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DECISION 7 (XV)

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF TROPICAL TIMBER

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Article 1 (h) of the 1983 International Tropical Timber Agreement,

Recalling the Non-Legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests,

Noting the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Stressing the importance of promoting the sustainable management and utilization of forest resources and the enhancement of the competitiveness of their products in the international market,

Noting that among the basic strategies of ITTO, as stated in its Action Plan adopted at the 9th Session of the ITTC, are the development and promotion of the intellectual, economic, and technological bases for integrated forest management systems and optimal use of the tropical forests, taking into consideration multiple benefits that can be derived from them,

Recognizing that biotechnology research programs are relevant to those ITTO activities designed to promote sustainable timber production, through the development of high quality planting material,

Decides to request the Executive Director to contract a background study on biotechnology applications and technology transfer in the relevant areas of ITTO activities with the aim of enhancing sustainable production, processing and marketing of tropical timber, and to present its results at the Sixteenth Session of the Council,

Authorizes that resources up to a maximum of \$44,000.00 should be allocated from the Special Account for financing this study.
