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

Application by the Latin American Parliament

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Latin American Parliament, 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 Latin American Parliament may be classified in the General Category under the provision of paragraph 12 (a) 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 Latin American Parliament 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 LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

Brief history

1. The Latin American Parliament (LAP) was founded on 10 December 1964 by the Lima Declaration. Delegations from 14 congresses and legislative assemblies decided to create the Latin American Parliament as a representative body to be composed of representatives from all democratically elected national parliaments. The Statutes were approved in July 1965. In 1987, the Treaty establishing the Latin American Parliament was signed.

Aims and objectives

2. The objectives of the Latin American Parliament are, *inter alia*, to: promote economic and social development in Latin America; defend the right to liberty, social justice, economic independence and the exercise of representative democracy; monitor the strict respect of fundamental human rights; endeavour to suppress all forms of colonialism; oppose imperialist action in Latin America; study alternative solutions to social, economic and cultural problems as well as to foreign policy issues; contribute towards bringing about international peace and security; present the concerns of the Latin American people in international forums; strengthen parliaments in Latin America in order to guarantee constitutional democracy; strengthen subregional parliaments in Latin America; maintain relations with parliaments and international organizations in all regions; publicize the legislative activities of its members; support international cooperation as a means of ensuring the harmonious development of the Latin American community in terms of general well-being; promote the study and development of the process of integration in Latin America; promote, throughout the continent, the system of universal suffrage for the election of representatives in all countries which make up the Latin American Parliament.

Membership

3. The Latin American Parliament is composed of representatives from democratically elected national parliaments in the following 22 Latin American countries and territories: Argentina, Aruba, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Structure

4. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the organization. It consists of national delegations of 12 members who are chosen by the parliaments of their respective countries. Ordinary sessions are held every two years. The Executive Bureau is composed of a President, two alternate Presidents, and three Secretaries who carry out executive functions. The Executive Board is the highest authority of the organization between ordinary sessions of the General Assembly. Members are composed of the Executive Bureau plus one vice-President from each member country. The Consultative Council, consisting of 11 parliamentarians or former parliamentarians, advises the General Assembly and the Executive Board on political and legislative questions. The Permanent Committees are the specialized organs of the organization whose functions are to carry out analysis and research. They are responsible for preparing the topics to be discussed in the plenary sessions of the Executive Board and the General Assembly. The Special Committees, established by the General Assembly or the

Executive Board, analyse specific topics of major concern to the Latin American region. The President is the LAP's legal representative for institutional, administrative and financial matters. The Alternate Presidents substitute for the President and also have their own specific functions which are attributed by the Presidency or the Executive Board. The Vice Presidents are the permanent representatives of the LAP in parliamentary or governmental forums of their respective countries of origin. The Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of the organization. It is headed by a Secretary-General and one alternate Secretary-General. They must be either parliamentarians or former parliamentarians.

Financial resources

5. The resources of the Latin American Parliament are derived from the member States. Quotas for each member country are calculated according to the number of representatives in each parliament and the national per capita income of each member country.

Relations with other international organizations

6. The Latin American Parliament maintains working relations with the parliaments of other continents, notably the European Parliament, the Andean Parliament, the Amazonian Parliament and North American parliaments as well as with the World Health Organization and the United Nations. The Latin American Parliament has observer status with the Organization of American States and the Inter-parliamentary Union.

Publications

7. The Latin American Parliament is responsible for a number of publications on subjects studied within its area of activities.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Secretary of Institutional Relations, Mr. Carlos Arellano Lennox.

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10. The working languages of the Latin American Parliament are Spanish and Portuguese.