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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
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Geneva, 15 March 1993  
Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

DESIGNATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR  
THE PURPOSES OF RULE 76 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE BOARD

Application by the Arab Maghreb Union

Note by the UNCTAD Secretariat

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD has received a letter dated 22 December 1992 from the Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), requesting that the Union should be designated by the Trade and Development Board to participate in its deliberations. The Board may wish to take action on this application at its current session in accordance with rule 76 of its rules of procedure.
2. Information provided on the history, objectives, structure and operation of AMU is annexed.

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

## Annex

### GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE ARAB MAGHREB UNION

#### History

1. The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) was founded on 17 February 1989, the date on which the Treaty Instituting the Arab Maghreb Union was signed at Marrakech. The Marrakech Summit had been preceded by a meeting held by the five Maghreb Heads of State on 10 June 1988, at which it was decided to set up a commission to determine the ways and means of bringing an Arab Maghreb Union into being. Apart from signing the Treaty, the Marrakech Summit adopted a Solemn Declaration on the establishment of AMU and its work programme. Subsequently, five further summits were held, between 1990 and 1992, at which the Presidential Council adopted several resolutions on: the organization of the AMU institutions called for by the Treaty Instituting the Union; the adoption of Maghreb conventions (25 in number) on different sectors of activity; the adoption of programmes for the execution of the work initiated by the organs of the AMU.

#### Aims and objectives

2. The Union's aims are: to strengthen the ties of brotherhood which link the member States and their peoples; to achieve progress and prosperity of their societies and defend their rights; to contribute to the preservation of peace based on justice and equity; to pursue a common policy in all fields of activity - socio-economic, political and cultural; to work gradually towards achieving free movement of persons, goods, services and capital among the member countries.

#### Membership

3. The following countries are members of the Union: Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia.

#### Structure

4. The Arab Maghreb Union has a Presidential Council as its supreme authority, which is the only organ entitled to take decisions. Decisions are taken unanimously (an amendment providing for certain decisions to be taken by a majority is pending); a Council of Foreign Ministers responsible for preparing the sessions of the Presidential Council and considering proposals by AMU's other institutions; a Follow-up Committee consisting of one member of each Government, responsible for following up the affairs of the Union; four Specialized Ministerial Committees responsible for economic and financial affairs, food security, infrastructure and human resources respectively - each of these committees can set up sectoral ministerial councils and expert committees to prepare the work to be submitted to the councils and then to the Specialized Ministerial Committee concerned; a Consultative Council consisting of 20 representatives from each country, chosen from the legislative bodies of the member States; a Judicial Organ, and a permanent General Secretariat, which pursues the aims and objectives set forth in the Treaty Instituting the Union and in practice maintains close relations with the institutions

mentioned above, whose records it keeps. The General Secretariat provides secretariat services for the Presidential Council, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Follow-up Committee and the Specialized Ministerial Committees.

#### Financial resources

5. The sources of the General Secretariat's income are the five countries members of the Union, which share its annual budget equally. The General Secretariat only began to operate in 1992; its budget for that year amounted to \$1,798,000.

#### Publications

6. The General Secretariat of AMU proposes to start publishing periodicals shortly.

#### Address

7. The Union's address is as follows:

Secrétaire Général  
Union du Maghreb Arabe  
26-27 Avenue Okba-Agdal  
RABAT  
Morocco

Telephone: 77 26 82; 77 26 72; 77 26 68; 77 26 76.

FAX: 77 26 93.

Telex: 364 88M.

8. The Union's working languages are classical Arabic, English and French.

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