



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

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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**

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Application from Public Citizen

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from Public Citizen 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, Public Citizen 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 Public Citizen is annexed to this note.

Annex

Background information on Public Citizen

History

1. Public Citizen is a non-profit, consumer rights advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., United States of America, with a branch in Austin, Texas. Founded by Ralph Nader in 1971, Public Citizen favours robust corporate accountability and strong government regulation, particularly in the areas of transport, health care, and nuclear power. Since its foundation, the organization has successfully advocated for food and medicine safety, automobile safety and more just trade and environmental laws. In 1995, Public Citizen created the Global Trade Watch division to promote government and corporate accountability in the globalization and trade arena.

Aims and objectives

2. Public Citizen serves as the people's voice in the nation's capital to ensure that all citizens are represented in the halls of power. Public Citizen has five policy groups:

(a) The aim of the Global Trade Watch division is to ensure that United States citizens have the opportunity to enjoy economic security; a clean environment; safe food; medicines and products; access to quality affordable services, such as health care; and the exercise of democratic decision-making about the matters that affect their lives;

(b) Public Citizen's Congress Watch division champions consumer interests before the United States Congress and serves as a government watchdog. It engages in public education and advocacy, and is focused on three main aspects: strengthening health, safety and financial protections;

(c) The Energy Programme works to combat climate change by promoting safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy. It fights to protect citizens from the dangers posed by nuclear power and champions market transparency and strong consumer protections to ensure that people are not plagued by market manipulation;

(d) The Health Research Group promotes research-based, system-wide changes in health-care policy and drug safety. It works to have unsafe or ineffective drugs and medical devices banned or re-labelled, to reduce worker exposures to hazardous chemicals and to curb industry's influence over regulators;

(e) The Litigation Group is the arm of the organization that functions as a public interest law firm. Its attorneys litigate cases at all levels of the federal and state court systems.

Membership

3. Public Citizen has 250,000 members and supporters from the following countries: Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. The organization does not have any national affiliate organization.

Structure

4. Public Citizen is managed by a Board of Directors whose number may be increased or decreased by amendment of the Bylaws, but cannot be less than seven. The Board of Directors is currently composed of 13 members. Any vacancy occurring in the Board, including a vacancy resulting from an increase in number or an expiration of term, may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors. Members of the Board meet three times a year and their decisions are taken by majority.

5. The president is the principal executive officer of the corporation and supervises all its business and affairs, subject, however, to the control of the Board of Directors and of any duly authorized committee of directors. All the current members of the governing body are of United States nationality.

Financial resources

6. Public Citizen is funded by dues and contributions from its members and supporters, foundation grants, and publication sales and does not accept government or corporate funds. The tables below show income and expenditure in dollars for the fiscal years 2009–2011.

Revenue and support (Dollars)

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Individual donations | 6 756 441 | 7 314 016 | 5 979 629 |
| Publications and subscriptions | 1 736 136 | 1 903 493 | 2 084 576 |
| Grants | 1 982 667 | 1 765 289 | 2 390 707 |
| Programme income | 364 101 | 392 403 | 126 176 |
| Rental income | 365 204 | 311 958 | 298 098 |
| Other | 147 907 | 20 192 | 17 084 |
| Income from investments | 47 815 | 453 104 | 245 594 |
| Total revenue and support | 11 400 271 | 12 161 455 | 11 141 864 |

Expenses (Dollars)

| | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Programmes | 7 028 428 | 6 942 397 | 7 437 047 |
| Publications | 2 484 295 | 2 226 738 | 2 132 993 |
| Support services | 2 851 087 | 2 396 655 | 2 290 512 |
| General and administrative | (1 734 492) | (1 578 853) | - |
| Development | (1 116 595) | (817 802) | - |
| Total expenses | 12 363 810 | 11 565 790 | 11 860 552 |
| Change in net assets | 963 539 | 595 665 | 718 688 |

Relations with other international organizations

7. Public Citizen is not in consultative status or special relations with other United Nations organs, specialized agencies or other international organizations.

Publications

8. The Global Trade Watch Division of Public Citizen serves as researcher and translator of an array of globalization issues for other non-governmental organizations, the press, policymakers and the public. Examples include a newsletter entitled "Public Citizen News" covering a multiplicity of topics.

Liaison

9. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by Ms. Melinda St. Louis, Director of International Campaigns.

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Languages

11. The working language of Public Citizen is English.
