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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 Arab Labour Organization
(ALO)

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD received a communication dated 5 October 1994 from the Director General of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), 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 ALO 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.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE ARAB LABOUR ORGANIZATION

History

1. The Constitution of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) was established on 12 January 1965 at the first Conference of Arab Labour Ministers, held in Baghdad, at which the Arab Labour Charter was also adopted. On 8 January 1970, the fifth Conference of Arab Labour Ministers adopted a resolution establishing the Arab Labour Organization after ratification by the member States of the Arab Labour Charter. ALO is an autonomous specialized institution working in the framework of the League of Arab States.

Aims and objectives

2. According to article 3 of its Constitution, the objectives of the Arab Labour Organization are inter alia to: achieve social justice and raise labour standards; coordinate efforts in the Arab States in the field of labour; unify labour legislation in the Arab States; undertake studies and research in diversified labour topics; extend technical assistance required by Arab States in the labour field; develop a social insurance system for the protection of workers and their families; develop vocational training and organize training seminars for workers; compile an Arabic labour lexicon. The Constitution was partially amended in 1976 in order to include the promotion of freedom of labour unions as an objective of the organization. In order to realize its objectives and carry out the policies of the organization, ALO has set up five institutes/specialized centres in the Arab States. These institutes organize training courses and symposia for trainees from developing countries.

Membership

3. ALO is composed of the following States members of the League of Arab States which have ratified the Constitution: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Structure

4. The principal organs of ALO are: the General Conference, the Board of Directors, and the Secretariat. The General Conference is composed of all States members and meets in ordinary session once a year. The General Conference has, inter alia, the following functions: defines the policy of the organization and its work programme; studies annual reports submitted by the member States; appoints the Director General of the Arab Labour Office and

the two deputy Directors General for a period of five years; adopts the annual budget; convenes tripartite specialized committees and expert meetings; establishes committees as necessary for the accomplishment of its functions; (draws up the Follow-up Committee which is responsible for carrying out the resolutions issued by the General Conference, specialized committees and expert meetings). The Board of Directors, which is elected every three years by the General Conference, is the executive organ of the organization. It is responsible for follow-up of the resolutions adopted by the General Conference and overseeing the activities of the Arab Labour Office. It meets twice a year. The Arab Labour Office is the permanent secretariat of the organization. It prepares the sessions of the General Conference, of the Board of Directors and other meetings, the reports and studies which serve as a basis for the work of the organs of the ALO and the annual budget. The Director General is responsible for the secretariat which also directs the organization's technical assistance activities, supervises the activities of its institutes and specialized centres, conducts and disseminates studies and research, issues publications and specialized periodicals and collaborates with other international and regional institutions. Special committees (Trade Union Freedoms Committee, Legal Experts Committee and the Financial Control Body) have also been established, which report to the General Conference through the Board of Directors.

Financial resources

5. The resources of ALO are derived from the contributions of its member States and donations from governments of Arab States, Arab organizations and international bodies.

Relations with other international organizations

6. ALO has signed cooperation agreements with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Organization for African Unity (OAU) and International Social Security Association (ISSA). ALO attends as observer the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and maintains close working relations with United Nations organizations such as: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

7. Publications

ALO regularly publishes the Arab Work Review in Arabic as well as the reports of its General Conference, studies, statistical brochures, manuals, guides and publications dealing with the diverse topics handled by the ALO.

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9. The working language of ALO is Arabic. The organization also produces publications in English and French.
