

Background Note – Governance

Informal Meetings on a possible new Consultative Board

Prepared by the ITC Secretariat

1. The ITC Joint Advisory Group met on 4 and 5 December 2007 for its 41st session. Amongst other items, the Group discussed "ITC Governance Proposals" and agreed that "Discussions among interested parties on a possible new Consultative Board would be initiated by the JAG Chair in January 2008; pending agreement on new arrangements, the current governance structure would continue".
2. In accordance with the above, the Chair of the JAG, H.E. Ambassador Malloum Bamanga Abbas (Chad), convened an informal meeting at the ITC building on 24 June 2008 at 3.00 p.m. to discuss this issue further. The invitation was extended to all JAG members.
3. At the 24 June meeting, it was agreed to meet once again in September to continue discussions on governance on the basis of options that are to be provided by the Permanent Missions of Belarus and Pakistan.
4. A second informal consultation took place at the WTO building on 10 September 2008 at 3.00 p.m. The participants discussed various options presented during the meeting.

The options that were retained on the composition of an Advisory Board for the ITC are as follows:

Option 1: The Board would consist of 20 developing country members (four representatives for each developing region) and 20 donor country members, the Executive Director of ITC, one representative of UNCTAD and one representative of the WTO.

Option 2: The Board would consist of 20 developing country members (including LDC representation) and 7 donor country members, the Executive Director of ITC, one representative of UNCTAD and one representative of the WTO.

Option 3: The status quo would be maintained. That is the current CCGTF structure remains unchanged.

5. At the 10 September meeting, it was agreed that the options should be circulated to all JAG members (representatives of Permanent Missions in Geneva) with the request that comments on the options be returned to Elaine Bisson (bisson@intracen.org) in ITC before 3 October 2008. All comments will then be sent to a small working group consisting of the representatives of Belarus, India, Switzerland and the UK for further consideration.

For your ease of reference, please find below the weblinks to background documents on governance that were available at the JAG meeting in December 2007 and to the Report of the JAG meeting.

- ITC Governance Options (Incorporating outcomes of meetings up to 19 November 2007) – For decision by the Joint Advisory Group of ITC: http://www.intracen.org/docman/JAG_11130.pdf
- Background Note – Governance: http://www.intracen.org/docman/JAG_11134.pdf
- Report of the 41st session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group meeting (ITC/AG(XLI)/216): http://www.intracen.org/docman/JAG_11692.pdf

