

Distr.
GENERAL

ITTC(XXII)/17
29 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
21-29 May 1997
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

DECISION 3(XXII)
ORGANIZATION OF WORK UNDER THE ITTA, 1994
PART I

INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP (IAG)

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 4(XXI), requesting the Executive Director to convene an Expert Panel on the Organization of Work under the ITTA, 1994;

Welcoming the report of the Expert Panel on the Organization of Work under the ITTA, 1994;

Recognizing the supreme role of Council to provide effective leadership within the ITTO and to make decisions which direct the work of the organization;

Highlighting the need for the Council to proactively identify and discuss relevant policy issues;

Aware that effective participation will ensure commitment by member countries as well as better implementation of Council decisions;

Committed to the need for consensus building and full and effective transparency among all parties;

Decides to:

1. Establish an Informal Advisory Group (IAG);
2. Request the IAG to provide advice to the Council on the strategic priorities and policy options of the ITTO in the context of the objectives of the ITTA, 1994;
3. Adopt the attached Terms of Reference for the IAG;
4. Convene the first meeting of the IAG in Yokohama, Japan, in conjunction with the Twenty-third Session of the Council and reassess its role and continued existence at the Twenty-sixth Session of the Council;
5. Request the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) to assess the management and staffing needs of the ITTO in the light of priorities determined by the Council with the advice of the IAG in the context of ITTA, 1994.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP (IAG) ON ORGANIZATION OF WORK UNDER THE ITTA, 1994

Composition of the IAG

The IAG shall comprise the Chair and Vice-chair of the Council, the four Committee Chairs, the two Spokespersons of the producer and consumer groups, a representative of the host country of ITTO Headquarters and the Executive Director;

Roles and Responsibilities of the IAG

Under the direction of the Council, the IAG shall:

1. Receive, generate, synthesize and provide advice to Council, and in this context, review previous Council decisions, assess and advise Council on the need to sunset or further examine previous Council decisions in the light of ITTA, 1994;
2. Consider, in the context of the overall policy and strategic priorities of the Council, priorities related to public relations and public education of the ITTO;
3. Advise Council on ITTO's coordination and cooperation priorities with external agencies and organizations; for further decision and implementation of appropriate action by the Council;

Mode of Operation

1. The IAG shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Council or, in his or her absence, the Vice-chair of Council;
2. The IAG may propose informal Joint Producer/Consumer sessions to address policy options and strategies during Council Sessions;
3. The IAG shall meet prior to Council sessions for one half or one full day as necessary, during and following Council sessions. Intersessional work of the IAG shall be performed by e-mail, telephone, facsimile and mail;
4. The IAG shall be supported by the Secretariat to the extent needed to plan meetings, provide meeting support and undertake any necessary intersessional work.

Relationship to other ITTO Organizational Entities

The IAG shall take direction only from the Council and shall not give direction to, nor take direction from, the Committees, the Bureau, the producer/consumer groups, individual members or the Secretariat.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with any necessary intersessional work of the IAG shall be met through in-kind support from the organizations with which IAG members are associated. Costs to the ITTO of the establishment of the IAG shall be related to administrative support to be provided by the Secretariat for the effective and efficient functioning of the IAG.

* * *