



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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DECISION 7(XXX)

THE ROLE OF ITTO IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORA

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 13(XXIV) on the role of ITTO in international and regional organizations and fora;

Welcoming the Report of the Expert Panel on the Role of ITTO in International and Regional Organizations and Fora;

Recognizing that some measures for enhancing ITTO's role in international and regional organizations and fora can be accommodated within existing resources while other measures will require additional funding allocations from Administrative Account, Special Account or Bali Partnership Fund;

Noting that the first substantive session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) will convene in New York, from 11 to 22 June 2001, to decide its multi-year program of work, including the plan of action to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and that country led initiatives on issues relevant to ITTO's objectives are likely to be initiated over time;

Also noting the intention of FAO and UNEP to second professional staff to the UNFF secretariat, and urging other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to follow suit;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to pursue the measures in Annexes A and B to this decision for effective ITTO involvement in international and regional organizations and fora, in particular in the newly established UNFF and CPF, taking into account the expected benefits and timing of relevant international and regional events, and to provide progress reports to Council on a regular basis during this timeframe;
2. Request the Executive Director to undertake the measures identified in Annex A within the approved budget of the Administrative Account, and to take into account that enhanced ITTO participation in multiple international and regional meetings will have implications for future Administrative Budgets;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member countries to support the measures identified in Annex B, which are expected to require additional financial allocations from the Administrative Account, Special Account or Bali Partnership Fund;
4. Also authorize the Executive Director to offer ITTO co-sponsorship, assuming funds are available, of any UNFF country-led initiatives on issues relevant to ITTO objectives and urge Member countries to provide voluntary contributions to the Special Account for this purpose;

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5. Further authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements to second as soon as possible a highly qualified professional to the UNFF secretariat for a two-year period, assuming funds are made available, and urge Member countries to provide voluntary contributions to the Special Account for this purpose;
6. Review the effectiveness and benefits of such a secondment at the end of that period prior to considering whether or not to renew or extend the secondment;
7. Incorporate as appropriate the measures contained in Annexes A and B in the ITTO Action Plan for 2002-2006 taking into account the criteria proposed by the Expert Panel; and
8. Review and update as needed the measures contained in Annexes A and B at its Thirty-third Session in Yokohama in October 2002, in view of progress made and relevant international and regional events.

ANNEX A

EFFECTIVE ITTO INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORA

Measures which Could Be Pursued within Existing Resources

International Organizations and Conventions

UNFF

- Be actively involved in UNFF meetings at ED level (especially regarding trade and environmental issues, forest monitoring and forest conservation and sustainable management).
- Prepare papers on issues under the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work where ITTO has comparative advantage.
- Be actively involved in UNFF ministerial segments and multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- Host and lead side events at UNFF meetings (with CPF partners as appropriate) on key UNFF topics related to ITTO's mandate and to highlight recent ITTO accomplishments and innovations.
- Participate in relevant *ad hoc* technical expert groups convened by UNFF.

CPF

- Serve as lead agency on issues where ITTO has comparative advantage.
- Participate in development of the UNFF plan of action on IPF/IFF implementation.
- Advance work within the CPF on using C&I for national forest assessment, monitoring and reporting, including in the context of UNFF.

FAO

- Continue and enhance coordination and cooperation on trade statistics, including collaborative reporting on statistics.
- Strengthen coordination with FAO regional commissions, including having the three ITTO Technical Committees report on activities of the commissions during Committee sessions, with a view to considering areas for joint project work.
- Strengthen communication and cooperation between Secretariats on areas of mutual interest, such as capacity building, criteria and indicators, FRA, forest contribution to carbon cycles, forest fires, improved harvesting techniques, improved processing techniques, and, when appropriate, certification and mutual recognition.
- Consider development of an MOU on collaboration activities.

CITES

- Continue to actively participate, preparatory to CITES COP 11, in the Timber Working Group, the listing criteria working group and the bushmeat working group with a view to supporting informed discussions at CITES COP 11 in 2002.

WTO

- Provide information on ITTO's trade and environment activities.
- Monitor and report to Council developments on WTO's initiative on Accelerated Tariff Liberalization (ATL) in the forest sector.
- Participate in meetings of WTO and WTO's CTE when feasible.

CBD

- Contribute to CBD deliberations on conservation of forest biodiversity through the *ad hoc* expert meetings in forests, SBSTTA 7 and COP 6 to be held in The Hague in April 2002.

CIFOR

- Continue cooperation on issues of mutual interest, such as criteria and indicators and low impact logging.

ICRAF

- Explore the possibility of dialogue and collaborative work in areas of mutual interest.

UNEP

- Continue and explore the possibility for increased cooperation, including joint sponsorship of workshops in areas of mutual interest related to sustainable forest management, such as forest fires.

COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

- Request the three ITTO Technical Committees to consider procedures for developing project proposals that meet the requirements of, and can be considered for funding by, the Common Fund for Commodities.

CSD/RIO + 10

- Collaborate as appropriate with FAO (Agenda 21 task manager for forests and land use) to prepare the Secretary-General's report with respect to Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, as well as the UNFF Secretariat in preparing its report for Rio + 10.

UNFCCC/IPCC

- Monitor developments in UNFCCC/IPCC discussions regarding forests, including ARD, CDM, LULUCF, and emissions trading and report regularly to Council on these developments and their potential implications for tropical forests and the world tropical timber economy.
- Invite representative(s) of the UNFCCC/IPCC and other relevant institutions to report to Council on the status of forest-related discussions under UNFCCC/IPCC.

CCD

- Participate in the next COP in Bonn in September 2001.
- Explore opportunities for dialogue and potential cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

International Financial Institutions

GEF

- Recommend to Council areas for increased dialogue and potential collaboration on GEF policy and project funding, including co-financing with GEF implementing agencies of ITTO and producer member projects that may be suitable for funding under the GEF biodiversity and climate change focal areas, and the potential for an ITTO role as an implementing or executing agency under GEF.

World Bank

- Participate in and contribute to the World Bank hosted Ministerial Conference on Forest Law Enforcement in Asia in September 2001.
- Explore possibilities for increased cooperation with the World Bank with respect to implementing ITTO objectives in member countries, especially the Year 2000 Objective, based on "lessons learned" through ITTO project implementation and evaluation.
- Engage in a dialogue with the World Bank regarding implementation of the World Bank Forest Strategy, once adopted, with a view to promoting synergies where possible, especially in Central Africa and other producing regions.

Regional Development Banks

- Initiate a dialogue with relevant regional development banks, including the Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank and Asian Development Bank on their policy review and project implementation processes relevant to ITTO objectives, including implementation of national forest plans and strategies, research and development and plantation management.

Regional Organizations and Fora

ATO

- Work with ATO to build stronger bridges between Francophone countries and ITTO with a view to promoting more active participation in ITTO projects and in implementing ITTO criteria and indicators.
- Participate in IUCN/WCS Workshop on Bushmeat issues in Africa in 2001 and work with ATO to promote expanded ITTO project work on bushmeat and concession management.
- Participate in high level African regional forest law enforcement conference planned for 2002.

ASEAN and ASEAN Foundation

- Explore possibility of joint projects on training programmes for prevention of forest fires and on co-sponsoring a seminar on sustainable forest management with participation of local communities within the region.

Criteria and Indicators Processes

- Continue to actively participate in meetings of the Montreal and Pan-European processes on temperate and boreal forests, including as appropriate meetings of their technical advisory committees.
- Consider as appropriate expanding cooperation with ATO to other regional tropical forest criteria and indicators processes (e.g. Tarapoto, *Lepaterique* for Central America) involving ITTO producer members.

South Pacific Forum

- Participate as requested in activities of mutual interest.

Non-Governmental and Private Sector Groups

IUCN

- Explore strengthening collaboration related to forest rehabilitation and restoration in development of transboundary conservation areas, bushmeat issues, and the IUCN red list of endangered species, consistent with ITTO's mandate.

Environmental NGOs

- Continue to strengthen outreach to international NGOs such as WWF and Conservation International, and regional NGOs to encourage their greater participation in ITTO policy and project activities and explore opportunities for collaboration in areas of mutual interest, such as transboundary conservation areas.

Trade/Industry Groups

- Strengthen the Trade Advisory Group (TAG) established pursuant to ITTC Decision 9(XXVIII) to facilitate greater contribution by the trade/industry to the work of ITTO.

ANNEX B

EFFECTIVE ITTO INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORA

Measures Requiring Additional Financial Allocations

UNFF

- Second an ITTO professional to the UNFF Secretariat.
- Serve as a co-sponsor for country-led initiatives on issues related to ITTO objectives.
- Develop partnerships with private sector/NGOs in the context of UNFF discussions.

CPF

- Implement IPF/IFF proposals for action directed to ITTO.

FAO

- Support FAO in organizing the "International Year of Mountains," which will occur in 2002.
- Co-sponsor with FAO the 2nd International Meeting on Criteria and Indicators tentatively scheduled for early 2002.
- Collaborate on preparation of guidelines for management of secondary forests and on forest restoration activities, including with IUCN.

CITES

- Propose for Council consideration cooperative work, including the benefits of joint workshops, on issues related to the high volume commercial trade in tropical timber species, such as market transparency, species conservation status, sustainable forest management, export/import data, and CITES listing criteria.

CBD

- Undertake a review of and update as necessary the ITTO guidelines on conservation of biodiversity in tropical production forests and the Secretariat paper on the work of ITTO related to forest biodiversity conservation.

CSD/Rio + 10

- Contribute to the preparatory process for Rio + 10, including regional workshops and meetings, as appropriate to advancing ITTO objectives.

ATO

- Work with ATO to develop/improve market intelligence within region.
- Facilitate improved information sharing and cooperation between ATO member countries and other ITTO producer members.

OTHER REGIONAL FORA

- Explore ways to strengthen collaboration with other relevant regional agreements, processes and organizations such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and UNECE, with a view to promoting sustainable forest management and sustainable timber harvesting practices in producer member countries and supporting development of centers of excellence.

IUCN

- Consider joint sponsorship of a workshop on protected areas in the context of promoting sustainable forest management and the tropical timber economy.

TRADE/INDUSTRY GROUPS

- Facilitate transfer (collection and distribution) of information from the private sector, including international and regional producer and consumer trade organizations (e.g. IWPA, ATIBT, UCBD, ATTO, TTF, IFIA, CADEFOR) to member countries regarding trade statistics, accessing world markets, harvesting and processing methods, and improved consumer awareness and education through, *inter alia*, sponsoring regional workshops in producing regions.