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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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Item 11 (g) of the provisional agenda

DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR
THE PURPOSES OF RULE 77 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE BOARD

Application by the EDI World Institute

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application dated 30 June 1993 from the Executive Director of the EDI World Institute, requesting the inclusion of that organization by the Trade and Development Board in the list provided for in rule 77 of the Board's rules of procedure.
2. Having reviewed the information provided, the secretariat is of the opinion that, subject to the concurrence of the Bureau of the Trade and Development Board, the EDI World Institute may be classified in the Special Category under the provision of paragraph 12 (b) of Board decision 43 (VII).
3. The Board may wish to take action on the above-mentioned application at its current session in the light of the recommendation of the Bureau.
4. Some information regarding the EDI World Institute is annexed.

<p>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.</p>
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Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE EDI WORLD INSTITUTE

History

1. The EDI World Institute was first proposed in 1990 at the second International Congress of EDI Users held in San Francisco. It was felt that there was a need for an independent international organization to conduct research on the major issues and impediments to the deployment of EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) in world trade, to assist in the implementation of EDI at national and international levels and to set up an international forum of information exchange, training and expertise in EDI. Two meetings of an international panel of EDI experts were held in 1991, the first of which was to evaluate the feasibility of creating such an institute and the conclusions of the second were presented to the international EDI community at the third International Congress of EDI Users in September 1991. The Institute obtained its Charter by Letters Patent under the provisions of Part II of the Canada Corporations Act on 18 December 1991.

Aims and objectives

2. According to Article III of its By-Laws, the objectives of the Institute are to promote the development of a global perspective of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in business and world trade. In doing so, the Institute assists national EDI associations and councils in the creation of an international information exchange forum and helps them address issues that businesses, Governments and institutions encounter when promoting, implementing and using international EDI. The Institute's objective is to attain a level of expertise in the field of EDI by: building an international network of individual experts and corporate partners; developing a knowledge base that can be disseminated through training and services; making a significant contribution to the facilitation of international trade.

Membership

3. The Institute's membership currently consists of 13 national EDI associations in the following countries and territories: Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Taiwan Province of China, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Structure

4. The primary governing body of the Institute is the General Assembly, which groups all members and which approves the financial statements, the work plan and the general orientations of the Institute. The Board of Directors is the operational governing body composed of 14 Directors elected by the General Assembly. It meets once or twice a year and establishes policy, approves strategies and major projects and reviews and recommends approval of orientations, work plan, financial statements and other operational aspects of the Institute. The Executive Committee consists of seven Directors appointed by the Board of Directors to review and approve policy and procedures. It

meets twice a year. The Research Advisory Council is a committee of international EDI experts appointed by the Board of Directors to establish the direction and review the performance of the research programme. The Executive Office is headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Board of Directors and has a staff of 10 which is likely to increase to 20 over the next 3 years.

Financial resources

5. The Institute's resources are derived from annual membership fees; a start-up research grant of \$7.5 m (Canadian) from the Canadian Government for 1992-1997; project management, co-funding and partnerships on projects as well as sale of services and products.

Relations with other international organizations

6. The Institute maintains working relations with UNCTAD's Trade Efficiency Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Publications

7. The Institute has published its 1992 Annual Report. A weekly compendium of news, articles and publications, entitled "Flash EDI", is electronically published for members, partners and associates. A quarterly newsletter is being designed and publication is forecast for October 1993. Ongoing research project results are also planned for publication when completed.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Executive Director of the Institute, Mr. Richard Lalonde.

Address

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10. The working language of the Institute is English; staff members are also proficient in French.
