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Item 15 (c) of the provisional agenda

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

Application from the Réseau Intercontinental de Promotion de l'Économie Sociale Solidaire

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the Réseau Intercontinental de Promotion de l'Économie Sociale Solidaire (RIPESS) 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, RIPESS 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 sixty-first session.

Information concerning RIPESS is annexed to this note.

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Annex

Background information on the Réseau Intercontinental de Promotion de l'Économie Sociale Solidaire

History

1. RIPESS was first registered as a non-profit organization in Quebec, Canada, in January 2004. In March 2008, the RIPESS Board of Directors opted for a two-year rotation of the general coordination of the intercontinental network with the post of Executive Coordinator alternating between the global North and global South. As a result, the general coordination was held by RIPESS Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008, followed by RIPESS North America in 2010 and RIPESS Asia in 2012.

2. RIPESS is an intercontinental network that connects social solidarity economy networks throughout the world. As a network of networks, the organization brings together continental networks that in turn bring together national and sectoral networks. RIPESS organizes global forums every four years and is a nexus for learning, information sharing and collaboration. International meetings were held in Lima (1997), Quebec (2001), Dakar (2005) and Luxembourg (2009).

Aims and objectives

3. RIPESS commits itself to the following:

(a) Supporting the creation and consolidation of national and continental networks for the promotion of the social solidarity economy and its interconnection at continental and intercontinental levels;

(b) Enabling services and exchanges directed at developing the management capacities of social solidarity economy actors at continental and intercontinental levels;

(c) Influencing multilateral public organizations and international civil society organizations in order to promote the social solidarity economy worldwide;

(d) Contributing to social and political recognition of the social solidarity economy as a sustainable strategy for social equity and development;

(e) Promoting periodic opportunities, subject to the criterion of North–South rotation, to meet for the analysis, projection and evaluation of the actions undertaken worldwide by the international social solidarity economy movement;

(f) Mobilizing persons and financial and material resources in order to comply with its institutional objectives.

Membership

4. The members of RIPESS are national and continental networks as well as international sectoral networks working in various fields of the social solidarity economy that have been included in RIPESS and respect its Charter and its current regulations.

5. The organization is composed of the Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition, the Réseau africain d'économie sociale et solidaire, RIPESS Europe, RIPESS Latin America and the Caribbean and RIPESS North America.

6. Affiliation applications of national and continental networks are received in writing and reviewed by the corresponding continental coordination body, which reports periodically to the Board of Directors about its membership. Affiliation applications of the international sectoral networks are received in writing and reviewed by the Board of Directors.

7. **Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition.** The Coalition is the Asian hub for enhancing the responsibilities of stakeholders in co-creating a compassionate solidarity economy. It brings together 18 national and continental networks from 21 countries in Asia. The countries covered by the institutional members of regional/continental networks are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Taiwan Province of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

8. The national networks in the Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition are as follows:

- (a) Alliance of Philippine Partners in Enterprise Development, Inc.
- (b) Association of Social Entrepreneurs in Indonesia
- (c) Bina Swadaya Foundation
- (d) Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, Binary University
- (e) Credit Union Promotion Centre
- (f) Hong Kong Chamber of Social Enterprises (China)
- (g) Sam Ratulangi University
- (h) University of Malaysia, Kelantan
- (i) Yayasan Kajian Dan Pembangunan Masyarakat
- (j) Yayasan Sejahtera.

9. The regional/continental networks in the Asian Solidarity Economy Coalition are as follows:

- (a) China and Beyond Network
- (b) The Common Wealth Network for People-Centred Development
- (c) Coalition of Socially Responsible Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia
- (d) Ethnos Asia
- (e) Family Capital Centre
- (f) Global Citizens for Sustainable Development
- (g) Pacific Asia Resource Centre
- (h) World Fair Trade Organization-Asia.

10. **Réseau africain d'économie sociale et solidaire.** The Réseau africain is a space of dialogue and exchange and sharing of information about the social solidarity economy for the national networks of 14 countries. It also aims at enabling advocacy with Governments and African and international organizations in favour of the social solidarity economy. The Réseau africain includes the social solidarity economy networks of the following countries:

Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

11. The national networks in the Réseau africain d'économie sociale et solidaire are as follows :

- (a) Algeria. Association Tajmaat N'Jebla.
- (b) Benin. Groupe Béninois d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (c) Burkina Faso. Réseau National de la Promotion d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (d) Cameroon: Réseau d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire du Cameroun.
- (e) Côte d'Ivoire: Réseau Ivoirien d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (f) Democratic Republic of the Congo. Réseau des Acteurs du Kasai pour une Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (g) Gabon. Mutuelle de Santé du Gabon.
- (h) Mauritius. Mauritius Cooperatives Saving and Credit League.
- (i) Mali. Réseau National d'Appui à la Promotion d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (j) Morocco. Réseau Marocain d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (k) Niger. Organisation Nigérienne pour la Promotion de l'Hydraulique et de Développement à la Base.
- (l) Senegal. Groupe Sénégalais d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (m) Togo. Réseau Togolais d'Économie Sociale et Solidaire.
- (n) Tunisia. Mutuelle Nationale de l'Enseignement de Tunisie et Union Nationale des Coopératives Tunisiennes.

12. **RIPESS Europe.** RIPESS Europe is composed of a platform of sectoral networks within the Inter-réseau Européen des Initiatives Éthiques et Solidaires and a gathering of national territorial networks known as RIPESS Europe Territorial.

13. The national and regional networks in RIPESS Europe are as follows:

- (a) Austria. Solidarische Ökonomie.
- (b) Belgium. Emes International Research Network (cross-functional member*); Groupe Terre; Solidarité des Alternatives Wallonnes et Bruxelloises; and Vlaamse Ondersteuning voor de Sociale Economie.
- (c) France. Agence de Développement et de Promotion de l'Economie Solidaire en Midi-Pyrénées; Agence Provençale pour une Économie Alternative et Solidaire; Comité National de Liaison des Régies de Quartier (cross-functional member*); Énergie Alternative; Inter-réseau Européen des Initiatives Éthiques et Solidaires (cross-functional member*); Mouvement de l'Économie Solidaire; Réseau Interuniversitaire de l'économie sociale et solidaire (cross-functional member*); Réseau des Collectivités Territoriales pour une Économie Solidaire; Réseau Urbain-Rural: Générer des Échanges Nouveaux entre

* A cross-functional member is neither regional nor sectoral, but rather a cross-cutting issue or multi-stakeholder organization.

Citoyens (cross-functional member*); and Union Fédérale d'Intervention des Structures Culturelles.

- (d) Italy. Rete de Economia Solidale.
- (e) Luxembourg. Institute Européen pour l'Économie Solidaire and Objectif Plein Emploi.
- (f) Portugal. Animar-Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento Local.
- (g) Romania. Centrul de Resurse pentru Initiative Etice si Solidare.
- (h) Spain. Cooperativa Regional de Economía Solidaria; Red de Redes de Economía Alternativa y Solidaria and Xarxa d'Economia Solidaria.
- (i) Switzerland. Chambre de l'économie sociale et solidaire, Après-Genève.
- (j) International. International Association of Investors in the Social Economy (cross-functional member*); and P'actes Européens (cross-functional member*).

14. RIPESS Latin America and the Caribbean brings together 7 national networks, 3 Latin American networks and 10 subnational, national or continental organizations. It is present in 12 countries in the region: Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

15. The national and regional networks in RIPESS Latin America and the Caribbean are as follows:

- (a) Argentina. Instituto para el Comercio Equitativo y el Consumo Responsable; Comité de Movilización Buenos Aires del Foro Social Mundial en Argentina; Asociación Emprender Mendoza; and Red Latinoamericana de Socioeconomía Solidaria.
- (b) Bolivia (Plurinational State of). Movimiento de Economía Solidaria y Comercio Justo de Bolivia.
- (c) Brazil. Fórum Brasileiro de Economia Solidária.
- (d) Chile. Red de Economía Solidaria de Santiago.
- (e) Colombia. Consejo Nacional de Economía Solidaria del Valle del Cauca; and Mesa Nacional de Trabajo Cooperativo y Solidario.
- (f) Cuba. Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Mundial.
- (g) Ecuador. Grupo Salinas.
- (h) Mexico. Espacio ECOSOL México; Comercio Justo México
- (i) Panama. Instituto Cooperativo Interamericano.
- (j) Peru. Grupo Red de Economía Solidaria del Perú.
- (k) Uruguay. Comercio Justo Uruguay.
- (l) Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Equipo de Formación, Información y Publicaciones.
- (m) Latin American networks. Mesa de Coordinación Latinoamericana de Comercio Justo; Regional Latinoamericana de la Unión Internacional de Trabajadores de la Alimentación; and Coordinadora Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Pequeños Productores de Comercio Justo.

16. **RIPESS North America.** RIPESS North America brings together four national networks: the Canadian Community Economic Development Network, Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec, Groupe d'économie solidaire du Québec and the United States Solidarity Economy Network.

Structure

17. RIPESS has the following organizational structure:

(a) The Intercontinental Assembly is the highest authority within the international network and is composed of the delegates appointed by network members of RIPESS on every continent. The Assembly is convened and coordinated by the Board of Directors and conducted during the International Meetings on the Globalization of Solidarity that RIPESS organizes at least once every four years. The last meeting was held in Manila in October 2013.

(b) The Board of Directors is the executive body of the network, charged with implementing the decisions of the Intercontinental Assembly. It is elected for a four-year period, that is, to serve between International Meetings on the Globalization of Solidarity. It is comprised of up to two delegates per continent and up to two delegates from the international sectoral networks. The Board meets regularly by telephone conference and in person two to three times a year.

(c) The Continental Instances are composed of the members of RIPESS from each continent. They are independent, but they adjust their way of working to the Internal Regulations of Operation of RIPESS.

(d) The Decentralized Technical Secretariats are the bodies responsible for performing the activities of the network within their corresponding continents and for fulfilling certain duties at an intercontinental level, in accordance with the resolutions of the continental bodies and the decisions of the Board of Directors.

Financial resources

18. RIPESS receives grants from foundations:

(a) For 2012–2014, the main funds for RIPESS come from the Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme. Other sources include the Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement-Terre Solidaire.

(b) Each continental network has specific sources of revenue for its functioning and also for national and international foundations and international cooperation agencies.

(c) The annual budget of RIPESS over the last three years was supported directly by the continental networks.

(d) For the last two years, the Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec has hosted the technical secretariat, which three years ago was hosted by the Grupo Red de Economía Solidaria del Perú.

19. The table below reflects the RIPESS financial statement for the period 2012–2013 in euros.

(1 euro = 1.38400 United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Funding from Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme	166,500.00
Funding from Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec	5,774.73
Total income	172,274.73
<i>Expenses</i>	
Salary of Operations Manager	27,534.49
Support of RIPESS Latin America and Caribbean	20,000.00
Support of RIPESS Africa	20,000.00
Communication	8,000.00
Communication for fifth International Meeting of the Social Solidarity Economy	5,000.00
Organization of the fifth International Meeting of the Social Solidarity Economy, Manila, October 2013	71,922.91
Total expenses	152,457.40
Balance in January 2014 (in euros)	19,817.33

Relations with other international organizations

20. RIPESS has no working relations with other international organizations.

Publications

21. RIPESS or its members have published the following:

(a) José Luis Coraggio, Maria Inés Arancibia and Maria Victoria Deux (2011). *Guía para el Mapeo y Relevamiento de la Economía Popular Solidaria en Latinoamérica y Caribe.* (RIPESS Latin America and the Caribbean and Grupo Red de Economía Solidaria del Perú.)

(b) Several issues of the International Newsletter on Sustainable Local Development.

(c) The bulletin Info-RIPESS, available in English, French and Spanish. (RIPESS North America.)

Liaison

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Language

25. The working languages of RIPESS are English, French and Spanish
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