

- (c) to help stabilize the export earnings from natural rubber of exporting members, and to increase their earnings based on expanding natural rubber export volumes at fair and remunerative prices, thereby helping to provide the necessary incentives for a dynamic and rising rate of production and the resources for accelerated economic growth and social development;
- (d) to seek to ensure adequate supplies of natural rubber to meet the requirements of importing members at fair and reasonable prices and to improve the reliability and continuity of these supplies;
- (e) to take feasible steps in the event of a surplus or shortage of natural rubber to mitigate the economic difficulties that members might encounter;
- (f) to seek to expand international trade in and to improve market access for natural rubber and processed products thereof;
- (g) to improve the competitiveness of natural rubber by encouraging research and development on the problems of natural rubber;
- (h) to encourage the efficient development of the natural rubber economy by seeking to facilitate and promote improvements in the processing, marketing and distribution of raw natural rubber; and
- (i) to further international co-operation in and consultations on natural rubber matters affecting supply and demand, and to facilitate promotion and co-ordination of natural rubber research, assistance and other programmes.

CHAPTER II — DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement:

1. "Natural rubber" means the unvulcanized elastomer, whether in solid or liquid forms, from *Hevea brasiliensis* and any other plant which the Council may decide for the purposes of this Agreement.
2. "Contracting party" means a Government, or an intergovernmental organization referred to in article 5, which has consented to be bound by this Agreement provisionally or definitively.
3. "Member" means a contracting party as defined in definition (2) above.
4. "Exporting member" means a member which exports natural rubber and has declared itself to be an exporting member, subject to the agreement of the Council.