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

(a) Participation in the system's coordination mechanisms
(b) Ratifications following from the Agreement between WTO and the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General transmits this document to the members of the Executive Council to keep them informed of the latest developments that have occurred in the follow-up of the transformation of WTO into a specialized agency since the preparation of the corresponding main documents.
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Coordinating role of WTO in tourism matters

1. Article 2 (Coordination and cooperation) of the Agreement between the United
Nations and the World Tourism Organization establishes the need for coordination
and effective cooperation among the different United Nations agencies and
recognizes the central coordinating role of WTO in the tourism sector.

2. The Secretary-General therefore sent a letter, dated 18 June 2004, to twenty
organizations to propose the holding of a meeting at Headquarters before the end of
the year.

3. The objective of this meeting would be to have an initial exchange of views on
the responsibilities of each institution with a view to identifying areas of cooperation,
achieving better coordination of the work carried out by the different organizations,
and also avoiding any duplication of efforts.

Ratifications following from the Agreement between WTO and the United
Nations

4. As indicated in the main document, the Secretary-General has sent the
Secretary-General of the United Nations three letters of acceptance relative to our
membership in the common organs of the system, pursuant to the Agreement
between WTO and the United Nations.

5. Mr. Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, Officer-in-Charge at the Office of the Under-
Secretary General for Administration and Management of the United Nations, on 10
June 2004, sent the Secretary-General a communication in which he took note with
satisfaction of the fact that the WTO had accepted the Statute of the International
Civil Service Commission, the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, and the jurisdiction
of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

Joint headquarters committee

6. The Secretary-General met in June 2004 with Mr. Luis Calvo Merino,
Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the Spanish Ministry for
Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

7. During this meeting, and following the established practice at other host states
of specialized agencies, the Secretary-General requested the creation of a joint
committee for the purpose of periodically dealing with all matters relative to the WTO
Headquarters.

8. The Secretary-General received a favourable response in principle from the
Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and subsequently confirmed this
request in writing on 17 June.