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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Twenty-fifth executive session  
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INCLUSION OF A NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
IN THE REGISTER IN CONFORMITY WITH DECISION 43 (VII)  
OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)**

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), a national non-governmental organization, applied for inclusion in the Register of such bodies provided for under Board decision 43 (VII), sections III and IV.
2. After consultations with the member State concerned, the Secretary-General has included SOMO in the Register in accordance with Board decision 43 (VII).
3. Information concerning SOMO is annexed to this note.

## **Annex**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS**

#### **History**

1. SOMO was founded in the Netherlands in 1973 with the primary task of conducting independent research on the structure and organization of transnational corporations (TNCs) and disseminating the knowledge thereby derived to other organizations. It was established in response to a perceived growing need for more information on the impacts of TNCs.

#### **Aims and objectives**

2. According to its Statutes, SOMO's purpose is to engage in independent research or research at the behest of third parties concerning the activities of business and to assume activities or stimulate activities which will ensure that the research data are made available for the benefit of trade unions, workers' councils, third world movements, ecology movements, women's and farmers' groups, consumers, etc. It also gives lectures and provides courses on different subjects.

#### **Membership**

3. SOMO, which functions as an independent research and consultancy bureau, is not a membership organization but is affiliated to Transnational Information Exchange (TIE), Industrial Restructuring Education Network Europe (IRENE), South-North Federation (ZNF) and Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC).

#### **Structure**

4. SOMO was set up as a foundation consisting of a board, management and staff. The board is responsible for the operations of the foundation, which include establishing the foundation's policy plan and providing for the contents of that policy plan as it is to be executed. Its members are appointed for a four-year term, from which are selected a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The board meets a minimum of twice annually. The management, consisting of at least one board member, is responsible for the daily functions of the foundation's offices and the implementation of the board's mandates. The staff is formed by candidates fulfilling the requirements as stipulated in the rules and regulations governing foundation personnel.

### **Financial resources**

5. The foundation's financial resources are comprised of the foundation's capital and the income generated therefrom; subsidies; contributions, endowments, and testamentary dispositions; and all other legal revenues. Sources of revenue are:

EU Commission, Directorate-General (DG)1, DG8, DG24 and others

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

National Commission of Sustainable Development (NCDO)

National trade unions (FNV and CNV) and works councils

International trade union bodies

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Development organizations, e.g. Novib

Environmental organizations, e.g. Greenpeace

### **Relations with other international organizations**

6. SOMO does not have official relations in the form of status with any other international organization.

### **Publications**

7. SOMO is responsible for some 39 published works. It does not have an annual report.

### **Liaison**

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by Ms. Marlies Filbri, Senior Researcher.

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10. SOMO's working language is Dutch.