing this Decision. If the funds for the working group meeting are unavailable, the working group shall operate electronically.

ANNEX

Indicative Budget (assumes 3 day workshop in Yokohama)

Background paper consultancy	
Fee	\$10,000
Participation in working group (travel/DSA)	\$3,000
Sub-total	\$13,000
Working group	
Travel (8 participants)	\$20,000
DSA (3 day workshop)	\$7,000
Sub-total	\$27,000
Total	\$40,000

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