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Multilateral

Agreement establishing the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (with annexes). Seattle, 30 November 1999

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Multilatéral

Accord instituant le Centre consultatif sur la législation de l'OMC (avec annexes). Seattle, 30 novembre 1999

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Participant	Ratification, Accession (a) and Definitive signature (s)
Denmark	31 Oct 2000
Dominican Republic	1 Jun 2001
Ecuador	22 May 2001
Finland	24 May 2000
India	18 Feb 2000
Ireland	6 Nov 2000
Italy	3 Jan 2001
Kenya	15 Jun 2001
Latvia	27 Oct 2000
Netherlands	30 Sep 2000
Nicaragua	7 Jun 2001
Norway	6 Dec 2000
Pakistan	14 Mar 2001
Panama	26 Apr 2001
Peru	30 May 2001
Sweden	1 Dec 1999 s
Thailand	31 Oct 2000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	18 May 2001

Participant	Ratification, Adhésion (a) et Signature définitive (s)
Danemark	31 oct 2000
Finlande	24 mai 2000
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Irlande	6 nov 2000
Italie	3 janv 2001
Kenya	15 juin 2001
Lettonie	27 oct 2000
Nicaragua	7 juin 2001
Norvège	6 déc 2000
Pakistan	14 mars 2001
Panama	26 avr 2001
Pays-Bas	30 sept 2000
Pérou	30 mai 2001
Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord	18 mai 2001
République dominicaine	1 juin 2001
Suède	1 déc 1999 s
Thaïlande	31 oct 2000
Équateur	22 mai 2001

[ENGLISH TEXT — TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE ADVISORY CENTRE ON WTO LAW

The Parties to this Agreement

– Noting that the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the "WTO") created a complex legal system and elaborate procedures for the settlement of disputes:

– Noting further that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, and the countries with economies in transition have limited expertise in WTO law and the management of complex trade disputes and their ability to acquire such expertise is subject to severe financial and institutional constraints;

– Recognising that a proper balance of rights and obligations under the Agreement Establishing the WTO can only be maintained if all Members of the WTO have a full understanding of their rights and obligations thereunder and an equal opportunity to resort to the WTO dispute settlement procedures;

– Recognising further that the credibility and acceptability of the WTO dispute settlement procedures can only be ensured if all Members of the WTO can effectively participate in it;

– Resolved, therefore, to create a source of legal training, expertise and advice on WTO law readily accessible to developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, and countries with economies in transition:

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. Establishment of the Advisory Centre on WTO Law

The Advisory Centre on WTO Law (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre") is hereby established.

Article 2. Objectives and Functions of the Centre

1. The purpose of the Centre is to provide legal training, support and advice on WTO law and dispute settlement procedures to developing countries, in particular to the least developed among them, and to countries with economies in transition.

2. To this end, the Centre shall:

- Provide legal advice on WTO law;
- Provide support to parties and third parties in WTO dispute settlement proceedings;
- Train government officials in WTO law through seminars on WTO law and jurisprudence, internships and other appropriate means; and
- Perform any other functions assigned to it by the General Assembly.

Article 3. Structure of the Centre

1. The Centre shall have a General Assembly, a Management Board and an Executive Director.

2. The General Assembly shall consist of the representatives of the Members of the Centre and the representatives of the least developed countries listed in Annex III to this Agreement. The General Assembly shall meet at least twice a year to:

- Evaluate the performance of the Centre;
- Elect the Management Board;
- Adopt regulations proposed by the Management Board;
- Adopt the annual budget proposed by the Management Board; and
- Perform the functions assigned to it under other provisions of this Agreement.

The General Assembly shall adopt its rules of procedure.

3. The Management Board shall consist of four members, a representative of the least developed countries and the Executive Director. The persons serving on the Management Board shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be selected on the basis of their professional qualifications in the field of WTO law or international trade relations and development.

4. The members of the Management Board and the representative of the least developed countries on the Management Board shall be appointed by the General Assembly. The Executive Director shall serve *ex officio* on the Management Board. The group of Members listed in Annex I to this Agreement and the three groups of Members listed in Annex II to this Agreement may each nominate one member of the Management Board for appointment by the General Assembly. The least developed countries listed in Annex III to this Agreement may nominate their representative on the Management Board for appointment by the General Assembly.

5. The Management Board shall report to the General Assembly. The Management Board shall meet as often as necessary to:

- Take the decisions necessary to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Centre in accordance with this Agreement;
- Prepare the annual budget for the Centre for approval by the General Assembly;
- Decide on appeals by Members to whom legal support in a dispute settlement proceeding has been denied;
- Supervise the administration of the Centre's endowment fund;
- Appoint an external auditor;
- Appoint the Executive Director in consultation with Members;
- Propose for adoption by the General Assembly regulations on:
 - The procedures of the Management Board;
 - The duties and conditions of service of the Executive Director,
 - the staff of the Centre and consultants contracted by the Centre; and