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

(b) Acronym of the World Tourism Organization

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with decision 8(LXXIV) adopted at the last Council session, the Secretary-General informs the Members of the Council of the actions taken on this matter.
FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(b) Acronym of the World Tourism Organization

1. At the last session of the Council, the Members agreed with the Secretary-General's opinion that it would be desirable to avoid the confusion between the English and Russian acronyms of the WTO and of the World Trade Organization, and that decisions regarding this matter should be taken in the context of its new status as a specialized agency of the United Nations.

2. Moreover, it has been pointed out that any steps to modify our acronym should be identical in all the official languages of the Organization, without necessarily entailing the subsequent introduction of changes in practice in all the official languages of the Institution.

3. On 14 December 2005, the Secretary-General requested the authorization of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use a reference to the United Nations in our acronym. On 27 January 2005, Mr. Kofi Annan sent a communication to the Secretary-General indicating his consent to adding the United Nation's initials to our acronym.

4. Therefore, the Council is now in a position to take a final decision on this matter, although it may prefer to leave such decision up to the General Assembly.