



ITTO

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

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12-17 May 2003
Panama City, Panama

DECISION 12(XXXIV)

**MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION
OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TROPICAL TIMBER**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 2(XXI), Decision 2(XXIII) and Decision 9(XXVI) relating to market access opportunities for international trade in tropical timber;

Noting the concerns expressed by some members on existing and evolving product standards and technical regulations in some countries that may affect the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber;

Taking note that existing and evolving product standards and technical regulations offer both challenges and opportunities for the market access for sustainably produced tropical timber;

Welcoming the final report on Market Access of Tropical Timber pursuant to Decision 6(XXXI) [Document ITTC(XXXIV)/10], which compiles and analyses information on relevant issues affecting market access for tropical timber;

Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants, one from a producer country and one from a consumer country, to undertake a study to be presented to Council at its Thirty-sixth Session, which will:
 - identify product standards, quality or grading requirements, building codes, and technical regulations that may affect the trade of tropical timber and timber products;
 - assess the possible impacts of product standards, quality or grading requirements, building codes, and technical regulations, on trade in tropical timber, *inter alia*, with respect to panel products;
 - assess the capacity of tropical timber producing countries to meet existing and evolving product standards and technical regulations for timber products in importing countries and, where gaps exist, identify and propose ways to address them and provide relevant assistance to tropical timber producing countries;
 - propose recommendations for consideration by member countries and Council; and
 - in the context of the Doha Development Agenda, report on tariffs, negotiations and the negotiating process as related to tropical timber products at the Thirty-sixth Session of the Council.

2. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member Countries to meet the financial requirements of this decision, not exceeding US\$150,000. If sufficient contributions are not received by 31 August 2003, the Executive Director is requested to use funds from Sub-account B of the Bali Partnership Fund.