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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
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Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda

INCLUSION OF A NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
IN THE REGISTER IN CONFORMITY WITH DECISION 43 (VII)  
OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), a national non-governmental organization, recently applied for inclusion in the Register of such bodies provided for under Board decision 43 (VII), sections III and IV.
2. After consultations with the member State concerned, the Secretary-General has included CUTS in the Register in accordance with Board decision 43 (VII).
3. Information concerning CUTS is annexed to this note.

## Annex

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY

#### History

1. CUTS originated in Rajasthan, India, from a rural development communication initiative in 1983 at a time when the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 was amended to include unfair trade practices. This provoked a group of concerned citizens to form and launch CUTS on 15 March 1984, the World Consumer Rights Day. CUTS was formally registered on 11 June 1984.

#### Aims and objectives

2. The purpose of CUTS is to pursue social justice and economic equity within and across borders with "Value for People" as its guiding principle. The areas of work are consumerism, health, environment, safety, trade and economics. According to article 3 of its Memorandum of Association, the principal objectives of CUTS are, inter alia, to: initiate and undertake schemes for the furtherance of consumer and public interest/welfare in India; promote, organize and assist measures for the availability of consumer commodities and services; study consumer and public interest/welfare problems and evolve remedies; publish studies, periodicals and reports relating to consumer commodities and services; undertake research and case-studies in respect of consumer commodities; disseminate knowledge and information and educate the public regarding consumer and public welfare problems on a scientific basis; advise the Government in framing and enforcing laws to safeguard the interest of the consumer and citizen; establish and manage laboratories for testing samples of consumer goods; assist in adopting and evolving standards for different types of consumer goods and services; cooperate with regional and international agencies, governmental or non-governmental, engaged in activities similar to those of CUTS. CUTS is a founder member of the Government of India's Technical Committee on Ecolabelling. In 1994, CUTS launched a South Asia initiative in the form of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, whose aim is to build up capacities of environment and consumer groups and media persons of the region in understanding the complex issues arising from market reforms and globalization.

#### Membership

3. CUTS comprises more than 1,000 life members from all over India. CUTS has created over 300 independent social action groups in India, which are its institutional members.

### Structure

4. CUTS is composed of the General Body, consisting of all life members, which meets annually, and an Executive Committee, elected by the General Body for a term of three years, which meets at least twice a year. The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the organization and has the power to appoint committees or sub-committees. The officers of CUTS are the President, Vice-President(s), General Secretary, Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and the Treasurer.

### Financial resources

5. CUTS is principally a donor-supported organization. Revenues are also derived from membership contributions and sale of publications.

### Relations with other international organizations

6. CUTS is affiliated with Consumers International. The Society also networks with several other organizations, including Pesticide Action Network and the International Coalition for Development Action.

### Publications

7. CUTS regularly publishes four newsletters, miscellaneous studies, reports, consumer guides and training manuals.

### Liaison

8. Liaison with UNCTAD will be maintained by the General Secretary, Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta.

### Address

9. Consumer Unity & Trust Society  
3-B Camac Street  
Calcutta 700 016  
India

Cable: CONTRUST  
Tel: (91 33) 29 7391/29 2786  
FAX: (91 33) 29 7665/76 2785

10. The working language of the Society is English.