At its 31st plenary meeting, on 11 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council approved:

(a) The request of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests to hold its third session at Geneva from 9 to 20 September 1996 and its fourth session in New York for a period of two weeks in 1997;

(b) The request of the Panel for provision to be made so that the two sessional working groups it intended to establish during its third and fourth sessions, as originally envisaged at its first session, could meet simultaneously.