

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION  
1 - 6 December 1997  
Yokohama

## DECISION 2(XXIII)

### MARKET ACCESS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 2(XXI) regarding the promotion of market access opportunities for international trade in tropical timber;

Noting Article 36 of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994;

Acknowledging the positive relationship that can exist between international trade in tropical timber and sustainable forest management;

Noting the progress towards the Year 2000 Objective;

Also noting the proposals for action agreed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and endorsed by the U.N. General Assembly Special Session in June 1997 concerning trade and environment in relation to forest goods and services;

Aware that the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) will consider trade and environment matters left pending by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;

Noting ongoing discussions in the World Trade Organization (WTO), which has primary competence to address trade liberalization issues, and the work done by its Committee on Trade and Environment;

Reaffirming the importance of market access opportunities in assisting countries to generate financial resources to help implement national policies that promote sustainable forest management;

Recognizing the importance of improving public understanding of the positive role that international trade in timber can have in giving value to forests and in generating financial resources for the sustainable management of forests;

Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants (one from a producer member country and the other from a consumer member country) to undertake a study of impediments to market access of tropical timber in all member countries and where necessary, to propose actions to improve market access of tropical timber as per the attached Terms of Reference. A preliminary report of the Study will be presented at the Twenty-fourth Session and the final report at the Twenty-fifth Session;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange for financing two consultants from the Special Account, and urge member countries to contribute to the Special Account for this purpose.

## ANNEX

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MARKET ACCESS STUDY

1. To undertake a survey to determine impediments to market access of tropical timber in exporting and importing member countries.
2. Analyze tropical timber market access vis-à-vis other timber and relevant competing materials and products.
3. Assess how market access for tropical timber and tropical timber products is influenced or regulated by governments, professional associations, industrial and retail sectors, international organizations and other relevant non-governmental groups.
4. In developing the Study, the consultants shall also take into consideration the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and other relevant international organizations as far as the discussions of trade and environment are concerned.
5. Where necessary, the consultants shall propose actions to improve market access of tropical timber.
6. Prepare a preliminary report for the Twenty-fourth Session and a final report for the Twenty-fifth Session.

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