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Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

**DESIGNATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES FOR THE PURPOSES
OF RULE 76 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD**

Application by the Central American Commission on
Maritime Transport (COCATRAM) *

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD received a communication dated 30 October 1992 from the Executive Secretary of the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), requesting the Trade and Development Board to grant it status under rule 76 of the Board's rules of procedure.
2. Some information regarding the history, aims and structure of COCATRAM is annexed.

This document is at this stage intended for the information of States members of UNCTAD and its distribution is, therefore, restricted for their exclusive use. It is proposed to de-restrict the document in due course.

* Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION ON MARITIME TRANSPORT

History

1. The Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM) was established on 15 July 1980 by resolution 5-80 (ROMRIECA XXIII) of the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Central American economic integration, with whose approval COCATRAM came under the jurisdiction of the Meeting of Central American Ministers of Transport (REMITRAN) in February 1987, pursuant to REMITRAN resolution V-3-87. The basic rules concerning the establishment and functioning of COCATRAM, as amended, were adopted by a special decision of the Central American Ministers of Transport, and took effect on 11 July 1991.

Aims and objectives

2. COCATRAM serves as technical advisory organ for REMITRAN and for the member Governments for the adoption of policies, measures, recommendations and decisions in the various areas of maritime transport, for application at the subregional and national levels, aimed at achieving a harmonious and effective development of the subsector and of relations with interests and organizations outside the region. COCATRAM's activities are divided into the following categories: (a) technical assistance to port enterprises, governmental authorities responsible for shipping, State and private shipping companies, chambers of port users, public and private bodies of countries of the subregion which are concerned with these questions; (b) organizing courses, lectures, seminars etc., relating to shipping and port activities at the national and subregional levels; (c) preparing studies on the situation of shipping and ports in the countries of the subregion, recommending and implementing projects for overcoming deficiencies and solving problems in the sector; (d) managing and channelling international technical assistance to governmental and private agencies; (e) cooperating with public sector agencies responsible for maritime and port affairs in implementing methodologies, procedures and systems designed to improve their administration; (f) acting as Permanent Secretariat of the Meeting of Port Enterprises of Central America and Panama; (g) acting as Secretariat of the Executive Network for Regional Cooperation between Maritime Authorities of Central America (ROCRAM-CA).

Membership

3. The Commission is composed of the following countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; and of the following private bodies: Federation of Central American Chambers of Commerce (FECAMCO), Federation of Central American Chambers of Exporters (FECAEXCA) and the Central American Association of Port Users (USUARIOS).

Structure

4. The Commission is headed by a directorate composed of a Director and an Alternate Director designated by each member country and, in addition, a Director and an Alternate Director for each of the private bodies members of the Commission. The Commission elects a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman of the directorate from among the governmental directors. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman serve for a one-year term. The technical and administrative functions of the Commission are performed by a secretariat, headed by an Executive Secretary who is provided with the necessary technical and administrative personnel. The directorate of the Commission meets at least three times annually in a Central American city of its choice.

Financial resources

5. The resources of the Commission are derived from the imposition of a port charge on ships moving cargo through Central American ports, the charge being US\$ 0.05 per metric ton moved, except in the case of petroleum and bananas, or from the application of such financing measures as each Government may decide. The contributions of member countries must be of equal amounts, determined according to the amount of the annual budget adopted by the directorate.

Relations with other international organizations

6. COCATRAM maintains working relations with the following organizations: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

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The working language of the Commission is Spanish.