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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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**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 Environmental Law Research Centre (IELC)

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELC), 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, IELC 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 IELC is annexed hereto.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESEARCH CENTRE (IELC)

History

1. IELC was founded as an association under Swiss law in 1995 in response to the growing realisation on the part of its founders that a new research centre with a capacity to outreach developing countries was needed in order to ensure that North-South issues were reflected in international environmental law making.

Aims and objectives

2. IELC aims at promoting sustainable patterns of world development through collaborative research, policy studies, consensus building and public information. It undertakes these activities in an interdisciplinary way, addressing the connection between law, environment and human needs.

Members

3. Membership of the organization is open to individuals with an interest in the goals promoted by IELC. At present, there are 124 members from 17 developed and developing countries.

Structure

4. The General Assembly composed of all members of the organization is the supreme decision-making body and meets every two years. It decides on all policy issues of the organization, in such matters as election of officers, adoption of annual reports and accounts, modification of bylaws, etc. IELC is administered by a Committee consisting of 2-6 members, who are elected by the General Assembly for two years. The Committee determines the overall policy and has general competence on all matters not attributed to the General Assembly. It is headed by a Director and a Co-Director and meets as often as necessary. Internal auditors elected by the General Assembly audit IELC's work.

Financial resources

5. IELC accepts funding from different sources. Its budget consists of member contributions, various research or travel grants, incomes from consultancy work, donated

work-time, etc. The budget for 2000 was estimated at 320,000 Swiss francs, most of which represented donated work-time of programme directors (37.5%) and research grants (28%).

Relations with other international organizations

6. IELC is accredited with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and registered with the World Trade Organization.

Publications

7. IELC does not produce its own journal or periodical. Its members publish articles in regular academic and other journals.

Liaison

8. Mr Philippe Cullet, Co-Director, will maintain liaison with UNCTAD.

Address

International Environmental Law Research Centre
14, rue Lissignol
1201 Geneva
Switzerland
Telephone: (41 22) 741 04 42
E-mail: ielrc@vsnl.net
Internet: www.ielc.huma.org

9. The working language of IELC is English.