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Provisional agenda item 10(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 General Assembly in the following document the report concerning WTO's participation in the main coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system.

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**Introduction**

1. Ever since its inception in 1975, WTO participated to some degree in the coordination mechanisms of the United Nations. Specifically in the "Agreement on Cooperation and Relationships between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization", in force since 22 November 1977, WTO and the United Nations agreed (Article III 2) that activities related to tourism should be coordinated within the United Nations system by the Economic and Social Council, (ECOSOC), while inter-Secretariat coordination should be ensured through the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). Reference was also made in Article VIII of the same Agreement to Statistical Services, with the United Nations recognizing WTO as "the appropriate Organization for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of statistics within the sphere of the World Tourism Organization". This led to close and fruitful cooperation between WTO and the Statistical Commission (one of ECOSOC's functional Commissions) and resulted in recommendations on travel and tourism statistics prepared by WTO subsequently being submitted to the Statistical Commission for approval.

2. Following WTO's transformation on 23 December 2003 into a United Nations Specialised Agency, WTO is participating to a greater extent 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".

3. In the following paragraphs the main coordination mechanisms are described and WTO's participation during the period 2004-2005 highlighted.

**Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)**

4. 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.



5. The CEB has been functioning, as the successor of the ACC, under its present title since 2001. It holds two annual meetings of about two days' duration in the spring and autumn of each year. The meetings are articulated in three parts: a regular session, which lately has concerned preparations for the 2005 Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration; a private meeting for an exchange of views on recent political developments, and a retreat to help coordinate the work of the system.

6. WTO was represented by the Secretary-General at the CEB's first regular session for 2004 held at Vienna on 2-3 April 2004, the first time that WTO's Executive Head participated in the CEB. The Secretary-General also attended the second regular session of the CEB held at New York on 29 and 30 October 2004. Among the main issues on the CEB's agenda were the following: Staff and security; Strengthening the International Civil Service; Dialogue with staff representatives; the 2005 Review of the Millennium Declaration and Information Technology. As customary, the CEB Open Session (which was also attended by WTO's Special Representative to the United Nations in New York) was followed by a Private Meeting for Executive Heads only.

7. This year, 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 also 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)**

8. The HLCP addresses issues of strategic planning, policy and programme development and implementation. Its acts as a forum for inter-Agency dialogue and enables experiences on policy development and programming to be shared. The current chairman of HLCP is the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Mr. Lennart Bage.

9. WTO had already participated as an observer at previous HLCP sessions, being represented by the Deputy Secretary-General. WTO attended on 26-27 February 2004 the seventh HLCP session in Beirut as a full member of the Committee for the first time.

10. WTO was represented by the Deputy Secretary-General at the eighth HLCP session in Florence, Italy on 15-17 September 2004.

11. Among issues considered by the HLCP on its agenda were the 2005 Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration, Bridging the Digital Divide, Curbing Transnational Crime, Financing for Development and Conflict Prevention.

12. The Deputy Secretary-General also represented WTO at the Inter-session meeting of HLCP held at New York on 20 and 21 July 2005.

#### **High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)**

13. The HLCM acts on behalf of the CEB on matters affecting the administrative management of all member Organizations. It is entrusted with analyzing issues of common concern. Furthermore, HLCM identifies and promotes management reforms that will 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. Various sub-committees, or "networks", concerned with safety and security, human resources, information technology and budget and finance report to the HLCM.

14. Because of the pivotal role played by the HLCM, WTO was represented as an observer at most of the Committee's initial sessions held so far, and participated as a full member at its 6<sup>th</sup> session held in London on 8 and 9 March 2004. Sessions are normally attended by the Director of Administration who is sometimes accompanied by the Chief of Personnel. The current chairperson of HLCM is the Mr. David Waller, Deputy Director-General of the IAEA.

15. WTO was represented at the eighth session of the HLCM in Rome on 5 and 6 October 2004 by the Director of Administration.

16. WTO was also 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)**

17. WTO's participation in ECOSOC follows on from the practice established under Article III of the 1977 Agreement whereby the Secretary-General of WTO was periodically invited to report to ECOSOC sessions concerning tourism or issues affecting tourism.



In this regard, the "Global Code of Ethics" was, on 24 July 2001 considered by ECOSOC'S substantive session which recommended to the U.N. General Assembly to adopt a resolution taking note with interest of the "Global Code of Ethics" and encouraging WTO to "promote effective follow up of the Global Code of Ethics, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector". This draft resolution was, subsequently adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on 21 December 2001. Furthermore, as Members are aware, ECOSOC was closely involved in the process of WTO's transformation from a Related Agency to a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Now, given WTO's new status, it is to be expected that WTO will participate more intensively in the work of this body.

18. WTO attended for the first time as a Specialised Agency the summer session of ECOSOC held in New York from 28 June to 23 July 2004. The Secretary-General took part in the High Level Segment whose theme was "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010".

19. This year, WTO took part in the substantive session of ECOSOC held in New York from 29 June to 27 July 2005. The Deputy Secretary-General attended 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, constituted a major input to the 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 introduced 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.

20. 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. The 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission was held in New York from 2 to 5 March 2004 and was attended by the Chief of the Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism Department. It will be recalled that, in March 2000, the U.N. Statistical Commission endorsed the Tourism Satellite Account. It can therefore be stated that the role of WTO in this area is well established and its contribution to the work of the Statistical Commission ongoing.



21. The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was held in New York in April 2004 and was attended from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> by the Chief of the Sustainable Development of Tourism Department. It is recalled that WTO cooperated closely with the Commission and with the United Nations Environment Programme, (UNEP) in the celebration of the International Year of Ecotourism in 2002<sup>1</sup>.

22. WTO is following particularly closely the work of CSD in favour of small-island developing states because of the relevance of tourism to their economic and social development. Looking ahead, tourism is one of the themes scheduled to be taken up by the CSD in 2013.

23. Furthermore, as regards statistics, an Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics has been constituted and has 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 Group will meet twice a year and other Agencies as well as the UN Regional Commissions may attend. The objective of the Group is to prepare a multi-annual Work Programme, to identify themes to be studied and to determine respective responsibilities for each subject.

24. 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 regular session of the United Nations Statistical Commission also organised in New York from 1 to 4 March 2005.

#### **International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)**

25. The Secretary-General ratified the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) by letter dated 14 May 2004 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Accordingly WTO is now invited to attend ICSC sessions in accordance with Article 16 "Personnel Arrangements" of the 2003 "Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization". It should be mentioned that, following the visit of the Chairman of the ICSC, Mr. Mohsen Bel Hadj Amor, to Madrid in Spring 2003, WTO has been cooperating with the ICSC in carrying out salary surveys for both General Service and Professional staff in Madrid.

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<sup>1</sup> Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly pursuant to resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998



26. The WTO Chief of Personnel, accompanied by representatives of the Local Salary Survey Committee, therefore attended the regular 2004 summer session of the ICSC to present the conclusions of the salary survey for general service staff in Madrid conducted in April 2004. These conclusions were subsequently accepted by the Commission and the new salary scales are now being applied at Madrid by WTO and other United Nations agencies located in the Spanish capital. A salary survey for professional staff is scheduled for September 2005.

27. This year, the WTO Chief of Personnel also attended the regular summer session of the ICSC held in New York in July 2005. On the same occasion, she participated in a meeting of HLCM's Human Resources Network, responsible for a wide range of staff issues.

28. 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. 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.

#### **Meeting of Legal Advisers of Organizations of the United Nations System**

29. On 26 and 27 February 2004, the annual meeting of Legal Advisers of the Organizations of the United Nations system took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The meeting was chaired by the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Hans Corell. All the United Nations Specialised Agencies and many United Nations funds and programmes attended the meeting. Professor Alain Pellet, WTO's Legal Adviser, represented the Organization for the first time following WTO's transformation into a Specialized Agency. The deliberations of the meeting were essentially technical, but the WTO Legal Adviser, also took the opportunity to raise the subject of the difficulties resulting from the use by the World Trade Organization of the acronym WTO in English and BTO in Russian. The session chairman advised that this was a question concerning only the two Organizations involved and should be resolved by bilateral contacts. Whenever possible, the WTO's Legal Adviser will attend future annual meetings of UN Legal Advisers.

#### **Participation in other bodies**

30. WTO's Chief of Communications met members of the U.N. Communications Group during a visit to New York in April 2004. The aim was to increase cooperation with the Group, which belongs to the U.N.'s Department of Public Information, and to coordinate coverage by the various U.N. Specialized Agencies of the Millennium Development Goals.

31. WTO 's Chief of Publications regularly participates in informal meetings of sales officers representing not only U.N. but also Bretton Woods, OECD and European Institutions which take place on the occasion of major exhibitions and fairs. For a number of years now, including 2004, WTO has shared space on the United Nations stand at the Frankfurt Book Fair held annually in Germany.

32. The Chief of WTO's Documentation Centre attended the annual Inter-Agency meeting on "Knowledge sharing and Information Management" held at the United Nations in New York, from 20 to 22 September 2004. The meeting was attended by librarians, documentation and information managers from twenty-nine United Nations bodies and agencies.

### **Inter-Agency Security Management Network**

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.



### **Coordination Meeting convened by WTO**

36. 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".

37. 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".

38. 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)*

39. 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.

40. 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 stakeholders;
- assurance of policy coherence;
- advocacy, especially in relation to sustainable tourism development;
- capacity building, especially in developing countries; and
- monitoring and evaluation.

41. 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.

### **Conclusions**

42. The present document does not attempt to describe in detail each one of the coordination mechanisms in which WTO participates. In addition to the general mechanisms mentioned here, which come under the aegis of the CEB, WTO coordinates its activities with those of other Specialised Agencies and programmes of the United Nations which have an interest in tourism, in particular, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, WHO, FAO and the U.N. Regional Economic Commissions. These mechanisms were in many cases established several years ago when WTO concluded Cooperation Agreements or exchanged Letters of Understanding with the Agencies concerned.

43. Now that WTO is a Specialized Agency, it is assured of closer cooperation with other Agencies and programmes of the United Nations. As in the past, coordination mechanisms serve the important function of eliminating duplication and overlap between WTO 's programmes and those of other agencies, of pooling resources as to attain mutually agreed objectives and of ensuring that the Organization is constantly updated concerning new techniques, methodologies and approaches to programme design and execution.