



Seventy-fourth session
Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, 2 and 3 December 2004
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Note by the Secretary-General

In this report, the Secretary-General informs the Council of recent developments in the composition of the Organization since the last session of the Executive Council.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

I. Admission

1. In a note verbale dated 30 September 2004, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the depositary of the Statutes of WTO, informed the Secretariat that **Australia** deposited on 23 September the formal declaration of its government, whereby it adopts the Statutes of WTO and accepts the obligations of membership. Australia, a former member of IUOTO and WTO, has therefore rejoined the Organization effective on that date, without requirement of vote. The confirmation of this return had been given to the Secretary-General during his visit to the country in early August 2004.

II. Application in progress

2. The Secretary-General on 27 August 2004 received a communication from H.E. Mr. José Teixeira, Secretary of State for Tourism, Environment and Investment of the **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**, which recently became a member of the United Nations, informing him that the Council of Ministers had just adopted a recommendation to join the WTO. This recommendation must be ratified by the country's National Assembly in order to initiate the necessary admission procedure, which could be completed by the end of 2004.

4. The Council will be informed of any other membership applications submitted or completed by a State between now and the Council session.