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on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board

Fifty-second executive session

Geneva, 11–12 April 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

**Designation of non-governmental
organizations for the purposes of rule 77
of the Rules of Procedure of the Board**

**Application from Consumer Unity &
Trust Society (CUTS) International**

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat*

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from CUTS International requesting the inclusion of that organization by the Trade and Development Board in the list provided for in rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure of the Trade and Development Board.

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, CUTS International may be classified in the general category under the provisions of paragraph 12(a) of Board decision 43(VII).

The Board may wish to take action on the above-mentioned application at its fifty-second executive session.

Information concerning CUTS International is annexed to this note.

* This document was submitted on the above date because the Trade and Development Board approved the fifty-second executive session on 16 February 2011.

Annex

Background information on Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International

History

In 1983, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1969 in India was amended to include unfair trade practices, which provoked a group of concerned citizens in Jaipur to form and launch CUTS. CUTS officially registered as a Society under the Rajasthan Societies Act 1958 on 11 June 1984. CUTS became an international organization in 2001 and established its overseas offices in Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi, Kenya; Hanoi, Viet Nam; and Geneva, Switzerland.

Aims and objectives

CUTS International aims to represent the developmental needs and aspirations of the poor. It works to promote consumer empowerment through a rights-based approach. Its activities are aimed at influencing the process and content of inclusive growth and development. The organization's vision is "consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice and equality". CUTS International also focuses on promoting South-South cooperation on trade policy, economic regulation, consumer protection and sustainable development issues, and strengthening long-term capacity of civil society, government/civil servants and the business community on these subjects.

Membership

Existing members propose new candidates for admission for membership. The membership fee is 5,000 rupees. CUTS International has 23 life members, and 300 institutional members. An individual interested in the objectives and activities of CUTS may apply for life membership by an application, which is then reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of CUTS International. Voluntary organizations, educational or research institutions, corporate authorities or organizations, statutory corporations and registered cooperative societies or corporative institutions, interested in the objectives and activities of CUTS International can become institutional members, if approved by the Executive Committee of CUTS International. Organizations and institutions may be admitted as institutional members by the Executive Committee with or without fee.

Structure

CUTS International's headquarters and three programme centres (Centre for Consumer Action, Research and Training; Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment; and Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation) are located in Jaipur, India. CUTS International has

resource centres in Calcutta, India; Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi, Kenya; Hanoi, Viet Nam; and Geneva, Switzerland.

CUTS International is governed by an Executive Committee made up of the President, Secretary-General and Secretary-cum-Treasurer and other members determined by the Committee. These positions are elected every three years from amongst the members of CUTS at the General Assembly. The Executive Committee lays down the policy directives for the organization. It appoints the Secretary-General as the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. The Secretary-General receives instructions from the Executive Committee and implements programmes and oversees administration. The Secretary-General implements decisions through a core management committee consisting of the Secretary-General, Secretary, Executive Director/Deputy Executive Director, Advisers, Directors, Associate Directors, Assistant Directors and Coordinators, Head and Deputy Heads of Centres. The Executive Committee meets twice a year with an average attendance of about 50 per cent. The General Assembly meets once a year.

Financial resources

Income and expenditure for 2008–2010

(1 Rupee = approximately US\$0.02)

Income (in rupees)	2008	2009	2010
Donation and contribution	1,100.00	172,034.00	10,000.00
Contribution for publication	75,049.69	31,489.50	42,437.38
Grant in aid	80,182,331.99	129,196,011.63	116,936,691.51
Interest received	1,090,733.87	5,581,919.42	3,863,491.34
Training fees	542,359.00	95,000.00	10,783.00
Miscellaneous income	83,071.00	311,317.00	254,428.00
TOTAL	81,974,645.55	135,387,771.55	121,117,831.23

Expenditures (in rupees)	2008	2009	2010
Salaries and Honoraria	14,768,929.90	19,633,340.00	18,139,569.39
Office costs	11,618,864.25	9,560,144.34	11,466,027.66
Training and networking	3,180,331.34	1,243,426.41	1,624,752.00
Seminar and workshop	23,519,815.67	27,308,997.36	22,297,522.89
Research and investigation	25,004,826.96	69,724,412.89	63,691,453.25
Publication	2,089,563.87	2,421,171.80	2,341,773.32
Depreciation	1,105,801.80	1,013,018.53	852,908.02
Excess of income over expenditure	686,511.76	4,483,260.2289	703,824.70
Total	81,974,645.55	135,387,771.55	121,117,831.23

CUTS International receives its funding from its members, governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations for specific joint projects/partnership, and foundations.

Relations with other international organizations

CUTS has been included in the UNCTAD Register since 1997, as a national organization (at the time of its initial application, it did not have an international structure). CUTS International enjoys observer status with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) and is listed as an NGO on the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) Roster.

Publications

CUTS International regularly publishes printed periodicals and e-periodicals on policy and consumer related issues, as well as an annual report.

Liaison

Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary-General of CUTS International. Email: psm@cuts.org, sg_cuts@cuts.org. Skype: psm_cuts.

Address

International secretariat:
CUTS International
D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park
Jaipur 302 016
Rajasthan, India
Tel: +91 141 228 2821
Fax: +91 141 228 2485
Web: www.cuts-international.org

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