



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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Trade and Development Board

Fifty-sixth executive session
Geneva, 3–4 December 2012
Agenda item 4

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

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**Application from the Centre for Economic and
Policy Research**

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Centre for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) 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 Board.

Having reviewed the information provided, the secretariat is of the opinion that, subject to the concurrence of the Bureau of the Board, CEPR 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-fifth executive session.

Information concerning CEPR is annexed to this note.

Annex

Background information on the Centre for Economic and Policy Research

History

1. The Centre for Economic and Policy Research was established in 1999 in response to limited debate in Washington, D.C. policy circles that revolved around neoliberal and conservative policies in order to provide a second point of view and educate policymakers and the public. The Centre was founded by Co-Directors Mark Weisbrot and Dean Baker, and has today developed a reputation for conducting timely, high-quality, original, and independent research that successfully challenges conventional wisdom and identifies economic trends long before the economics profession has noted them.
2. The Centre was established to promote democratic debate on the most important economic and social issues that affect people's lives. It is committed to presenting issues in an accurate and understandable manner, so that the public is better prepared to choose among the various policy options.

Aims and objectives

3. The Centre conducts both economic research and public education on issues related to the global economy, and in particular, issues of development and economic growth. Its research is oriented towards filling important gaps in the understanding of particular economic and social problems, or of the impact of specific policies. The public education portion of its mission is to present the findings of professional research carried out by the Centre and others, in a manner that allows broad segments of the public to know exactly what is at stake in major policy debates.
4. In addition to extensive work on the global economy, the Centre has a special focus on the economies of Latin America, on the European crisis, and on the economy of the United States of America.

Membership

5. The Centre for Economic and Policy Research has no members.

Structure

6. The Centre is an autonomous and independent organization ruled by a Board of Directors that provides fiduciary oversight. The Board meets twice a year and is currently composed of 10 individuals. All decisions are taken by majority vote of those present at a meeting where a quorum is present. A quorum consists of a majority of the Board attending in person or through teleconference. The Centre also has an Advisory Board that includes Nobel Laureate economists Robert Solow and Joseph Stiglitz; Janet Gornick, Professor at the Graduate School of the City University of New York and Director of the Luxembourg Income Study; and Richard Freeman, Professor of Economics at Harvard University.

Financial resources

7. The Centre does not receive any government or corporate funding. Most of its funding comes from grants made by foundations, including the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Area Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Moriah Foundation, the National Academy of Social Insurance, Open Society Foundations, the Public Welfare Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Sloan Foundation and the Streisand Foundation. The Centre is also supported by a number of individuals who make personal donations.

8. The tables below show the Centre's statement of financial position for the fiscal years 2010–2011, in dollars.

Assets (Dollars)

| | 2011 | 2012 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 570 823 | 527 035 |
| Accounts receivable | 11 232 | 3 741 |
| Unconditional promises to give | 1 028 000 | 534 000 |
| Prepaid expenses | 26 217 | 13 250 |
| Total current assets | 1 636 272 | 1 078 026 |
| Property and equipment | | |
| Furniture and equipment | 42 311 | 40 275 |
| Leasehold improvements | 14 352 | 14 352 |
| Total property and equipment | 56 663 | 54 627 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (48 899) | (42 596) |
| Property and equipment net | 7 764 | 12 031 |
| Other assets | | |
| Security deposits | 12 173 | 12 031 |
| Unconditional promises to give long term | 283 000 | 541 738 |
| Total other assets | 295 173 | 541 738 |
| Total assets | 1 939 209 | 1 643 968 |

Liabilities and net assets
(Dollars)

| | 2011 | 2012 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | 11 139 | 8 317 |
| Accrued vacation | 29 480 | 30 496 |
| Total current liabilities | 40 619 | 38 813 |
| Net assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 740 590 | 969 155 |
| Temporarily restricted | 1 158 000 | 636 000 |
| Total net assets | 1 898 590 | 1 605 155 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | 1 939 209 | 1 643 968 |

Relations with other international organizations

9. The Centre has no working relations with other international organizations.

Publications

10. The Centre publishes numerous articles on a weekly basis and various reports on economics and, economic and social policy. Recent examples include: *Missing the Story: The OECD's Analysis of Inequality*, July 2012, by David Rosnick and Dean Baker; *The Mexican Economy and the 2012 Elections*, June 2012, by Mark Weisbrot and Rebecca Ray; *Update on the Jamaican Economy*, May 2012, by Jake Johnston and Juan Antonio Montecino; *Ecuador's Economy Since 2007*, May 2012, by Rebecca Ray and Sara Kozamch.

Liaison

11. Liaison with UNCTAD will be carried out by Ms. Deborah James, Director of International Programmes, Tel: +1 202 293 5380 (ext: 111), e-mail: djames@cepr.net.

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Language

13. The working languages of the Centre are English and Spanish.