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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Note by the Executive Secretary

In its report to the Economic and Social Council (E/PC/T/117.Rev.1.) the Preparatory Committee has recommended that certain governments not Members of the United Nations should be invited to participate in the World Conference. The question arises, whether it would not now be appropriate, in the light of that recommendation (a) to inform these governments that the Preparatory Committee would permit their representatives to attend the Committee meetings as observers and (b) to make available to these governments the restricted documents of the Preparatory Committee.

There are strong arguments in favour of this course, as in the event that the Council approves the Committee's recommendation, it is desirable that the governments concerned should be put in the same position in preparing for the Conference as the "United Nations" governments which will be invited. Moreover, the Preparatory Committee would not be differing from the Council's practice in taking such a step, in that the discussions of the Council are held in public and representatives of any government are therefore in a position to observe the proceedings.

The Preparatory Committee has in fact imposed a somewhat stricter procedure, but it is open to the Committee to relax this procedure as it sees fit. It is also considered that the Committee will not by this action in any way prejudice the decision of the Council on the recommendation, since notification to the governments concerned could make it clear that the invitation to observe the Committee's proceedings is without prejudice to participation to the World Conference and could be related to the various requests which have already been made by a number of these governments for permission to send observers.

If the Preparatory Committee approves this proposal, it would be necessary to amend Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure by deleting the words "but who are Members of the United Nations" in the second line.