NEW MEMBERSHIP

Addendum 1

Note by the Secretary-General

In this addendum, the Secretary-General informs the Executive Council of developments that have occurred since the preparation of the main document.
NEW MEMBERSHIP

Addendum 1

1. On 19 May, H.E. Mr. Yury Sivakov, Minister of Sports and Tourism of Belarus sent a communication to the Secretary-General informing him that the President of the Republic has signed the text of the law adopted by the House of Representatives and approved by the Council of the Republic, relative to the ratification of the Statutes of WTO.

2. It is recalled that at its last session, the General Assembly through resolution 449(XV) gave the Executive Council the mandate to admit this State as a Full Member once the membership formalities have been fulfilled. The Council thus has the authority, delegated to it by the Assembly, to accept this State as a Member at its present session. This State is a member of the Organization of the United Nations.

3. On 17 May 2005, the Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the United Nations sent to the Secretary-General a communication from H.E. Mr. Frederick Audley Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs of this country, whereby his Government adopts the Statutes of the Organization and accepts the obligations of membership.

4. The Bahamas, a former Member of IUOTO and the WTO until 1979, can rejoin the institution without any further formalities. The Bahamian authorities, however, have indicated that they wish to rejoin the WTO effective 25 November 2005, the date of the opening of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. This State is a member of the Organization of the United Nations.

5. Barring further candidatures, the total number of Member States of the Organization will thus increase to 149 at the date of the General Assembly.