Seventy-fifth session
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Provisional agenda item 7(a)

FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A
SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) Participation in the system's coordination mechanisms

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General transmits to the Executive Council in the following
document the report concerning WTO's participation in the main coordination
mechanisms of the United Nations system.
FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms

Introduction

Following WTO’s transformation on 23 December 2003 into a United Nations Specialised Agency, WTO is participating on a regular basis in the coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system. This is in accordance with Article 2(1) of the 2003 “Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization” which states that “In its relations with the United Nations, its organs and the agencies of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization recognizes the coordinating role, as well as the comprehensive responsibilities in promoting economic and social development, of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations”.

At its 74th session, the Executive Council took note with satisfaction of the constitution of the “Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics” whose convener is WTO, expressed its conviction that this mechanism will enable WTO to play its recognized leadership role in the field of tourism statistics and requested the Secretary-General to continue to report in future to its sessions concerning participation in the System’s coordination mechanisms.

In the following paragraphs WTO’s cooperation with the main coordination mechanisms of the UN system since the Executive Council’s 74th session is described.

Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)

The CEB is the forum that brings together, under the Chairmanship of the U.N. Secretary-General, the Executive Heads of 28 member Organizations including the Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Trade Organization, and the various funds and programmes of the United Nations.

WTO was represented by the Secretary-General at the first regular session of the CEB held at the Mont Pèlerin (Switzerland) on 9 April 2005. At the session, the UN Secretary-General reviewed political developments with Executive Heads, briefed them on his report “In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all” and reported on preparations for the September 2005 Summit on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The CEB confirmed its intention to hold its Spring 2006 session in Madrid on 7 and 8 April at the invitation of WTO.
High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

The HLCP addresses issues of strategic planning, policy and programme development and implementation. It acts as a forum for inter-Agency dialogue and enables experiences on policy development and programming to be shared.

The Deputy Secretary-General will represent WTO at the Inter-sessional meeting of HLCP to be held at New York on 20 and 21 July 2005.

Among issues being considered by the HLCP are the 2005 Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration, Bridging the Digital Divide, Curbing Transnational Crime, Financing for Development and Conflict Prevention.

High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)

The HLCM acts on behalf of the CEB on matters affecting the administrative management of all member Organizations. It is entrusted with analyzing administrative management issues of common concern. Furthermore, HLCM identifies and promotes management reforms designed to improve services provided to member States and increase efficiency and effectiveness throughout the United Nations system. The HLCM also maintains a regular dialogue with staff representatives.

WTO was represented at the ninth session of the HLCM at Geneva on 4 and 5 April 2005 by the Director of Administration. On this occasion, the key agenda items related to: Dialogue with staff representatives; Security and Safety of Staff; Accountability and Transparency; Strengthening the International Civil Service; Information and Communications Technology; Finance and Budget; and Human Resources Management issues.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

WTO will take part in the substantive session of ECOSOC to be held in New York from 29 June to 27 July 2005. The Deputy Secretary-General will attend the High Level Segment devoted to “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals” from 29 June to 1 July 2005. The high-level segment, together with the coordination segment, will constitute a major input to the upcoming 2005 high-level review by the General Assembly of the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals and the global partnership required for their achievement. Furthermore, during the ECOSOC session concerning Humanitarian Affairs from 13 to 15 July 2005 a representative of WTO will introduce the report on its activities related to post-Tsunami recovery submitted under Article 7 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization.
ECOSOC has established various functional Commissions of which two are of particular interest to WTO, namely the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Sustainable Development. Both Commissions are regularly attended respectively by the Chief of the Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism Department and the Chief of the Sustainable Development of Tourism Department or the WTO liaison office to the United Nations in New York.

With respect to statistics, an Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics has been constituted and held its first meeting in New York on 3 September 2004. Members of the Group include the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO-Trade), the International Labour Office (ILO) and, of course, WTO which in view of its designated role within the UN System acts as convenor of the Group. The Chief of WTO’s Department of Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism took part in the meeting of the Group held in New York on 28 February 2005. Subsequently, he attended the session of the United Nations Statistical Commission also organised in New York from 1 to 4 March 2005.

**Inter-Agency Security Management Network**

The Director of Administration attended the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) meeting held at Glen Cove, New York from 11-15 April 2005. IASMN members warmly welcomed and expressed their full support for Mr. David Veness, the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, who assumed his duties as of 28 February 2005.

IASMN agreed that there were ten priority areas relating to Safety and Security, namely:

1. To develop reliable threat and risk assessment process, based on enhanced and expanded information networks;
2. To optimize support from host countries;
3. To focus on security as an enabler of United Nations programmes and activities;
4. To globalize operations and optimize security assets;
5. To strengthen relations with United Nations agencies, programmes and funds;
6. To better assist and empower Designated Officials;
7. To modernize the United Nations concept of security operations and update tools, taking into consideration new global realities;
8. To accelerate crisis management;
9. To advance the training strategy;
10. To strengthen internal and external communications within the security management system.
In the course of the meeting, WTO’s representative was able to raise with officials of the Department of Safety and Security the need to carry out a security audit of WTO’s Madrid Headquarters in order to ensure its conformity with UN recommendations and standards.

South-South Cooperation

WTO’s Special Representative to the United Nations in New York participated in the work of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation held at United Nations Headquarters New York from 31 May to 3 June 2005.

International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)

The WTO Chief of Personnel will attend the regular summer session of the ICSC to be held in New York in July 2005. It is recalled that WTO attends the ICSC’s sessions in accordance with Article 16 “Personnel Arrangements” of the 2003 “Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization”. On the same occasion, she will also participate in a meeting of HLCM’s Human Resources Network responsible for a wide range of staff issues.

Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

The JIU’s main aim is to provide an independent view of system organizations through inspection and evaluation. JIU aims at improving institutional management methods and enhancing coordination within the system. The Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the JIU visited WTO Headquarters on 23 November 2004 in order to meet the WTO Secretary-General and to discuss with WTO officials appropriate mechanisms for applying JIU recommendations at the WTO Secretariat.

Coordination Meeting convened by WTO

In decision CE/DEC/10(LXXIII), adopted in Hyderabad on 9 July 2004, the Executive Council recognized that “Coordination mechanisms serve, in particular, the important function of eliminating duplication and promoting complementarity between WTO’s programmes and those of other institutions”.

In this light, and having regard to the multi-disciplinary character of tourism, the Secretary-General decided to convene at Headquarters on 22 and 23 November 2004 a “United Nations Coordination Meeting on Tourism Matters”.

The aim of this meeting was to take stock of tourism-related activities planned or under way in other UN agencies so as, as far as possible, to promote synergy between the efforts of WTO and other institutions, to reduce overlap and to promote beneficial cooperation. The following United Nations bodies and agencies participated:
- United Nations
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Labour Office (ILO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- International Trade Centre – UNCTAD/WTO
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Heritage Centre (UNESCO)

The Coordination Meeting agreed that, in line with recommendations made by HLCP on this subject, a tourism coordination mechanism should be created. This would be open, allowing for the inclusion of additional agencies at any moment, depending on issues being addressed.

The generic objectives of the mechanism, which will function by means of collaboration between the CEB and WTO, include:

- a clearing house function;
- promotion of collaboration among actors;
- assurance of policy coherence;
- advocacy, especially in relation to sustainable tourism development;
- capacity building, especially in developing countries; and
- monitoring and evaluation.

It is the Secretary-General's intention to make reference to the existence and objectives of this mechanism on the occasion of the CEB session to be held in Madrid in April 2006.