



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: Restricted
4 October 2018

Original: English

Trade and Development Board

Sixty-seventh executive session

Geneva, 13 and 14 December 2018

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Other business

Application from Gram Bharati Samiti

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from Gram Bharati Samiti 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, Gram Bharati Samiti 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-seventh executive session.

Information on Gram Bharati Samiti is annexed to this note.



Annex

Background information: Gram Bharati Samiti

History and scope

1. Gram Bharati Samiti, or Society for Rural Development, was formed by Gandhian workers with the aim to establish a society based on humanitarian and democratic values and an ecologically balanced habitat. The Society was registered on 28 July 1984 in Jaipur and works in India and other countries in Asia. A provision was made in the Society's constitution allowing it to work throughout Asia without seeking permission from the Government. Recently, the Society implemented the first phase of a project in China and Nepal, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation, formerly Fredskorpset, or FK Exchange. The second phase, promoting women's handicrafts in the three partner countries, will be launched in 2018. Another project, to be implemented in China and India, is pending approval by the Government of China.

2. Gram Bharati Samiti has been engaged in developing entrepreneurship among rural women for 25 years and will continue to work with international organizations to promote its trade-and-development-related activities and to create and support women's empowerment in Rajasthan, primarily through the initiation of self-help groups. The Society has been running the women's empowerment project since 2001 and now boasts over 800 successful self-help groups.

Aims and objectives

3. The Society's objectives are as follows:

(a) To empower women through entrepreneurship development and protection of their human rights;

(b) To promote people's health and hygiene by introducing an indigenous healing system and providing them with training to grow herbs and medicinal plants;

(c) To work towards prevention, treatment, care and support in the areas of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS and violence against women;

(d) To set up adult education programmes for the aged and basic/non-formal education programmes for women and children;

(e) To establish training-cum-production centres for women and youth to provide them with vocational training in carpet weaving, embroidery and shoe making and to help them set up their own household industrial units;

(f) To carry out activities that support the protection and improvement of the environment, including forestation;

(g) To encourage cooperative agriculture through improved scientific technologies;

(h) To conduct studies and research on folklore and local culture;

(i) To establish public libraries and reading rooms in rural areas;

(j) To provide people with information on the national constitution, and rules and regulations of various departments related to public welfare;

(k) To build awareness of corruption, exploitation and injustice.

Membership

4. The General Council of Gram Bharati Samiti has 47 members, all of which are individual members and Indian nationals. They are classified as general members in the Society's constitution.

Structure

5. The main components of the Society are the General Council and the Executive Committee.

6. The General Council is made up of the Society's members, who elect the 11 members of the Executive Committee, including five officers, every two years. The General Council meets once a year and is tasked with the following duties: evaluation of the work carried out during the year; approval of the annual report and statements of expenditure; consideration and approval of the programmes and budget submitted by the Executive Committee for the next year; election of a president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary and assistant secretary every two years; and approval of proposals, resolutions and amendments recommended by the Committee.

7. The Executive Committee, elected by the General Council every two years, meets quarterly. Its rights and functions are as follows: to accept or reject membership applications, constitute or dissolve subcommittees as required, recruit or dismiss staff, add new rules to the constitution or propose amendments, develop programmes and activities and provide for their implementation after receiving approval from the General Council, accept grant-in-aid or borrow loans from the Government or private donors and manage a bank account through the president and secretary.

8. The Society has no constitutional, administrative or financial relations with any other organization.

9. According to the by-laws, a meeting of the Executive Committee is held every three months. The last meeting of the Committee took place on 20 April 2018.

Finance

10. The Society's revenue sources are as follows: Membership fees; contributions from private donor; grants from Government, foreign donors and funding agencies; and fundraising through the sales of coupons for a specific activity or programme.

11. The audited report of income and expenditures of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2017 is provided below.

Gram Bharati Samiti

Report of income and expenditures as of 31 March 2017

(United States of America dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Opening cash and bank balance	22 612.65
Membership fees	449.53
Donations	5 128.97
Sale of coupons	3 414.96
Rent	899.0558
Interest received	281.55
Loan and advances	1 450.09
Fair Credit Reporting Act	86 216.49

<i>Income</i>		
Global Fund for Children (United States)	14 429.25	
Help for Self-help in Rajasthan (Germany)	37 510.86	
Prince Claus Fund (Netherlands)	3 767.00	
Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norway)	4 060.75	
Kobe Union Church (Japan)	2 175.14	
Seed Foundation (United States)	22 647.51	
Kishore Shah (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	1 450.09	
McCoy, Louise (United Kingdom)	175.91	
Total		120 453.30
<i>Expenditures</i>		
Wasteland development expenditure		1 216.99
Forestation	145.37	
Salaries	1 071.62	
Non-formal education for girls		13 032.73
Awareness on health and HIV/AIDS	3 637.77	
Non-formal education	1 714.73	
Monitoring and evaluation	248.55	
Salaries	4 226.29	
Travel expenses	757.34	
Vocational training	1 411.26	
Training for girl volunteers	218.96	
Utilities	405.79	
Peace tiles event	412.04	
Restoration of Gopinathji step well (Prince Klaus Fund)		5 289.78
Restoration of paintings and collages	3 049.00	
Salaries and honorariums	536.53	
Feedback from community	211.35	
Follow-up visit and meeting	222.95	
Project end survey	282.48	
Telephone, fax, Internet	310.52	
Audit of accounts	175.46	
Travel	501.48	
Mobile health services		4 002.20
Salaries	2 610.16	
Medicines and sanitary articles	1 392.04	
Women's empowerment through special economic zones		9 705.30
Formation of Public Accounts Committee	122.53	
Health care mobile medical unit visit	611.07	
Construction of work shed	7 238.85	
Purchase of a darning machine	134.13	
Travel for designer	243.62	
Salary of master trainer	395.87	
Installation of frames, tools and equipment	458.95	

<i>Expenditures</i>		
Monthly meeting of Public Accounts Committee	108.76	
Focused group discussions	261.02	
Follow-up meeting	130.51	
Gully plugging, Daimler (Germany)		10 961.62
Formation of Public Accounts Committee	63.44	
Recruitment and training of workers	150.45	
Identification and mapping of gullies	121.81	
Elevation of trench-cum-bunds	5 115.92	
Cultivation of saplings	3 659.30	
Planting of grasses, shrubs and bushes	862.80	
Administrative expenses	443.26	
Monitoring and evaluation	435.03	
Final report	109.61	
Women's Training Centre		4 236.15
Construction material	2 423.10	
Raw material for looms	1 552.03	
Tools and equipment	261.02	
Health awareness camps		493.70
Board and lodging	420.53	
Stationery	7.92	
Travel of facilitators and staff	65.25	
Introductory seminar – Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation		2 982.41
Accommodation and per diem	169.05	
Travel	2 352.44	
Visa fees and other expenditure	460.93	
Night classes (Kobe Union Church, Japan)		1 740.11
Instructors' honorariums	1 218.08	
Electricity and water	522.03	
Kishore Shah, United Kingdom		1 450.09
McCoy, Louise, United Kingdom		175.91
Seed Foundation, United States		21 751.35
Administrative expenses		9 717.54
Mess	1 615.94	
Other expenses	1 678.17	
Printing and stationary	308.45	
Postage and courier	1.07	
Salaries	5 524.84	
Newspapers and periodicals	62.53	
Telephone	526.54	
Meeting expenses		326.97
Utilities		152.72
Oil and petrol, travel expenses		1 046.57
Bank loan		763.07
Repair and maintenance		1 781.32

Expenditures

Website update	217.51
Consultancy expenses	2 610.16
Computer purchase	681.54
Vimal Kumar Jain	2 900.18
Bank charges and interest	18.02
Cash and bank balance	23 199.35
Total	120 453.30

Relations with other international organizations

12. Gram Bharati Samiti holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Publications

13. Gram Bharati Samiti publishes an annual report and a women's empowerment report, available at www.gbsjaipur.org (accessed 3 October 2018).

Liaison

14. Liaison with UNCTAD will be carried out by the following official:

Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum
President, Gram Bharati Samiti
Cell: 091661 44290
Email: bskusum@gmail.com; gbsbsk@sancharnet.in

Address

15. Headquarters or legal address:

Gram Bharati Samiti
Amber Bhawan, Amer
Jaipur 302028, India
Phone: 91 141 2531242
Fax: 91 141 2530719
Email: gbsbsk@sancharnet.in
Website: www.gbsjaipur.org

Language

16. The working language of Gram Bharati Samiti is English.
