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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Fifty-fourth regular session

Geneva, 1-11 October 2007

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

**Village Suisse ONG (VSONG)\***

**Note by the UNCTAD secretariat**

1. The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from Village Suisse ONG (VSONG) 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, Village Suisse ONG (VSONG) may be classified in the General Category under the provisions of paragraph 12 (a) of Board decision 43 (VII).
3. The Board may wish to take action on the above-mentioned application at its fifty-fourth session.
4. Information on Village Suisse ONG (VSONG) is annexed hereto.

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\* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of processing delays.

## **Annex**

### **INFORMATION ON VILLAGE SUISSE (VSONG)**

#### **History**

1. Village Suisse ONG (VSONG) was founded in 1996 by a group of people from diverse backgrounds united by a desire to help underprivileged groups in Africa. Later, there arose a need, in the light of the particular obstacles faced by migrants to their integration in Switzerland, to work with immigrant groups in Switzerland.

#### **Aims and objectives**

2. The main aim of VSONG is to combat poverty and promote the education of children and underprivileged groups in Africa. In this connection, one of the organization's core missions is to raise awareness of fair trade among the Swiss population. This mission is accomplished through the sale of African products at Swiss markets; information campaigns about the producers' working and living conditions are held alongside such sales.

3. The other aim of VSONG is to reduce the digital divide in developing countries by gradually introducing new information and communication technologies (NICTs) in the everyday lives of rural dwellers. A number of Swiss and French businesses support VSONG in this work.

#### **Membership**

4. Membership of VSONG is open to all persons who apply and wish to contribute to the organization's efforts. The organization has 103 members in more than 21 countries.

#### **Structure**

5. The VSONG governing bodies are: the General Assembly, the Founding Council and the Steering Committee, which has a permanent secretariat.

6. The current membership of the Steering Committee is as follows:

Chairperson: Mr. Adalbert Nougba (Cameroon)

General Secretary: Ms. Rose Kayetessi (Rwanda)

Treasurer: Ms. Marie Ladouceur (Haiti)

Auditors: Mr. Elie Pereau (France)

Mr. Patrick Stepenhauer (Switzerland)

### **Financial resources**

7. The organization's financial resources come from membership fees and contributions, government grants, and donations and legacies. Total resources in 2006 amounted to 42,600 Swiss francs.

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

8. VSONG does not enjoy special status with any international organizations; it has, however, been accredited to several international events:

2005: accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, 2005);

2006: accredited to the UNCTAD hearing with civil society and the private sector (Geneva, 2006).

### **Publications**

9. VSONG does not produce any periodical publications.

### **Liaison officer**

10. The UNCTAD liaison officer will be the administrator and founder:

Mr. Adalbert Nougä  
25, Chemin des Vignes  
1213 Petit-Lancy  
Tel: 41 79 680 96 24  
E-mail: ong@worldcom.ch

### **Working language**

11. The working language is French.

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