United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
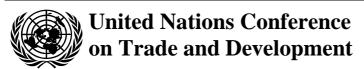
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Trade and Development Board
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 15–26 September 2014
Item 15 (c) of the provisional agenda

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

Application from the International Federation of Multimedia Associations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

The UNCTAD secretariat has received an application from the International Federation of Multimedia Associations (IFMA) 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.
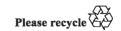
Having reviewed the information provided, the secretariat is of the opinion that, subject to the concurrence of the Bureau of the Board, IFMA may be classified in the special category under the provisions of paragraph 12 (b) of Board decision 43 (VII).

The Board may wish to take action on the above-mentioned application at its fifty-ninth executive session.

Information concerning the Federation is annexed to this note.

Annex

Background information on the International Federation of Multimedia Associations

History

1.   The Federation was established in Montreal, Quebec (Canada) in 1997, as a non-profit organization, in partnership with Canada Economic Development, the Government of Quebec[1] and Montreal International.

2.   The Federation hosted the following events:

        (a)   The International Summit on Highways and Multimedia was held in Montreal, Canada, in 1999, with support from Canada Economic Development, the Government of Quebec and Montreal International;

        (b)   The second International Summit on Internet and Multimedia took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It was held under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and sponsored by Etisalat, the Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and the Union National Bank, in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

        (c)   The third World Summit on Internet and Multimedia, founded and organized by the Swiss Multimedia Association, was held in Montreux, Switzerland, in 2002. The International Telecommunication Union chose WSIM 2002 as a venue in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, Switzerland;

        (d)   The fourth World Summit on Internet and Multimedia, sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Government, was held by the Beijing Xuanwu District Government in Beijing, in 2004, in cooperation with the China Council for the promotion of International Trade Beijing Sub-council, the Beijing Multimedia Industry Association and the Shanghai Multimedia Industry Association, Beijing.

3.   IFMA established a partnership with the International Network Committee on Multimedia and Digital Industry-World China Network Association (INCMDI-WCNA) in 2006.

4.   IFMA was a supporting organization for the third Forum on International Cultural Industries in Beijing, hosted by the Cultural Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and INCMDI-WCNA.

Aims and objectives

5.   The objectives of the Federation are as follows:

        (a)   Address multimedia and Internet policy and issues with a focus on global economic and social sustainable development strategies;

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[1] Ministry of Culture and Communications; Ministry of International Relations; Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy*;* and Information Highway Applications Branch-Treasury Board.

(b) Build a global network for international leaders and senior experts in multimedia and the Internet;

(c) Promote digital media innovation;

(d) Promote digital content in different languages;

(e) Promote digital arts and creation;

(f) Facilitate exchanges of technology, knowledge and experience between organizations, associations and institutes, and manufacturers and services providers in digital media;

(g) Develop international digital media opportunities and projects and Internet services.

6. IFMA works in cooperation with the following organizations: UNCTAD, the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; the International Organization of la Francophonie; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; Alberta Utilities Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It also works with international professional, industrial or commercial organizations and associations dealing with the multimedia and Internet from Europe,[2] North America,[3] Latin America and the Caribbean,[4] Asia-Pacific[5] and Africa.[6]

Membership

7. The Federation numbers approximately 200 associations in 50 countries. These associations are either small and medium-sized companies that develop digital and innovative technologies, services and content; academic research laboratories and institutions; or international institutions. This global network operates in a spirit of flexibility, integrity and respect for cultural diversity.

Structure

8. The Federation is composed of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board. The members of the Board were elected in China in September 2011 by the General Assembly. Since then, the Federation elects the members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board yearly.

9. The organizational structure of IFMA includes an academy and eight committees, as described below:

(a) The International Academy of Digital Media, a subsidiary body of the Federation, is supported by the IFMA International Advisory Committee. The Academy

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[2] Includes Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[3] Includes Canada and the United States of America.

[4] Includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago.

[5] Includes Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

[6] Includes Egypt, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

aims to establish an international network on digital innovation, digital arts and digital education, with a focus on the following three components:

(i) Top Innovation in Digital Media programme, launched annually in cooperation with Netexplorateur;

(ii) International Digital Arts Award, in cooperation with the Francophonie Digital Institute, Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences, International Digital Media and Arts Association;

(iii) International projects on digital education and human resources development, in cooperation with the Global Digital Business Association, the University of California at Los Angeles and the Digital Media Academy;

(b) The Digital Business and Services Committee deals with digital media parks, digital management, digital enterprises, public–private partnerships, investment and venture capital in new media, e-business, Internet services, e-banking, e-advertising and online marketing;

(c) The Digital Arts and Culture Committee has a focus on creative arts design. interactive media contents, online publications and the digital dimensions of music and audio technology, dances and performances, libraries, museums and heritage;

(d) The Digital Cities and Communities Committee works on issues such as digital cities and communities, e-government, digital home, digital lifestyle, e-health and e-pharmacy;

(e) The Digital Education and Training Committee deals with digital education, e-learning and training, and human resources development in digital media;

(f) The Digital Media Innovation Committee discusses issues such as digital media innovation, digital media research and development, digital media incubators, digital software, the Internet of smart things and digital media security systems;

(g) The Digital Game and Entertainment Committee focuses on game arts, entertainment software, mobile games, home video games, online games, games for entertainment and health, educational games and games for seniors;

(h) The Mobile and Wireless Contents Committee deals with wireless communication, mobile contents, mobile games, mobile marketing and mobile applications;

(i) The Digital Policy and Development Committee discusses issues such as economic and social development in digital media; the creative economy and digital media industry; digital policy, strategies and regulations; digital civilization; digital cultural diversity; digital intellectual properties; green electronics and sustainable development.

Financial resources

10. The Canadian and Quebec Governments have allocated the Federation a budget until 2004.

11. The Federation now has members who are working on a voluntary basis and are financially dependent on contracts it has in China. The Federation hopes to obtain more contracts for ongoing projects such as the International Festival of Digital Cinema and a vocational training programme, both in China.

12. The following table shows the statement of receipts and disbursements of the Federation and members' surplus for the year ended 31 December 2013 in Canadian dollars.

Items	2012	2011
Receipts		
IFMA Asia Pacific Centre	49 970	49 450
IFMA Summit, China	127 000	148 395
IFMA Summit, Europe	15 748	25 692
Foreign exchange loss	(1 408)	(1 061)
Total	**191 310**	**222 476**
Disbursements		
Costs, international speakers	43 330	56 052
Network development, China	24 997	34 553
Network development, Canada and international	41 498	54 412
Travel	49 466	42 375
Office expenses	6 884	7 705
Bank charges and interest	612	559
Total	**166 787**	**195 656**
Excess of receipts over disbursements	**24 523**	**26 820**
Members' surplus, beginning of year	34 075	7 255
Members' surplus, end of year	**58 598**	**34 075**

Note: 1 Canadian dollar is equivalent to 0.910498 United States dollar.

Relations with other international organizations

13.   IFMA was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in July 2004.

Publications

14.   The Federation publishes a yearly catalogue, including an edition on CD-ROM, of the Internet and Multimedia World Summit.

Liaison

15.   Liaison with UNCTAD will be carried out by Mr. Hervé Fischer, President of the Federation.

Contact details:

Mr. Hervé Fischer, President
International Federation of Multimedia Associations
P.O. Box 92039
CSP Portobello, Brossard
Quebec, Canada J4W 3K8
Tel: 1 450 659 8880
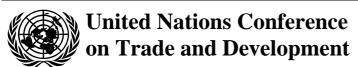Fax: 1 450 659 4881
E-mail: hfischer@hervefischer.net

16.   Headquarters address:

International Federation of Multimedia Associations
34, rue Saint-Paul Ouest, No. 01
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H2Y 1Y8

Language

17.   The working languages of the Federation are French, English, Spanish and Chinese.

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Corrigendum

Executive summary, paragraph 3

For fifty-ninth *read* sixty-first