



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Sustainable Development

Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

Fourth session

New York, 31 January-11 February 2000

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (programme element III)**

### **Letter dated 21 January 2000 from the Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires of Costa Rica to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

We are pleased to enclose herewith the consolidated Report of the Costa Rica-Canada Initiative (CRCI) under Category III of the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

In support of the IFF's mandate to identify possible elements and work towards consensus on future international arrangements and mechanisms for forests, the Governments of Costa Rica and Canada entered into a partnership to provide a neutral, transparent, participatory and representative forum to facilitate technical deliberations. More than 600 experts met over the course of the initiative that unfolded in three stages: a meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica in February 1999; eight regional meetings from August to November 1999; and a final meeting in Ottawa, Canada in December 1999.

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\* E/CN.17/IFF/2000/1.

We would be grateful if this Report could be issued as an official document of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, to be held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 2000.

Yours sincerely,

(*Signed*) Maria Elena **Chassoul**  
Ambassador and  
Chargé d'affaires  
of Costa Rica

(*Signed*) Robert **Fowler**  
Ambassador and  
Permanent Representative  
of Canada

## **Annex**