



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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### Trade and Development Board

#### Sixtieth executive session

Geneva, 10–12 December 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

#### Other business

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

#### Application from the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

#### *Executive summary*

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) requesting its inclusion 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, GFDD 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 sixtieth executive session.

Information concerning GFDD is annexed to this note.



## **Annex**

# **Background information on the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development**

## **History**

1. GFDD is an organization which is registered in the United States of America and has offices in New York City and Washington, D.C. GFDD was incorporated under United States law in 2002 to strengthen collaboration and exchange between the Dominican Republic and institutions, organizations and the Dominican diaspora based in the United States. It is dedicated to the advancement of global collaboration and exchange among Dominican professionals, general audiences and institutions in the Dominican Republic and abroad. The Foundation conducts research, enhances public understanding, designs public policies, devises strategies and offers capacity-building in areas crucial to social, economic, democratic and cultural sustainable development.
2. GFDD is a sister organization of the Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo created in 2000 by Mr. Leonel Fernández Reyna upon completing his first presidential mandate. Mr. Fernández Reyna is the head of both institutions.
3. The Fundación Global was granted observer status by the Trade and Development Board in March 2004.
4. GFDD is managed by an Executive Director and has programmes that are separate from those of the Fundación Global. The administrative matters of each organization are also managed separately. Each organization has a distinct budget for its respective programmes and is audited separately. GFDD's work encompasses a broad spectrum of critical areas, including the environment and sustainable development, media, information and communications technology, economy, international affairs, democracy and globalization.

## **Aims and objectives**

5. GFDD conducts research, enhances public understanding, designs public policies, devises strategies and offers capacity-building in areas crucial to social, economic, democratic and cultural sustainable development. It promotes better understanding and appreciation of Dominican culture, values and heritage in the Dominican Republic, the United States and worldwide.
6. GFDD creates, facilitates and implements human development projects, building on its experience, expertise and strong national and international networks. It further formulates and implements initiatives that contribute to sustainable social, democratic, economic and cultural development and to improving the lives of people in the Dominican Republic and the western hemisphere.
7. GFDD has also launched a new initiative, the Global Dominican Academic Exchange programme, which complements the Interdom internship programme to increase opportunities for academic exchange for both Dominican and international youth.
8. Collaborating with the United Nations, GFDD promotes and advances issues at the forefront of the international organization's agenda through panel discussions, written papers and keynote interventions on issues such as women's empowerment, youth

employment, science and technology and financial speculation affecting the socioeconomic advancement of the Dominican Republic.

9. The organization also expanded GFDD Global Round Table meetings with United Nations ambassadors and other prominent figures in the international community, continuing to address relevant global issues.

## Membership

10. GFDD is not a membership organization in the sense of dues-paying members. However, many individuals either participate actively in the organization and its activities or support its purpose with in-kind and/or financial donations.

## Structure

11. GFDD has three directors and consists of a total of 18 members of staff divided between different programmes of work.

12. The Board of Directors of GFDD makes decisions at meetings chaired by the Executive Director of GFDD. The Board of Directors votes to elect new members each year and meets every three months in order to evaluate the work of the institution.

13. The Board of Directors also establishes ad hoc committees to address issues that arise as a result of additional funding, interest in projects and partnerships with other institutions. Additional members are added based on the changing needs of GFDD.

## Financial resources

14. The GFDD financial statement for 2012 and 2011 is presented in the following table.

<i>Unrestricted revenue and support</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
Contributions	2 424 321	1 862 243
Tuition revenue	49 938	71 918
In-kind contributions	26 915	40 372
Interest and other income	13 511	14 454
<b>Total unrestricted revenue and support</b>	<b>2 514 685</b>	<b>1 988 987</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programme services	2 432 804	
Supporting services:		
Management and general	84 042	82 470
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>84 042</b>	<b>82 470</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>2 516 846</b>	<b>2 491 517</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(2 161)</b>	<b>(502 530)</b>
<b>Net assets</b> (beginning of year)	<b>1 564 352</b>	<b>2 066 882</b>
<b>Net assets</b> (end of year)	<b>1 562 191</b>	<b>1 564 352</b>

## Relations with other international organizations

15. GFDD is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

## Publications

16. GFDD publishes the following works which are available on the organization's website:

(a) *Local Capacity Development: The Key to Benefiting from Globalization and Reducing Unemployment in the Dominican Republic*, by José G. Caraballo-Cueto;

(b) *Empowerment of Women in Democracies of Developing Countries: The Experience of the Dominican Republic*, by Rosa Rita Álvarez;

(c) *El Metro and the Impacts of Transportation System Integration in Santo Domingo*, by Carl Allen;

(d) *Distance Education Challenges*, by Heitor Gurgulino de Souza;

(e) *The Presence of Africa in the Caribbean, the Antilles and the United States*, by C.E. Batista and others;

(f) *GFDD Year in Review*.

## Liaison

17. Liaison with UNCTAD will be carried out by:

Mr. Marc Jourdan United Nations and Environment Programmes Coordinator

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## **Language**

19. The working language of GFDD is English.
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