



FIFTY-THIRD SESSION
27 November – 2 December 2017
Lima, Peru

DECISION 8(LIII)

**APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 30 OF ITTA, 2006 (RELIEF FROM OBLIGATIONS)
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Aware that paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article 30 of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006, “Relief from Obligations” state: “1. Where it is necessary on account of exceptional circumstances or emergency or *force majeure* not expressly provided for in this Agreement, the Council may, by special vote in accordance with article 12, relieve a member of an obligation under this Agreement if it is satisfied by an explanation from that member regarding the reasons why the obligation cannot be met,” and “2. The Council, in granting relief to a member under paragraph 1 of this article, shall state explicitly the terms and conditions on which, and the period for which, the member is relieved of such obligation, and the reasons for which the relief is granted,”

Acknowledging that the Government of the Central African Republic, through the letter from the Ministry of Water, Forest, Hunting and Fisheries of 12 February 2015 addressed to the Council, indicated that the Central African Republic is in a very serious military and political crisis and is facing financial difficulties to settle its ITTO arrears for the period 2005 to 2011, and that it is committed to undertake its best efforts to contribute its assessments under the ITTA, 2006;

Recalling that the International Tropical Timber Council, at its Fifty-first Session held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2015, and at its Fifty-second Session held in Yokohama, Japan, in November 2016, deferred any discussions on this matter due to time constraints caused by ITTO’s financial impairment;

Taking into account the exceptional circumstance of the Government of the Central African Republic as referenced in their letter to the Council;

Decides to:

1. Confirm that, following a careful analysis of the situation concerning the obligations of the Government of the Central African Republic in the framework of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006, the provisions under Article 30 of International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006, apply to the Government of the Central African Republic;
2. Write-off the outstanding arrears for the years 2005-2011, of the Government of the Central African Republic in the amount of *US\$ 525,507.00*.
3. Communicate this relief is provided due to extraordinary circumstances and does not constitute a precedent in ITTO or other international organizations.
4. Urge the Government of the Central African Republic to pay its remaining outstanding arrears and requests the Secretariat to identify a suitable payment plan to allow Central African Republic to meet its financial obligations.