

# **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

RESTRICTED

**WT/BFA/66**

8 July 2002

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## **Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration**

### **UPDATE TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF 2002 OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (2003)**

1. In compliance with the decision of the General Council of 10 February 2003 (document WT/GC/M/78), an updated report on the developments in 2003 of the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration is hereby submitted.

2. It will be recalled that the Committee met formally and informally on a number of occasions and has presented report WT/BFA/64 to the General Council in March 2003, and will submit report WT/BFA/65 to the General Council in July 2003.<sup>1</sup> The main developments are as follows:

#### **I. ON-GOING RESPONSIBILITIES**

3. The Committee monitored on a regular basis the financial and budgetary situation of the Organization, the receipt of contributions including the implementation of the related schemes and measures pertaining to receipt of contributions. It formulated recommendations to the General Council on assessments to the budget and advance to the Working Capital Fund subsequent to the accession of two new Members. It considered elements related to personnel management and heard progress reports on the WTO Pension Plan.

#### **II. MAJOR AREAS OF ACTIVITIES**

##### **A. WTO SALARY METHODOLOGY**

4. Further to the decision by the General Council of 13 December 2002 (WT/GC/M/77), the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration examined the salary methodology to be adopted by the WTO for future salary adjustments, and made recommendations to this effect to the General Council, which adopted them on 15 May 2003.

##### **B. CONSOLIDATION OF LONGTERM TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE IN REGULAR BUDGET**

5. In the course of the deliberations of the Budget Proposals for 2002, the Committee was apprised of the question of improving the conditions of service for temporary staff with more than four years of continuous service. The Committee continued its examination of the issue and made a recommendation, which will be submitted to the General Council at its next meeting.

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<sup>1</sup>Reports: WT/BFA/64 covering the decision on the WTO Salary Methodology; and WT/BFA/65 covering the meetings from January to May 2003.

C. BIENNIAL BUDGET

6. The Committee undertook an examination on the possibility of moving to a biennial budgeting cycle. The Committee will continue to deliberate on the feasibility and timing of such a move.

D. CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION FROM A NON-GOVERNMENTAL DONOR

7. In compliance with the guidelines governing the process of acceptance of voluntary contributions, gifts or donations from non-Governmental donors (document WT/L/386), the Committee examined a proposed donation from a foundation, and decided that the Director-General could accept it.

E. OTHER ITEMS

8. The Committee also discussed and/or was informed about the following points in the various meetings: (i) the 2004 budget forecast of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WT, (ii) the situation of contributions for the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), and (iii) the Trust Fund to facilitate the participation of least developed countries in the Ministerial Conference at Cancun.

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