



# United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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## Industrial Development Board

### Thirty-third session

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

**Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental,  
governmental and other organizations**

## Information on intergovernmental organizations

### Note by the Director-General

Provides information on an intergovernmental organization (Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation) that has expressed the wish to enter into an appropriate relationship agreement with UNIDO.

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of the guidelines issued by the General Conference in its decision GC.1/Dec.41 regarding relationship agreements, the present document provides in an annex information on the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC), which has expressed the wish to enter into an appropriate relationship agreement with UNIDO

#### Action required of the Board

2. The Board may wish to authorize the Director-General, in accordance with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, paragraph 9, to conclude an appropriate relationship agreement with AITIC based on the information contained in the annex to the present document.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



## Annex

### **Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC)**

#### **Historical background**

AITIC was established in 2004. It is an intergovernmental organization which assists resource-constrained countries in actively participating in international trade.

#### **Purpose**

Through the provision of trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building AITIC assists its members in promoting trade-led growth. The agency provides free, tailored assistance, focusing on the information and analysis of trade and development issues. A priority area for AITIC assistance is Africa, although activities also cover the Caribbean, Central America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

#### **Membership**

As of 31 March 2007, AITIC had 66 members of which seven are sponsoring and 59 are participating members.

AITIC is funded by Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

#### **Organizational structure**

AITIC functions through the Council of Representatives, the Executive Board and a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director.

#### **Financing**

The regular annual budget of AITIC is funded by contributions from the sponsoring members and by voluntary contributions. AITIC encourages voluntary contributions in cash or in kind from sponsoring and participating members and from other Governments, as well as intergovernmental agencies or private sponsors, in accordance with the provisions of the financial regulations of AITIC.

#### **Activities**

AITIC assists its participating members and other resource-constrained countries, especially least developed countries, in: the organization of seminars, training sessions, workshops and meetings, preparation of background notes, information briefs and ad hoc documents prepared on demand on topics relating to international trade and development.

AITIC also assists countries that cannot afford to establish and maintain a permanent representation in Geneva. AITIC provides officials from these countries with constant information on trade-related developments through briefing notes and background information. AITIC also provides logistical support and temporary office space during the process of setting up a mission in Geneva.

The current focus is on agriculture, industrial goods, services, rules and trade facilitation. Other activities are related to technical assistance on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, World Trade Organization (WTO) accessions, regionalism, trade policy reviews and promotion of public-private sector partnerships. Other development related areas in which AITIC is currently active and offering assistance are: implementation of the Aid for Trade and Enhanced Integrated Framework initiatives and economic partnership agreements.

### **Cooperation with UNIDO**

The fact that many UNIDO Member States are also members of AITIC enhances the potential for cooperation in several areas of common interest:

- Assistance to overcome supply-side constraints;
- Incorporation of trade into development strategies;
- Assessment of needs in trade facilitation;
- Promotion of transfer of technology and business knowledge;
- Support of environmentally-friendly industrialization;
- Involvement of the private and industrial sectors in the Aid for Trade and process of Enhanced Integrated Framework initiatives;
- Assistance to economies in transition to develop market-oriented trade networks.

### **Relationship agreements**

AITIC has observer status in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Conference on the WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.

AITIC has signed agreements with UNCTAD, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the International Law Institute (ILI).

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### **Head of Organization**

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