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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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Item 8 (b) 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 International Social Science Council

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Secretary General of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), 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 International Social Science Council 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 ISSC 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 INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL
SCIENCE COUNCIL

History

1. ISSC was founded in October 1952, following a resolution adopted at the Vith UNESCO General Conference in 1951. The sponsors of the resolution wished to add to the network of international interdisciplinary associations a new interdisciplinary body to facilitate the drawing together of the different branches of knowledge and to accelerate the resumption of intellectual communication between the nations of the world. In 1972 the Council was transformed into a formal federation of eleven international disciplinary associations, which now number fourteen Member Associations.

Aims and objectives

2. According to Article 4 of its Constitution, the ISSC has as its aim the promotion of the understanding of human society in its environment by fostering the social sciences throughout the world and their application to major contemporary problems, and by enhancing cooperation by means of a global international organization of social scientists and social science organizations, encouraging multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary cooperation among members of the ISSC.

In order to accomplish this objective, the ISSC shall:

- (a) encourage and promote research in the social and behavioural sciences for the benefit and well-being of humanity;
- (b) encourage and pursue global, international and inter-organizational collaborative scientific activities in the social and behavioural sciences at a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary level among the members of the ISSC;
- (c) stimulate, develop, coordinate, enhance and promote interdisciplinary social scientific programmes across institutional, national and regional contacts;
- (d) collaborate with the United Nations and its agencies, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to further these aims;
- (e) provide, through suitable channels, information about the activities of the world's social science community to the public and to other interested parties within the public at large.

Membership

3. According to Article 5 of its Constitution, the following are eligible for membership of ISSC: member associations (international non-governmental

organizations which are social and behavioural scientific associations or unions representing the various social sciences), member organizations (national social science councils and corresponding sections of academies of science and regional social science organizations or councils) and associate members (international, regional and national governmental and non-governmental professional organizations whose association with the ISSC would offer mutual advantages for the development of the social sciences and further the aims of ISSC). ISSC currently has 14 member associations, 4 member organizations and 13 associate members in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Structure

4. The constituent bodies of ISSC are: The General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. The governing body is the General Assembly. Its functions are to: review the activities of the ISSC, its Executive Committee and secretariat; examine the audited accounts and consider the projected budget and take financial measures, as appropriate; establish a Scientific Activities Committee and other standing committees as may be required for the furtherance of the aims of the Council; confirm the appointment and mandate of any other committee upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, review activity reports of committees; consider applications for membership; elect officers and other members of the Executive Committee and the Secretary-General; consider changes to the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Procedure which may be proposed to the General Assembly; approve, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, any arrangements with any organization which would create ongoing institutional responsibility for ISSC. The Executive Committee, which acts as the governing body of the Council between sessions of the General Assembly, appoints and reviews the work of all committees, and of the secretariat and is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. It also functions as the Admissions Committee, ensuring that the requirements for membership are met and recommending to the General Assembly the admission of new members. The Secretary-General directs the secretariat under the authority of the Executive Committee and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the ISSC. The Secretary-General acts as Secretary to the General Assembly and to the Executive Committee.

Financial resources

5. The Council's resources are derived principally from a regular subsidy from UNESCO which amounts to approximately \$ 790,000 per biennium as well as from fees from its member associations and member organizations which range from \$500 to \$5,000.

Relations with other international organizations

6. ISSC has category A consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which organizes

regular consultations with major non-governmental organizations in status with it. ISSC has category II status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Publications

7. ISSC has recently published the following: Poverty in the 1990s: The Responses of Urban Women, 1994; Post-War Development Theories and Practice, 1993; International Social Science Council, 1992-3, which is a revised version of ISSC's brochure.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Secretary-General of ICCS, Mr. Stephen C. Mills.

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10. The working languages of the Council are English and French.
