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

DECISION 4(XXI)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK UNDER THE ITTA, 1994

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Noting that the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994, will enter into force on 1 January 1997;

Mindful of the need to prepare for this entry into force;

Recognizing the importance of a strong, effective and efficient ITTO;

Welcoming the report of the Executive Director (Document ITTC(XXI)/6) on the Preparation of the Entry into Force of the ITTA, 1994;

Recognizing the need for Council deliberation on a series of important issues concerning the organization of work under the ITTA, 1994, including *inter alia* the respective roles of Council and Committees, the structure of consultations in the decision-making process; location, frequency and duration of meetings; interagency coordination and public relations;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to convene an Expert Panel comprising sixteen members, six from producer countries, six from consumer countries, two representatives from the NGO community and two from trade/industry (one each from producer countries and one each from consumer countries). The members of the Expert Panel will act in their expert or personal capacity and develop options for consideration by the Council at its Twenty-second Session, using document ITTC(XXI)/6 and comments received from member countries as reference;
2. Further request the Executive Director to circulate the findings of the Expert Panel to member countries at least two months prior to the Twenty-second Session of Council;
3. Adopt the Terms of Reference in accordance with the Annex to this Decision.

ANNEX

Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel on Organization of Work under the ITTA, 1994

1. The Expert Panel shall develop options for consideration by the Council at its Twenty-second Session on the following issues:
 - (i) The respective roles of Council and the Committees;
 - (ii) The structure of consultations in the decision-making process;
 - (iii) The location, frequency, and duration of Council and Committee Sessions;
 - (iv) Co-ordination with other agencies;
 - (v) ITTO' s public relations activities;and submit the options by 15 March 1997 in time for their consideration by members at the Twenty-second Session of the ITTC in May 1997.
2. The Panel shall be convened for a period of five days in January 1997 in Yokohama. The Panel will be assisted by members from the Secretariat. The working language of the Panel will be English.
3. The Panel shall use as its reference Document ITTC(XXI)/6, any relevant Council and Committee documents and comments received from member countries.
4. The Panel shall, in its deliberations, take full account of members' submissions.
5. The Panel shall, in its report, take account of the financial and logistical implications of the options it proposes to Council.

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