



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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Trade and Development Board

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Cooperation between UNCTAD and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD has received a letter dated 14 January 2011 from the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) requesting UNCTAD to consider revising the status of the IPU within UNCTAD.
2. Currently, the IPU is included in the official list of non-governmental organizations with observer status, according to rule 79 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board. This status was granted by the Board in 1983.
3. In a report to the General Assembly in June 2001 (A/55/996), the United Nations Secretary-General stated that “IPU used to be classified as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Category I). This classification dates back to 1947 and no longer corresponds to the status of the world organization of parliaments...”
4. In its resolution 57/32, adopted in November 2002, the United Nations General Assembly decided to invite IPU to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer. In its resolution 57/47, adopted in January 2003, the General Assembly recognized the unique inter-State character of IPU and invited the specialized agencies to consider adopting modalities similar to those of the General Assembly for cooperation with the IPU.

* This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date because the agenda for the fifty-third executive session of the Trade and Development Board was approved on 28 April 2011 at the Consultations of the President of the Board.

5. In the light of the enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and IPU, General Assembly resolutions 57/32 and 57/47, and the request of the Secretary-General of IPU, the Board may wish to review the status of IPU in UNCTAD. To that end, it may wish to designate IPU as an observer international organization of parliamentarians.

6. The Board is invited to consider taking the following decision:

“The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/32 and 57/47,

1. *Recognizes* the unique inter-State character of IPU;

2. *Decides* to align the modalities for its cooperation with IPU with the practices of the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* to remove IPU from the list of NGOs having status with UNCTAD and to list it as an observer international organization of parliamentarians.”
