CHAPTER VIII. STATISTICS, STUDIES AND INFORMATION

Article 27
STATISTICS, STUDIES AND INFORMATION

1. The Council shall authorize the Executive Director to establish and maintain close relationships with relevant intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to help ensure the availability of recent and reliable data and information, including on production and trade in tropical timber, trends and data discrepancies, as well as relevant information on non-tropical timber and on the management of timber producing forests. As deemed necessary for the operation of this Agreement, the Organization, in cooperation with such organizations, shall compile, collate, analyse and publish such information.

2. The Organization shall contribute to efforts to standardize and harmonize international reporting on forest-related matters, avoiding overlapping and duplication in data collection from different organizations.

3. Members shall, to the fullest extent possible not inconsistent with their national legislation, furnish, within the time specified by the Executive Director, statistics and information on timber, its trade and activities aimed at achieving sustainable management of timber producing forests, as well as other relevant information as requested by the Council. The Council shall decide on the type of information to be provided under this paragraph and on the format in which it is to be presented.

4. Upon request or where necessary, the Council shall endeavour to enhance the technical capacity of member countries, in particular developing member countries, to meet the statistics and reporting requirements under this Agreement.

5. If a member has not furnished, for two consecutive years, the statistics and information required under paragraph 3 and has not sought the assistance of the Executive Director, the Executive Director shall initially request an explanation from that member within a specified time. In the event that no satisfactory explanation is forthcoming, the Council shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

6. The Council shall arrange to have any relevant studies undertaken of the trends and of short and long-term problems of the international timber markets and of the progress towards the achievement of sustainable management of timber producing forests.

Article 28
ANNUAL REPORT AND BIENNIAL REVIEW

1. The Council shall publish an annual report on its activities and such other information as it considers appropriate.

2. The Council shall biennially review and assess:

(a) The international timber situation; and

(b) Other factors, issues and developments considered relevant to achieving the objectives of this Agreement.

3. The review shall be carried out in the light of:

(a) Information supplied by members in relation to national production, trade, supply, stocks, consumption and prices of timber;

(b) Other statistical data and specific indicators provided by members as requested by the Council;

(c) Information supplied by members on their progress towards the sustainable management of their timber-producing forests;

(d) Such other relevant information as may be available to the Council either directly or through the organizations in the United Nations system and intergovernmental, governmental or non-governmental organizations; and

(e) Information supplied by members on their progress towards the establishment of control and information mechanisms regarding illegal harvesting and illegal trade in tropical timber and non-timber forest products.

4. The Council shall promote the exchange of views among member countries regarding:

(a) The status of sustainable management of timber-producing forests and related matters in member countries; and

(b) Resource flows and requirements in relation to objectives, criteria and guidelines set by the Organization.

5. Upon request, the Council shall endeavour to enhance the technical capacity of member countries, in particular developing member countries, to