

4. The Buffer Stock Manager shall be responsible to the Executive Director and the Council for the functions conferred upon him by this Agreement, as well as for such additional functions as the Council may determine. The Buffer Stock Manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Buffer Stock, and shall keep the Executive Director informed of the general operations of the Buffer Stock so that the Executive Director may ensure its effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Agreement.

5. The Executive Director shall appoint the staff in accordance with regulations established by the Council. The staff shall be responsible to the Executive Director.

6. Neither the Executive Director nor any member of the staff, including the Buffer Stock Manager, shall have any financial interest in the rubber industry or trade, or associated commercial activities.

7. In the performance of their duties, the Executive Director, the Buffer Stock Manager and other staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any member or from any other authority external to the Council or to any committee established under article 19. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their positions as international officials responsible only to the Council. Each member shall respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Executive Director, the Buffer Stock Manager and other staff and shall not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

ARTICLE 14

Sessions

1. As a general rule, the Council shall hold one regular session in each half of the year.

2. In addition to sessions in circumstances specifically provided for in this Agreement, the Council shall also meet in special session whenever it so decides or at the request of:

- (a) the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) the Executive Director;
- (c) a majority of the exporting members;
- (d) a majority of the importing members;
- (e) an exporting member or exporting members holding at least 200 votes; or
- (f) an importing member or importing members holding at least 200 votes.

3. Sessions shall be held at the headquarters of the Organization unless the Council, by special vote, decides otherwise. If on the invitation of any member the Council meets elsewhere than at the headquarters of the Organization, that member shall pay the additional costs incurred by the Council.