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Trade and Development Board

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Agenda item 4

**Designation of non-governmental organizations for
the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

Application from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) requesting the inclusion of the organization by the Trade and Development Board in the list provided for in rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board.

Having reviewed the information provided, the secretariat is of the opinion that, subject to the concurrence of the Bureau of the Board, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund 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-sixth executive session.

Information concerning the Fund is annexed to this note.

Annex

Background information on the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

History

1. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a private foundation, was established in 1940 by the sons of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. as a vehicle by which they could share advice and research on charitable activities and coordinate their philanthropic efforts. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. made a substantial gift to the Fund in 1951, and in 1960, the Fund received a major bequest from his estate. Together, these constitute the original endowment of the Fund.
2. On 1 July 1999, the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation merged with the Fund. Shortly after the merger, the Fund initiated a strategic review process designed to systemically evaluate all its programmes in light of the opportunities before humanity, both global and local, at the dawn of the twenty-first century. As part of this effort, the Fund's current programme architecture came into effect on 1 January 2003. The David Rockefeller Global Development Fund, set up in 2006, expanded the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's capacity to address critical global challenges, including poverty, health care, sustainable development, management of the global economy, international trade and the multilateral trading system.

Aims and objectives

3. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund advances social change that contributes to a more just, sustainable and peaceful world. Through its grant making, the Fund supports efforts to expand knowledge, clarify values and critical choices, nurture creative expression and shape public policy. The Fund's programmes are intended to develop leaders, strengthen institutions, engage citizens, build community and foster partnerships that include government, business and civil society. The Fund is active globally, nationally and locally. Grant programmes are organized around three themes: democratic practice, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Membership

4. The Fund has no members.

Structure

5. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is a private, not-for-profit grant-making foundation. Daily operations are overseen by the President and three officers. Ultimate authority rests with the Board of Directors, which gives authorization for approval of all grants and operating expenditures at tri-annual Board meetings. The Fund is currently governed by a board of 16 trustees and one advisory trustee. Approximately half the Board are members of the Rockefeller family, including five from the fifth generation. Responsibility for grants approval falls to the trustees, who meet three times a year, in March, June and November. Board meetings are held at the Pocantico Centre in Tarrytown, New York, and at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund offices in New York City.

Financial resources

6. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is a private grant-making organization, operating on interest income from an endowment. It does not have members, nor does it receive funding from the government or from grants. The table below shows the Fund's statements of financial position for the fiscal years 2009–2011, in dollars.

<i>Assets</i>	<i>2011 RBF Funds</i>	<i>2010 RBF Funds</i>	<i>2009 RBF Funds</i>
Cash and cash equivalents	1 124 814	2 056 170	728 900
Accounts receivable	982 001	1 640 776	1 475 110
Contributions receivable	15 040 972	13 539 872	13 539 872
Investments	726 787 879	762 124 599	701 087 774
Programme-related investments real estate	510 000	510 000	510 000
Prepaid expenses	5 989	14 472	5 114
Fixed assets net	7 352 927	9 492 146	11 503 963
Interfund	—	—	—
Total assets	751 804 582	789 378 035	728 850 733

Relations with other international organizations

7. The Fund is an accredited observer organization with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Publications

8. Examples of Fund publications include the Fund's annual reviews, statistical reviews and reviews of specific work programmes, such as the *Sustainable Development Programme Review 2005–2010*.

Liaison

9. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by Mr. Thomas Kruse, Programme Officer for the Fund's Democratic Practice-Global Governance Programme, tel. +1 212 812 4309, e-mail: tkruse@rbf.org.

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Languages

11. The working language of the Fund is English.