

**AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR BAMBOO AND RATTAN**

The High Contracting Parties,

Recognizing that bamboo and rattan constitute the two most important non-timber forest products in Asia and that they have a high potential for development elsewhere, notably in Africa, the Caribbean and Central and South America;

Recognizing further that bamboo and rattan can greatly contribute to the economic and social development of the rural areas of those regions;

Noting with satisfaction the considerable achievements in the areas of bamboo and rattan related research, training and information exchange realized in several countries of Asia by the informal network for bamboo and rattan operating since 1984 under the aegis of the International Development Research Centre of Canada and with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

Wishing to extend the benefits of these activities to other countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Central and South America;

Believing that greater benefits would accrue to all institutions and individuals involved in bamboo and rattan production and development if an international organization were established for the promotion and coordination of bamboo and rattan research and development, training and information exchange;

Believing further that the organization should be in the form of a decentralized network which will link and strengthen existing national research programs,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1 - Establishment and Status

1. There is hereby established the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, hereinafter referred to as "INBAR" or the "Network"; it shall operate as an autonomous, non-profit, international organization.
2. The Network shall enjoy full juridical personality in international law. In the territories of the Parties, INBAR shall enjoy such legal capacities, privileges and immunities as are agreed upon with those States.