

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
13-20 November 1996
Yokohama, Japan

DECISION 2(XXI)

PROMOTION OF MARKET ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TROPICAL TIMBER

The International Tropical Timber Council,

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

Noting Article 1, sub-paragraphs (b), (e) and (i) of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994;

Noting also the progress towards the Year 2000 Objective;

Aware that World Trade Organization (WTO) provisions can have an important effect on the achievement of ITTO objectives;

Further noting the ongoing discussions in the WTO, including in the Committee on Trade and Environment, on improving market access;

Stressing 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 the international trade in timber can have in giving value to forests and in generating financial resources for the sustainable management of forests;

Concerned that national actions which restrict international trade in tropical timber may have a negative effect on forest management in member countries;

Decides to:

1. Urge member countries to undertake measures to eliminate possible obstacles to market access for tropical timber as a possible means to foster sustainable forest management;
2. Urge members to make sub-national and private sector users of tropical timber aware of the positive relationship that can exist between international trade in tropical timber and the efforts being made by tropical timber producing countries toward sustainable forest management in the context of the Year 2000 Objective;
3. Encourage members to invite sub-national governments and the private sector to consider their policies on the use of tropical timber in the light of the Year 2000 Objective.