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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Eighteenth executive session
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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

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

Application by the Transnational Institute

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Transnational Institute (TNI), 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, TNI 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 eighteenth executive session in the light of the recommendation of the Bureau.
4. Some information regarding TNI 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 derestrict the document in due course.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTE

History

1. The Transnational Institute was founded in 1973 as the international European sister institute of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), a centre for critical studies of United States foreign and domestic policy. 1973 marked the establishment of the headquarters of the organization in Amsterdam and the network of TNI fellows in Europe.

Aims and objectives

2. According to article 2 of its Articles of Association, the objectives of the organization are: to provide supervision and promote scientific research in the field of culture, politics and social sciences; and to create and promote international cooperation in the study of and research into solutions for world problems such as pollution, militarism, social injustice and racism on the one hand and development on the other hand. The organization realizes these objectives by providing courses, organizing international scientific congresses and collaborating with non-profit organizations with similar objectives.

Members

3. Membership is open to fellows on the basis of a proven commitment to and/or expertise in one or more of the current TNI programme areas. There are currently 22 members in the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Hungary, India, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Structure

4. The governing body of TNI is the Board of Directors, comprising at least three members. Members of the Board are appointed for a period of four years. The Board meets at least once a year and is responsible for the management of the organization, approving the decisions of the Planning Board which it appoints. Other responsibilities of the Board include the programme, budget, a financial and annual report and the appointment of the Executive Director who supervises a staff of employees who assist him. The Planning Board is elected on a regional basis and meets at least twice a year. Its tasks are to provide the Board with advice regarding policy matters and draw up non-binding nominations for the members of the Board. The Executive Director and the Planning Board appoint Project Coordinators who supervise researchers/consultants. Project coordinators' meetings take place at least once a year.

Financial resources

5. TNI's financial resources are derived partly from the Samuel Rubin Foundation (New York). Funds for TNI projects are raised from a range of donors including church agencies, peace, environmental and non-governmental development organizations, foreign ministries, the European Commission and non-governmental foundations in the United States of America.

Relations with other international organizations

6. TNI has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (Category II) and is associated with the work of a number of international institutes.

Publications

7. TNI produces a large number of books and reports on a wide range of development issues.

Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by Ms. Myriam van der Stichele.

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10. The working language of TNI is English.
