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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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Item 9 (c) 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 Council on Social Welfare

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Secretary-General of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), 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, ICSW 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 ICSW is annexed hereto.

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 COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE (ICSW)

History

1. The first international conference on social welfare was held in Paris in 1928. Since then, ICSW has held 27 international conferences worldwide. In 1982, ICSW added "a world organization promoting social development" as a subtitle to its name. In 1992, ICSW revised its mission to reflect a new mandate which emphasized social welfare, social justice and social development.

Aims and objectives

2. According to its Constitution, the purposes of ICSW are to: promote forms of social and economic development which aim to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability throughout the world, especially amongst disadvantaged people; strive for recognition and protection of fundamental rights to food, shelter, education, health care and security; seek to advance equality of opportunity, freedom of self-expression, participation and access to human services; and advocate policies and programmes which strike an appropriate balance between social and economic goals and which respect cultural diversity and to seek implementation of these proposals by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental agencies and others. ICSW's means of action are: gathering and disseminating information; undertaking research and analysis; convening seminars and conferences; drawing on grass-root experiences; strengthening non-governmental organizations; developing policy proposals; engaging in public advocacy and working with policy makers and administrators in government and elsewhere. ICSW was involved in the process of and played a prominent role in the first World Summit for Social Development of the United Nations which was held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

Members

3. Membership of ICSW is open to national committees (such as national councils, national voluntary organizations and national government organizations); international member organizations; and other organizations. There are currently 91 members in the following countries and territories: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan Province of China,

Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

Structure

4. ICSW is governed by a Committee of Representatives, consisting of two representatives of each national member and one representative of each international member. The Committee of representatives is responsible inter alia for determining the policies and programmes of the Council. The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the Council and supervises the implementation of policies and programmes. The Officers of the Council are the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer General and the Assistant Treasurers General. Under the general direction of the Secretary-General, the secretariat bears responsibility for implementing the decisions taken by the Committee of Representatives and the Executive Committee. The International Advisory Board consists of officers who have rendered distinguished service to the Council and persons from the field of social welfare and social development who are expected to actively further the objectives of the Council. There are three Permanent Commissions: the Membership Commission, the Credentials Commission and the Nominations Commission. Ad Hoc Commissions may be established by the Executive Committee on matters such as the Constitution, by-laws or finance. The Council of Representatives and the Executive Committee may both establish special Working Groups on programme concerns of the Council.

Financial resources

5. ICSW's main sources of revenue are the membership dues, government and private foundation subsidies and grants and international conference fees.

Relations with other international organizations

6. ICSW has status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (category I); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and World Health Organization (WHO).

Publications

7. ICSW publishes an annual report, a quarterly newsletter to members, and special publications/report (NGO Summit Newsletter).

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Secretary-General, Ms. Sirpa Utriainen.

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10. The working languages of ICSW are English, French and Spanish.
