

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

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Référence:

23 February 1996

**COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Communication from the United Nations Industrial**  
**Development Organization (UNIDO)**

In order to provide a better basis to consider the request for observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Committee decided at its meeting on 14 December 1995 to ask UNIDO for additional information on its specific interest in the Committee's work and on the contribution UNIDO could make in that context.

In a letter dated 25 January 1996 in response to this request, UNIDO expressed that its interest in following the Committee's work stems from:

- " - the implications of trade measures used for environmental purposes - including those pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements - on industrial policies and strategies of developing countries, especially LDCs, as well as on the competitiveness and performance of specific industrial subsectors and their enterprises;
- the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and requirements for environmental purposes relating to products; and
- the effect of environmental measures on market access (ISO 14000 and eco-labelling)."

UNIDO believes it could contribute to the Committee's work "by providing information and advice on environmental-related aspects of manufacturing, including cleaner production, waste minimization and conservation of natural resources and energy, especially in the application of international environmental conventions to appropriate industrial policies and strategies at the national level."

UNIDO requested the attached resolution GC.6/Res.6 from the sixth session of its General Conference, held in Vienna from 4 - 8 December 1995, on Environmentally Sustainable Industrial Development be brought formally to the Committee's attention. Herein UNIDO Member States emphasized the importance of closer interaction and cooperation between UNIDO and WTO in the area of eco-labelling.

UNIDO has submitted its 1994 Annual Report; the UNIDO Services Handbook; and the Task Manager's Report on Chapter 16 of Agenda 21: Environmentally Sound Management of Biotechnology, which provide a description of its relevant programmes and services. These documents and the original letter can be consulted in office 3025, Centre William Rappard.

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GC.6/Res.6

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

*The General Conference,*

*Recalling* its resolution GC.5/Res.6 and *taking note* of the report of the Director-General as contained in document GC.6/28, particularly Chapter IV relating to industrial and international environmental norms and standards,

*Being aware* that due to financial and technical limitations in developing countries, the application of various eco-labelling schemes in several countries within international markets may pose non-tariff barriers or marketing barriers to enterprises in developing countries,

*Bearing in mind* the various positive effects of eco-labelling such as enlightening and educational effects for environmental programmes of consumers, promotional effects for environmentally sustainable products, providing producers with incentives and environmental considerations as well as encouraging sustainable management of resources, while at the same time taking into account the cost-benefit analysis,

1. *Endorses* Board decision IDB.13/Dec.7;
2. *Further endorses* the priorities set out in document GC.6/28 and encourages Member States, in particular the donor countries, to increase funding of the priority programmes and projects identified in the same document;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to develop a suitable technical cooperation programme for the 1996-1997 biennium aiming to provide technical support to technical service institutions and standards bodies in developing countries so that they could effectively apply relevant ISO standards, including ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series of standards;
4. *Takes note* of the serious concerns of developing countries that the introduction of environmental labelling in the international trade regime could have a negative impact on economic growth and industrial development and could shift an additional economic burden on developing countries that would be detrimental to their competitiveness and comparative advantage in trade;
5. *Requests* the Director-General, subject to future international agreement on eco-labelling requirements, and in close cooperation with the competent international bodies, in particular the World Trade Organization, to provide assistance to developing countries to enable them to support the necessary adjustment of national industrial production and related services to the internationally agreed requirements;
6. *Further requests* the Director-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Conference at its seventh session through the Industrial Development Board.

*9th plenary meeting  
8 December 1995*