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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Twenty-eighth executive session
Geneva, 11-13 March 2002

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

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), 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 procedures.
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, IFOAM may be classified in the Special Category under the provisions of paragraph 12 (b) of Board decision 43 (VII) so that it may participate in the activities of the Commission on Trade on Goods and Services, and Commodities and of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development.
3. The Board may wish to take action on the above-mentioned application at its twenty-eighth executive session in the light of the recommendation of the Bureau.
4. Information on IFOAM is annexed hereto.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS (IFOAM)

History

1. IFOAM was established in 1972. It represents a worldwide movement of organic agriculture with over 750 member organizations in more than 100 countries and provides a platform for global exchange and cooperation in this field.

Aims and objectives

2. The aim of IFOAM is to protect nature and the environment by promoting organic agriculture. Toward this end, the Federation exchanges knowledge and expertise among its members and informs the public about organic agriculture, as well as representing the organic agriculture movement internationally in parliamentary, administrative and policy-making fora.

Members

3. IFOAM membership is open to associations of farmers, producers, processors, traders and consumers, as well as to institutions involved in research and training in the field of organic agriculture.

Structure

4. IFOAM's organs are the General Assembly, the World Board and the Executive Board. Executive Directors carry out their decisions. The General Assembly elects 10 World Board members and is held every three years. The World Board elects a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer. The World Board establishes rules of procedure for the World and Executive Boards and sets up working groups and committees as needed. The President, Vice-President and the Treasurer constitute the Executive Board. The Executive Board executes decisions of the General Assembly and the World Board and represents IFOAM at various fora.

Financial resources

5. Membership fees are the main income source for IFOAM's core budget (52%), followed by book sales and subscriptions (including advertisements) (17%), conference overheads (10%) and overhead services (10%). In 2000, the total budget amounted to 496,000 euro.

Relations with other international organizations

6. IFOAM is on the roster with ECOSOC and has observer status with FAO.

Publications

7. IFOAM publishes various materials such as the magazine Ecology and Farming (three issues per year), IFOAM in Action (newsletter for affiliates) and conference proceedings. These and other publications can be found on www.ifoam.org.

Liaison

8. Mr Bernward Geier, Executive Director of IFOAM, will maintain liaison with UNCTAD.

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9. The working language of IFOAM is English.