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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 World Wide Fund for Nature International

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF), 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, WWF 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 WWF 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 WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE INTERNATIONAL (WWF)

History

1. In 1960, Sir Julian Huxley, first Director-General of UNESCO, visited East Africa to advise UNESCO on wildlife conservation. On return from mission, he warned that habitat was being destroyed and animals hunted at such a rate that much of the region's wildlife ran the risk of disappearing within the next twenty years. WWF was founded on 11 September 1961 in response to the urgent need for an international organization to raise funds for conservation.

Aims and objectives

2. According to its Statutes, the aims of WWF are to conserve the natural environment and ecological processes worldwide by inter alia: collecting, managing and disbursing funds for the conservation of nature; promoting awareness of the need for conservation of nature; financing conservation activities and projects; protecting, acquiring, administering, commercially exploiting and disposing of land and other resources, including intellectual property; developing worldwide moral and financial support for the conservation of nature. The means used to achieve these aims are: creating and maintaining systems of effective and sustainable protected areas; promoting sustainable development practices, thereby linking conservation with human needs; conserving species of special concern; reducing consumption and pollution by influencing public policy and the practices of consumers and industry; promoting the establishment and implementation of international treaties, national policies and legislation; promoting environmental education and building capacity to enable people to manage sustainably the natural resources on which life depends.

Members

3. WWF has 24 affiliate organizations in the following countries and territories: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and five associate organizations in the following countries: Argentina, Ecuador, Nigeria, Turkey and Venezuela. There are also 1,200 individual members worldwide.

Structure

4. WWF is composed of the following bodies: The Board of Trustees, which meets at least twice a year, is responsible for the conduct, administration and representation of the organization and defines its mission and policies; the Executive Committee, which is made up of a President, designated by the Board, at least one Vice-President and a Treasurer from among the Trustees, is responsible for the financial and general administration and management of

WWF. It meets at least twice a year between Board meetings; The Board can appoint further committees which must be chaired by a Trustee. It has appointed four such committees to advise it: the Business Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Planning and Budget Committee and the Programme Committee. The Board must convene periodic meetings of the representatives of WWF, its national organizations and others. The present practice is for an annual General Assembly to be held. The Board may appoint advisory committees, each to be chaired by a Trustee. It may also establish one or more bodies to advise and assist it. An Advisory Council to the Board has been established.

Financial resources

5. WWF derives its budget from membership fees, legacies and bequests, individual and general donations, trusts and foundations, governments and aid agencies as well as from organizing special events.

Relations with other international organizations

6. WWF has category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Publications

7. WWF produces a large number of publications. These include books, annual reports, discussion papers, position papers, research and special reports, campaign reports, project portfolios, information booklets, fact sheets, country profiles and biweekly, bimonthly and quarterly periodicals.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the Policy Coordinator for Trade and Environment, Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke.

Address

9. WWF International
Avenue du Mont Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

Telephone: (41 22) 364 9111

FAX: (41 22) 364 4238

10. The working language of WWF is English.
