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**Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule
76 of the rules of procedure of the Board**

Application by the Latin American Technological Information Network (RITLA)

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD has received an application from the Latin American Technological Information Network (RITLA) requesting the Trade and Development Board to grant it status under rule 76 of the Board's rules of procedure.
2. Some information regarding the history, aims and structure of RITLA is annexed.
3. This document is, at this stage, intended for the information of States members of UNCTAD, and its distribution is, therefore, restricted to their exclusive use. It is proposed to de-restrict the documents in due course.

Annex

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE LATIN AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION NETWORK (RITLA)

History

1. RITLA was conceived in the 1960s, when the Council of the Latin American Economic System realized the importance of the exchange of information on science and technology. The Council adopted resolution No. 36, which created a task force whose action led to a plenipotentiary meeting in Brasilia. At that meeting, on 26 October 1983, the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela signed RITLA's constitutive Act, which was deposited with the Brazilian Foreign Office and came to be duly ratified and promulgated by the Governments of those five countries.

Aims and objectives

2. The main goals of RITLA are: to support the development of infrastructures and systems of technological information and information technology in member countries; to foster, promote and consolidate the exchange of technological information and information technology in its member countries; to support projects capable of strengthening national and regional capacities to generate new technologies; to support and improve the capacity of member countries in the search, selection, negotiation, evaluation, adaptation and use of imported technologies; and to establish operative ties with other systems or networks of technological information.

3. RITLA strives to attain its aims by maintaining contacts among its member States and with international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Recently, RITLA's Central Nucleus has also been striving to work with state and private enterprises that may be open to cooperation with it.

Membership

4. The following countries are members of RITLA: Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela.

Structure

5. RITLA comprises:

Managing Council (MC) – the highest body of the organization, composed of a representative and an alternate representative nominated by each member country;

Central Nucleus (CN) – the coordinating body of the organization, responsible for carrying out the technical and administrative tasks required for its functioning and led by an executive director and a deputy executive director;

National Centres of Coordination (CNCs) – national official bodies designated by the member countries to deal with the Central Nucleus and which are responsible for coordinating the work carried out by the Implementing Organizations and by national institutions that can participate in RITLA; and

Implementation Organizations – national institutions that, according to the rules and procedures of each member country, cooperate and work with RITLA.

6. Institutional decisions, such as the approval of plans of action, budgets, contribution quotas and elections of officers, are taken by the MC in its ordinary meetings, which take place every year, or in extraordinary meetings. Executive and administrative decisions are taken by the Executive Director, who reports to each ordinary meeting of the MC. The heads of the CNCs are appointed by their respective Governments (mostly from the science and technology sector), and they in turn designate their representatives to the meetings of the MC.

7. The level of representation varies from one member country to another but tends to involve the heads of national science and technology secretariats. RITLA does not so far have any constitutional, administrative or financial relations with other organizations, although its CN may and is encouraged to have operational agreements with specialized organizations to help it develop special programmes.

Financial resources

8. RITLA's budget is made up of contributions paid every year by each member country on the basis of budgetary rules adopted by the Latin American Economic System and providing for proportional national contributions. The present annual budget of RITLA totals US\$ 100,000, and there are three levels of contributions: Brazil and Mexico – US\$ 36,326 each; Venezuela – US\$ 20,348; and Nicaragua and Panama – US\$ 3,500 each.

Relations with other organizations

9. RITLA has relationships with the International Telecommunication Union, the International Network of Small and Medium Enterprises, the Latin American Economic System, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Industrial Property Organization.

Publications

10. RITLA does not so far have any publications.

Languages

11. The working languages of RITLA are Spanish and Portuguese.

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