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

Application by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD received a communication dated 7 September 1994 from the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), 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 APT 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 derestrict the document in due course.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

History

1. The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) was established in May 1979 by an intergovernmental agreement under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as a regional telecommunication organization. The organization was set up to serve as the focal telecommunication entity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Aims and objectives

2. The objectives of APT are to: (a) correlate the planning, programming and development within the region of intraregional and international telecommunication networks to meet immediate and future requirements; (b) promote the implementation of all agreed networks; (c) assist the development within the region of the national components of an efficient regional and international telecommunication network; (d) foster coordination within the region of technical standards and routing plans for intraregional and international traffic; and (e) seek the adoption of efficient operating methods in regional telecommunication services.

Membership

3. APT is composed of members, associate members and affiliate members. Membership is open to any State within the region which is a member of the United Nations or a member of ESCAP. Associate membership is open to any associate member of ESCAP and affiliate membership to any provider of telecommunication services to the public within the region, nominated for affiliate membership by a member or an associate member of the Telecommunity. As at 1994, APT is composed of 28 members in the following countries and territories: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam. There are three associate members: Cook Islands, Hong Kong and Macau, and 32 affiliate members.

Structure

4. The principal organs of APT are: the General Assembly, the Management Committee and the Secretariat. The governing body of APT is the General Assembly which is composed of all members and associate members and meets in ordinary session every three years. It establishes the general policies and principles for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Telecommunity; establishes the basis for the annual budgets and limits of expenditure; considers the reports of the Management Committee on the activities of the Telecommunity; concludes necessary agreements between the Telecommunity and Governments, organizations or administrations. It elects a President and two Vice-Presidents at each ordinary session. The Management

Committee is composed of all members and associate members and meets once a year. It pursues the policies and principles of the General Assembly and supervises the Secretariat's functions, reviews and approves work programmes, annual budgets and accounts and draws up regulations. The Secretariat is composed of the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Directors and other officials. It prepares the drafts of and implements the approved work programme which, in general, includes: projects, coordination, technical expertise, training, seminars/workshops and study group activities.

Financial resources

5. The resources of APT are derived from the regular contributions of its members as well as from extrabudgetary contributions and assistance in kind from members and various organizations.

Relations with other international organizations

6. APT maintains close working relations with United Nations organs and organizations such as: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); as well as intergovernmental organizations concerned with the development of telecommunications in the region such as: Asian Development Bank (ADB), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

7. Publications

The papers presented at seminars/meetings are reprinted and bound as seminar/meeting reports.

8. Address

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9. The working language of the Telecommunity is English.
