



SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
27 - 31 October 2025
Panama City, Panama

DECISION 4(LXI)

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 under Decision 4(LVIII), 5(LIX) and 4(LX) to assess the need for negotiation and/or further extension of the ITTA 2006, as contained in Document ITTC(LIX)/5;

Further noting Decision 5(LIX), operative paragraph 4, making the virtual intersessional working group 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 61st Session of the Council;

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

Decides to:

1. Extend the mandate of the Preparatory Working Group (PWG) until the 62nd Session of the Council in 2026;
2. Request the PWG to work in close collaboration with the Secretariat and in line with the revised Roadmap, as contained in the Annex to this Decision, to further analyze the identified elements and additional elements, if any, to consider for the future negotiation; and explore options and make recommendations for addressing these elements based on discussions among Members;

3. Request the PWG to submit a report, including recommendations on the tentative Roadmap for 2027, to the Preparatory Committee and ITTC62. The report should address:
 - (i) priority elements, clusters of elements and issues, and identification of substantive focus areas
 - (ii) the positioning of ITTO vis-a-vis other relevant multilateral agreements and organizations, and initiatives
 - (iii) the question of what needs to be included in the new Agreement and what could be left for operational decisions by Council
 - (iv) possible additional elements for inclusion;
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. Encourage all Members to be actively engaged in the open-ended PWG to enhance inclusivity in the preparatory work for the future negotiation; and
6. Request the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions to meet the budgetary requirements for the implementation of this Decision, and authorize the Executive Director to use funds from the Working Capital Reserve up to US\$212,000 in the absence of sufficient voluntary contributions.

ANNEX

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND ESTIMATE OF COSTS RELATED TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE ITTA

(in United States dollars)

Tentative Timing		Description	Provisional Estimated Expenses
2026	February	<u>Preparatory Working Group</u> - Virtual session. Interpretation (online) & document translation	\$8,000
	March	<u>Caucus Meeting</u> - Virtual session. Interpretation (online) & document translation	\$8,000
	June	<u>Caucus Meeting</u> - Virtual session. Interpretation (online) & document translation	\$8,000
	September	<u>Preparatory Working Group</u> - Virtual session. Interpretation (online) & document translation	\$8,000
	November In conjunction with ITTC62	<u>PREPCOM I - (2 days in Japan)</u> - Meeting Facilities (incl. SIS Equipment) - Language Staff (Interpreters/Translators), etc.	\$180,000
Total:			\$212,000
2027	Q1	<u>PREPCOM II - (3 days in Japan)</u> - Meeting Facilities (incl. SIS Equipment) - Language Staff (Interpreters/Translators), etc.	\$250,000
	Q3	<u>UNCTAD NEGOTIATION I - (5 days in Geneva)</u> - Travel costs for Secretariat (incl. DSA), etc.	\$145,000
	Total:		\$395,000
2028	Q1	<u>UNCTAD NEGOTIATION II - (5 days in Geneva)</u> - Travel costs for Secretariat (incl. DSA), etc.	\$145,000
	Q3	<u>UNCTAD NEGOTIATION III - (5 days in Geneva)</u> - Travel costs for Secretariat (incl. DSA), etc.	\$145,000
	Total:		\$290,000
2029	Q1	<u>UNCTAD NEGOTIATION IV - (5 days in Geneva)</u> - Travel costs for Secretariat (incl. DSA), etc.	\$145,000
	Total:		\$145,000

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