

**THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY**

ON THE

**RATIFICATION OF THE REVISED
INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER
AGREEMENT 2006 (ITTA 2006)**

17th December 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines on 6th November, 2007 presented to Parliament a request for adoption and ratification, the new International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), 2006.

The request was accordingly referred to the Select Committee on Lands and Forestry by Mr. Speaker for consideration and report in accordance with Order 177 of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Hon. Deputy Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines and his technical team attended upon the Committee to explain the rationale for the request and clarify issues raised by Members.

Your Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to the Hon. Minister, Hon. Deputy Minister, Mr. Andrews Adjei-Yeboah and his technical team for their input.

REFERENCE

The following legal instruments guided the deliberations of the Committee:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament

BACKGROUND

The International Tropical Timber Organization is an intergovernmental organization which is aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest timber resources. The ITTO is a UN affiliated Organisation.

The ITTA which governs the Organization's work is negotiated periodically to take into account changes in global forest policies and the world timber trade. The current Agreement under consideration is thus an update of the 1994 Agreement which was ratified by Ghana. Ghana has been affiliated to the ITTO since 1973.

The objective of the Agreement is to promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests. It is also to promote the sustainable management of timber producing forests in the tropics.

OBSERVATION

Improvement of Forest Management Base

Your Committee observed that the 2006 Agreement builds on the foundations of the previous agreements, focusing on the world tropical timber administration, economy and the efficient use of forest resources and simultaneously encouraged timber trade by improving forest management base.

Benefits of ITTA

Your Committee observed that the country benefited tremendously from its membership of the ITTO and the new Agreement will guarantee future benefits from the Organisation. Ghana has since its 24-year association with the Organisation paid a total of US\$1.4million as its assessed contribution whereas total benefits accruing to the country amounted to about US\$9.7million. A greater portion of the benefits came in the form of grants and capacity building of staff of the Forestry Commission some of the benefits in terms of projects from the Organisation are the Wood Industry Training Centre at Achaakrom

near Ejisu and Wood Village in Kumasi. Ghana's assessed annual contribution to the ITTO is currently US\$60,000.

Hosting of Executive Committee of ITTO

The Committee was informed that Ghana would host the Executive Committee meeting of the ITTO in 2008. The Executive Committee, which has been chaired by Ghana for many years, is the highest decision making body of the Organisation. It is therefore imperative that Ghana ratifies the Agreement before the meeting to demonstrate the country's commitment to the objectives of the Organisation

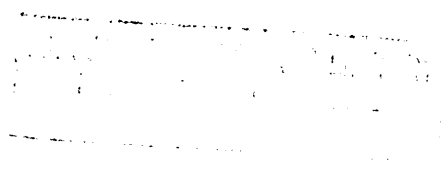
RECOMMENDATION

Your Committee after careful scrutiny of the 2006 International Tropical Timber Agreement respectfully invites the House to ratify by Resolution, the said Agreement.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. BENITO OWUSU-BIO
VICE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY**



**CAMILLO PWAMANG (MR.)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**