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Seventy-fourth session  
Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, 2 and 3 December 2004  
Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

**FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A  
SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**(b) Acronym of the World Tourism Organization**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

Pursuant to decision 14(LXXIII) adopted at the last session, the Secretary-General presents to the Council Members a supplementary report on the matter of the acronym of the World Tourism Organization.

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1. At the last session of the Council, the Members agreed with the Secretary-General's opinion that it would be desirable to avoid the confusion between the acronyms of the WTO and of the World Trade Organization in English and Russian, and that it was important to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the Organization's newly acquired status as a specialized agency of the United Nations to clarify this matter.
2. The English-speaking Members, which are more sensitive to the drawbacks resulting from the similarity of the English acronym, lent their support to the solution proposed, which was to refer to the Organization using the acronym "*UNWTO*". However, a number of French- and Spanish-speaking delegations expressed their attachment to the current acronym in their respective languages, "*OMT*".
3. Moreover, it was noted that any initiative undertaken to modify our acronym should be identical for all the official languages of the Organization.
4. The Secretary-General therefore proposes that the Council request him to ask for the United Nations Secretary-General's authorization to include a reference to the United Nations in our acronym, following the procedure indicated by the Legal Adviser of the United Nations. It would be requested that we be granted permission to use the UN reference as necessary. This possibility would then give the Secretariat and the Members the freedom and flexibility needed to choose a solution suited to each of the different languages of the WTO.