

3 December 2009

39th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of the ITC Global Trust Fund Minutes

The thirty-ninth meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Global Trust Fund took place on 26 November 2009 with the following agenda:

- Agenda item 1:** Welcome and opening remarks
- Agenda item 2:** Draft terms of reference of the Consultative Committee of the ITC Trust Fund
- Agenda item 3:** Progress made by the informal working group on soft-earmarking of donor contributions to the ITC Trust Fund
- Agenda item 4:** Documentation for JAG, brief presentations:
 - ITC Strategic Plan 2010-2013
 - 2009 Preliminary Report
 - Consolidated Programme Document for 2010
- Agenda item 5:** Any other business

Agenda item 1: Welcome and opening remarks

The Executive Director, Ms P. Francis, provided the Committee with a brief update on developments. Since the last Committee meeting in July ITC had held meetings with recipient countries in October on the Consolidated Programme Document for 2010 and also had several meetings with donors. The ITC Regular Budget programme proposal for 2010 and 2011 had also been submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) of the United Nations in New York and would be submitted to the WTO Budget Committee in early December.

The Committee agreed that an informal working group on soft earmarking of donor contributions would meet with the ITC secretariat and report back to the Consultative Committee at its next meeting.

Agenda item 2: Draft terms of reference of the Consultative Committee of the ITC Trust Fund

The Director, DPS, Ms Eva K. Murray, presented the draft terms of reference. She noted that the Joint Advisory Group had agreed at its December 2007 session that a new ITC Trust Fund should be established as of 1 January 2008 and that the Global Trust Fund would continue in parallel to the new ITC Trust Fund until 31 December 2009. At the December 2008 Joint Advisory Group the role of the Consultative Committee as the oversight body for voluntary contributions to the ITC Trust Fund was confirmed.

In order to operationalise the ITC Trust Fund as of 1 January 2010, the terms of reference of the Consultative Committee had been updated and circulated to the Consultative Committee members and observers prior to the meeting. Minimal changes had been introduced to reflect the name of the Committee as the Consultative Committee of the ITC Trust Fund and to reflect the practical operations of the Committee as currently conducted. Ms Murray requested the Committee to consider adoption of the name change and the revised terms of reference.

The representative of China expressed his serious concern that China was not listed as a member of the Consultative Committee in the Annex to the Terms of Reference. He noted that China had not been informed of any change of status and that any such change should be done on a legal basis. He had reported the situation to his capital. Ms Murray noted that the Annex to the Terms of Reference reflected the composition of the Consultative Committee in 2007 as noted in the Report of the Consultative Committee to the Joint Advisory Group in December 2008.

Note: Subsequently, ITC has checked its records and the omission of China as member of the Consultative Committee in the Report to the JAG in December 2008 was an error.

On the Terms of Reference, the Consultative Committee agreed as follows:

NAMECHANGE:

“The Consultative Committee on the Global Trust Fund adopted at its thirty-ninth meeting to change its current name from “Consultative Committee on the Global Trust Fund” into the new name “Consultative Committee on the ITC Trust Fund”, referred to as “Consultative Committee” or “CCITF” with effect on 26 November 2009.”

ToR:

“The Consultative Committee on the Global Trust Fund adopted at its thirty-ninth meeting the “Terms of reference of the Consultative Committee of the ITC Trust Fund”, version of 26 November 2009.”

The Consultative Committee on the Global Trust Fund noted that the “General conditions for the implementation of the Global Trust Fund” and the “General conditions for the implementation of the ITC Trust Fund (ITF)” were adopted by the Consultative Committee by e-mail on 5 December 2008, as agreed at its thirty-seventh meeting on 6 October 2008.

Agenda item 3: Progress made by the informal working group on soft-earmarking of donor contributions to the ITC Trust Fund

Mr. Darius Kurek, Coordinator of the ITC donor group, informed the Committee that an informal donors working group has been considering different options provided by ITC management in order to improve the level of transparency of plans and reporting which will help toward predictability of funding. Whilst substantial progress has been made, no conclusions have been taken. The working group will make recommendation to next meeting of the CC ITF.

Agenda item 4: Documentation for JAG

Brief presentations of the three documents for the forthcoming JAG meeting were given.

The Committee gave an informal feedback on the documentation for the Joint Advisory Group meeting. The feedback included suggestions for enhancing the presentation of financial information in the CPD; questions related to ITC’s involvement in One UN programmes; requests for more information on ITC programmes related to the MDGs (particularly in poverty reduction, environment and gender in trade).

Agenda item 5: Any other business: Timing of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place in early 2010.