



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

NEW MEMBERS

Addendum 1

Note by the Secretary-General

In this addendum, the Secretary-General informs the Executive Council on the progress of the process undertaken by Timor-Leste to join the Organization, as well as on recent steps taken by the United Arab Emirates and Belarus toward the same end.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Addendum 1

Applications in progress

1. On 11 November 2004, the Parliament of the **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste** in a plenary session ratified the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization. The request for admission to the Organization will be made after such ratification is promulgated by the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Ray Kala Xanana Gusmao, and its publication in the country's official journal.
2. The General Assembly, at its next session in 2005, will therefore in all likelihood be called upon to ratify the candidature of Timor-Leste. It is recalled that this State is a member of the United Nations.
3. In a letter received on 24 November 2004, Mr. Saqr Ghobash, Undersecretary for the Ministry of Information and Culture of the **United Arab Emirates**, announced the interest of his country in rejoining the Organization. To this end he requested information, which was immediately sent to him.
4. It is recalled that the United Arab Emirates is a former member of the WTO. The Secretary-General has maintained constant contact with the country, whose return has up to now been impeded by internal problems having to do with the federal structure of this State and the existence of an accumulated debt with the Organization. As a former member of the WTO, the Emirates has the right to rejoin the Organization; its return would mean that the WTO's membership would include all the countries of the Middle East and the Arab-Muslim world.
5. In a letter received on 25 November 2004, Mr. Yu L. Sivakov, Minister of Tourism and Sport of **Belarus**, informed the Secretary-General that the country's Government had approved the draft law whereby the ratification of the Statutes of WTO is proposed, and that such draft law has been submitted to the National Assembly for approval. It is recalled that Belarus is a member of the United Nations.