



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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SIXTIETH SESSION
2 - 6 December 2024
Yokohama, Japan

DECISION 4(LX)

MATTERS PERTAINING TO ARTICLE 44 OF ITTA, 2006

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Article 44 of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) 2006;

Noting that the ITTA, 2006 entered into force on 7 December 2011 with an initial duration of ten years, and was extended for a period of five years with effect from 7 December 2021 until 6 December 2026, in accordance with Decision 4(LVII);

Noting Decision 1(LIX.1) on the further extension of the Agreement in accordance with Article 44(2) of the ITTA, 2006, for a period of three years with effect from 7 December 2026 until 6 December 2029;

Noting the work and recommendations of the intersessional working group established under Decision 4(LVII) and extended for one year under Decision 4(LVIII) to assess the need for renegotiation and/or further extension of the ITTA 2006, as contained in Document ITTC(LIX)/5;

Also noting Decision 5(LIX), operative paragraph 3, deciding to use the indicative Roadmap Scenario 1 on pages 7 and 8 of Document ITTC(LIX)/5 as the basis to guide consultations in the ITTA, 2006 review process;

Further noting Decision 5(LIX), operative paragraph 4, extending the virtual intersessional working group for a further period of one year until the 60th Session of the Council in 2024, making it open-ended and renaming it as Preparatory Working Group (PWG);

Recognizing the need to plan for the expiry of the ITTA, 2006 by allowing adequate time and resources for preparing any subsequent agreement;

Further recognizing the work and recommendations of the PWG presented at the 60th Session of the Council;

Recognizing the voluntary contribution of Japan to date supporting the preparatory work;

Decides to:

1. Extend the mandate of the Preparatory Working Group (PWG) until the 61st Session of the Council in 2025.
2. Request the PWG work in line with the Roadmap in Document ITTC(LX)/5 to finalize the identification of elements to consider for the future negotiation based on discussions among Members and through analysis, in close collaboration with the Secretariat and supported by independent consultants, including:
 - Conducting a comparative analysis of structural and functional aspects of other commodity organizations such as membership, missions, committees, dues assessments, and voting procedures as appropriate;

- Undertaking a mapping of the global institutional landscape to identify how ITTO fits into ongoing and emerging economic, social, climate and biodiversity goals for tropical forests;
 - Developing discussion questions to guide the consultation meetings with Regional groups and Caucuses noted in the Roadmap and to share those questions with Members no less than four weeks prior to planned meeting dates;
 - Producing a summary of elements to consider for the future negotiation shared to date to help Members conduct their national preparations and reviews, with balanced representation of the perspectives of all Members;
3. Request the Secretariat to share proposed Terms of Reference for the consultants' work with the PWG for its feedback and input;
 4. Request the Secretariat to post the minutes of PWG meetings, within 4 weeks of each meeting, on the ITTO member portal for transparency and awareness for all Members;
 5. Request the PWG to submit a report, including all the deliverables, to the ITTC61;
 6. Encourage all Members to be actively engaged in the open-ended PWG to enhance inclusivity in the preparatory work for the future negotiation; and
 7. Noting the estimated costs of US\$220,000 for the implementation of this Decision, request the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions to meet these requirements, and authorize the Executive Director to use funds from the Working Capital Reserve in the absence of sufficient voluntary contributions.

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