J. DENIS BELISLE APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/GATT

Mr. J. Denis Bélisle (Canada) has been appointed as Executive Director of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and by the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Mr. Peter Sutherland. Mr. Bélisle’s appointment is Assistant Secretary General level for a period of three years.

Mr. Bélisle has extensive management experience in the fields of trade promotion and of technical assistance to developing countries. He will have an important role to play in the development of the International Trade Centre whose mission is to help to promote the exports of the developing countries and the countries in transition.

Mr. Bélisle has held several important posts, both in the Government and in the private sector. From 1988 to 1991 he was Vice-President, Business Corporation Branch of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Prior to his appointment as Executive Director of ITC he has served as Ambassador of Canada to Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC) is the institution responsible for technical cooperation with developing countries in the field of trade promotion. ITC was created by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1964 and since 1968 has been operated jointly by GATT and the UN, the latter acting through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). As an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ITC is directly responsible for implementing in developing countries UNDP-financed projects related to trade promotion. ITC also implements trade promotion projects financed by donor countries.