



RULES OF PROCEDURES

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INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

Adopted by the International Tropical Timber Council through Decision 6(XLVIII)

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Chapter I

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 1

Representation

Each member of the International Tropical Timber Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") shall be represented in the Council by a delegation consisting of one representative and such other designated alternates and advisers as it may be required.

Rule 2

Credentials

1. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representative and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Director if possible not less than one week before the opening of the session. Any change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Executive Director as soon as possible.
2. The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be issued by the competent authorities of the members of the Council.

Rule 3

Credentials Committee

At its first session in each calendar year, the Council shall appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of eight members of the Council to serve during that calendar year. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representative at each session and report to the Council without delay. It shall also examine and report on any authorization given by a member to another member under article 11, paragraph 2, of the Agreement.

Rule 4

Observers

1. The Council may invite any member or observer State of the United Nations which is not party to the Agreement or any of the organizations referred to in article 15 and 27 of the Agreement to attend a particular session or sessions of the Council and/or meetings of its committees and subsidiary bodies as observers. Moreover, any member or observer State of the United Nations which is not party to the Agreement of the Organization may request the Council to be authorized to attend any particular session. Invitations to the United Nations and its organs, such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP and the FAO and the other specialized and related agencies of the United Nations may be made on a permanent basis.
2. Observers shall have no votes. They may, however, upon the invitation of the Council or of a committee or subsidiary body thereof, make oral statements in or submit written statements to a meeting.

Rule 5

Nomination of a National Focal Point and Transmission of Communications

Each member shall notify the Executive Director in writing of the name of its National Focal Point to whom all notices and other communications regarding the work of the Council and its committees and subsidiary bodies shall be sent. Such a National Focal Point shall, as a general rule, reside or be located in the city where the Headquarters of the Organization is located, but other arrangements may be made by informing the Executive Director. Any notice or communication forwarded to the National Focal Point so designated shall be deemed to have been delivered to the member concerned. Whenever there is a change of the National Focal Point so designated, the Executive Director shall immediately be notified in writing.

Chapter II

CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

Rule 6 **Elections**

The election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for a calendar year under Article 8 of the Agreement shall take place at a regular session held in the preceding calendar year; the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall hold office until the succeeding officers are elected.

Rule 7 **Acting Chairperson**

If the Chairperson of the Council is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairperson shall act in his or her place. In the temporary absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson or the permanent absence of one or both of them, the Council may elect new officers from among the representatives of the producer members and/or from among the representatives of the consumer members, as the case may be, on a temporary or permanent basis. The Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

Rule 8 **Nominations**

When the office of Chairperson is to be filled by a representative of a consumer member, a nomination or nominations shall be made by the consumer members and when the office of Chairperson is to be filled by a representative of a producer member, a nomination or nominations shall be made by the producer members; a similar procedure shall be applied for the election of the Vice-Chairperson.

Chapter III

SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Rule 9 **Sessions**

1. As a general rule, the Council shall hold at least one regular session a year. At each regular session the Council shall determine the date, duration and venue of its next regular session. In considering the frequency and location of its Sessions, the Council shall seek to ensure the availability of sufficient funds.
2. Special sessions shall be subject to the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 2, and any other relevant articles of the Agreement.
3. All meetings of the Council shall be private unless the Council decides otherwise. Statements made in, and documents presented to meetings of the Council, unless "Restricted", shall be available to interested parties.

Rule 10 **Convening of Sessions**

The Executive Director shall send to each National Focal Point designated under rule 5 a written notification of the date and place of each session of the Council together with the provisional agenda within the time-limits provided for in Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Agreement. Notification of a special session shall be accompanied by a statement of the reasons for calling the session, together with the provisional agenda. Such notification shall also state under which subparagraphs of Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Agreement the special session is being convened.

Rule 11
Agenda

1. The provisional agenda of each session of the Council shall be prepared by the Executive Director in consultation with the Chairperson of the Council for adoption by the Council.
2. The provisional agenda for regular sessions may include any items connected with the Agreement which may have been proposed by any member, any committee or subsidiary body of the Council or by the Executive Director.
3. The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist of the item or items specified in the relevant decision to convene it or in the request for the special session under Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Agreement and may contain items which, in the judgment of the Executive Director or the Chairperson of the Council, could profitably be discussed during the special session.
4. The provisional agenda shall include a statement of the votes held by each member at the time it is issued. No changes shall be made in the agenda subsequent to its adoption by the Council, except by decision of the Council.
5. The provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, for each regular session shall be distributed in the working languages by the Secretariat to the members at least 30 days before the opening of the session.¹
6. The Secretariat shall, as appropriate, report to the Council on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the Council, before they are considered by it.

Chapter IV

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 12
Quorum

The Executive Director, at each meeting of the Council, shall advise the Chairperson whether the quorum prescribed by Article 13 of the Agreement is present and which member is authorized to represent the interests of another and cast its votes in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Agreement.

Rule 13
Powers and Duties of the Chairperson

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere in these rules, the Chairperson shall announce whether or not a quorum is present, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, grant the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He or she shall have control over the proceedings of the Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

Rule 14
Permission to Speak

1. No person may address the Council without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairperson. Subject to rule 15, the Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chairperson may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion and may direct that such remarks shall not appear in the records of the meeting.
2. The Chairpersons of committees and subsidiary bodies of the Council may be accorded

¹ Amended in accordance with Decision 5 (LIII).

precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by their respective committees or subsidiary bodies. The principal officers of the Organization may similarly be accorded precedence to speak for the purpose of clarifying any matter.

Rule 15
Points of Order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order which shall immediately be decided by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against any ruling by the Chairperson. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote and the Chairperson's ruling shall stand unless overruled by the Council. A representative raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 16
Time-limit on Speeches

The Chairperson may, in the course of the discussion, propose to the Council a limit on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on any question. When debate is limited and a representative has spoken his or her allotted time, the Chairperson shall call him or her to order without delay.

Rule 17
Adjournment of Debate

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative may speak in favour of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 18
Closure of Debate

A representative may at any time move for the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 19
Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. Such motion shall be debated but shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 20
Order of Procedural Motions

Subject to rule 15, and regardless of the order in which they are submitted, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- (a) to suspend the meeting;
- (b) to adjourn the meeting;
- (c) to adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) to close the debate on the question under discussion.

Rule 21
Proposals and Amendments

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing by the members and handed to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to the members. As a general

rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Council unless copies of it have been circulated to all members not later than the date preceding the meeting. In the absence of any objections, the Chairperson may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments, even though these proposals or amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated the same day.

Rule 22 Decision on Competence

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Council to discuss any matter or to adopt any proposal or any amendment submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 23 Withdrawal of Motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the proposal or motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by another representative.

Rule 24 Reconsideration of a Decision

When a decision has been taken by the Council, it may not be reconsidered unless the Council so decides by the same majority as was necessary for the adoption of the original decision. As a general rule, a decision taken by the Council on a particular day may not be reconsidered on the same day. Permission to speak on the motion of reconsideration shall be granted only to the proposer of the motion to reconsider and to not more than two speakers in favour and two against the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

Chapter V

VOTING

Rule 25 Redistribution of Votes

In order to enable the Council to revise and, where appropriate, redistribute the votes in accordance with Article 10, paragraphs 7 to 9, of the Agreement, the Executive Director shall prepare the necessary documents which, on the basis of the rules laid down in that Article, shall specify the number of votes held by each member.

Rule 26 Method of Voting

The Council shall normally vote by show of hands but any representative may request a roll-call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairperson. However, if at any time a member requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.

Rule 27 Conduct during Voting

After the Chairperson has announced the beginning of the vote no representative shall interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of voting. The Chairperson may permit representatives to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. The Chairperson may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

Rule 28
Voting on Proposals

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Council shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the motions in the order in which they were submitted. The Council may, after voting on a motion, decide whether to vote on the next motion.

Rule 29
Voting on Amendment

A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Council shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

Chapter VI

COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Rule 30
Establishment or Dissolution of Other Committees and Subsidiary Bodies

In addition to the committees established under Article 26, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, the Council may, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 2, thereof, establish or dissolve such other committees and subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate and necessary in carrying out its work. The terms of reference of such other committees and subsidiary bodies shall cease to exist upon the decision of the Council.

Rule 31
Rules of Procedure of Committees and Subsidiary Bodies

Except as otherwise provided in these rules, committees and subsidiary bodies established in accordance with Article 26, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Agreement, shall be open to all members. Committees and subsidiary bodies shall elect their own officers. They shall submit reports on their work to the Council. Subject to rule 30, the rules of procedure of committees and subsidiary bodies shall be those of the Council mutatis mutandis.

Chapter VII

LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Rule 32

1. The official languages of the Organization shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. The current working languages of the Organization are English, French and Spanish. All the language services will, be limited to English, French, and Spanish. Specific approval of the Council shall be required for arranging technical facilities for simultaneous interpretation in the Arabic, Chinese and Russian languages.

2. A representative of a member may speak in a language other than an official language, if the member provides for interpretation into at least one of such official languages.

Rule 33
Decisions and Reports on the Proceedings of the Council

1. The decisions taken during a session of the Council shall be sent to all members within seven working days thereafter.

2. After the end of the session a report on the proceedings shall be prepared by the Executive Director and shall be circulated to all members as soon as possible. Provided that a member so requests before the end of the session, the position expressed by the member concerned on any item shall be incorporated in the report and a statement made by any member during the session which is submitted in writing shall be annexed to the report. Any member may, within 21 calendar days of the report being sent, request that confirmation of any portion of the report which refers to any statements of such member or of any comments or narration not in accordance with what had actually happened in the opinion of that member, but which would not affect the substance of the decisions taken or conclusions reached, be deferred pending consideration by the Council at its next session. In the absence of any such request, the report shall be deemed to be confirmed and shall be circulated to all members immediately in the languages of the Organization. A tape recording of the Council meetings shall be available in the Secretariat for consultation by members.

Rule 34
Documents

Unless "Restricted", all ITTO documents shall be available publicly on the ITTO website. Restricted documents shall be made available to all members on a members only portal website. The Council may, however, at any time decide that certain information contained in any of its documents may be restricted or otherwise treated as sensitive information.²

Chapter VIII

DECISION OF QUESTIONS WITHOUT MEETING

Rule 35
Procedure for Decision of Specific Questions by the Council Without Meeting

The Chairperson of the Council shall arrange for a decision by the Council on a specific question to be sought without meeting where the Chairperson deems it appropriate, or at the request of any member or the Executive Director in consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council, and:

- (a) A majority of producer members or a majority of consumer members; or
- (b) A majority of members.

Rule 36
Communication to Members

When rule 35 is applied, the Executive Director shall communicate with each member in writing in a form approved by the Chairperson. Such communication shall be sent to the National Focal Point designated under rule 5. The communication shall:

- (a) clearly state the matter at issue;
- (b) describe specifically the proposal on which the member is to vote;
- (c) set the time within which votes must be received; this shall not be less than 30 calendar days from the date of the communication, except that in circumstances which in the view of the Chairperson of the Council are of exceptional urgency, and which shall be explained in the communication, the period for reply shall not be less than 15 calendar days;

² Amended in accordance with Decision 5 (LIII).

- (d) request the member to state:
- (i) whether it agrees that a decision should be taken without a meeting; and
 - (ii) irrespective of whether it agrees or not, whether it votes for, against or abstains with respect to the specific proposal described in the communication.

Rule 37

Majority Required for Decisions to be Taken Without Meeting

Without prejudice to Article 12, paragraph 2 of the ITTA, 2006, the majority required for any decision to be taken by the Council without holding a meeting shall require at least two thirds of the votes of producer members and at least 60 per cent of the votes of consumer members, mounted separately, on condition that these votes represent at least half of the producer members and half of the consumer members.

Rule 38

Ascertaining the Decision

If, at the end of the period for reply referred to in rule 36, the required majority referred to in rule 37 is obtained, all votes for and against the specific question to be decided upon shall be counted by the Executive Director and the Council's decision ascertained on the basis of these votes. Abstentions shall be recorded.

Rule 39

Report on a Decision by the Council Without Meeting

A report on any specific question decided without meeting, together with a statement of the number of votes for and against and the number of abstentions, shall be sent to all members by the Executive Director as soon as practicable and no later than 10 calendar days after the end of the period for reply.

Chapter IX

AMENDMENTS

Rule 40

Amendments

These rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by a special vote of the Council.

Chapter X

OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE AGREEMENT

Rule 41

In the event of any conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.

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