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DECISION 5(XXI)

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling the publication by ITTO in November 1990 of "Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests" and in March 1992 of "Criteria for Measurement of Sustainable Tropical Forest Management";

Recognizing the progress already achieved in several producer countries in applying the ITTO Guidelines and Criteria and Indicators;

Welcoming the report of the Executive Director on Preparation for Entry into Force of the ITTA, 1994, in particular his recommendation regarding the evolution of work on ITTO's Guidelines and Criteria and Indicators;

Noting the progress made in various processes on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that have been initiated since 1992, including the Helsinki Process, Montreal Process, Tarapoto Process, the Dry-Zone Africa Initiative and the work of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, as well as the relevant discussions in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;

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 prepare a report elaborating possible additional examples of the application of the indicators included in the "Criteria for the Measurement of Sustainable Tropical Forest Management" in order to make them more usable and facilitate the measurement and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the Year 2000 Objective, as well as estimates of resources required for consideration at the Twenty-fourth Session of the Council;
2. Further request the Expert Panel to take into account the progress being made in implementing ITTO's Guidelines and Criteria and Indicators and to build on the experience gained in the application of the ITTO Guidelines and Criteria and Indicators for implementing the Year 2000 Objective and other relevant international initiatives;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants to prepare by 1 June 1997 an internal working paper for the use of the Expert Panel;

4. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange for financing the Expert Panel and the consultants from the Special Account;
5. Request the Expert Panel to make an interim presentation to members at the Twenty-third Session of the ITTC in November 1997.

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