



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Composition of the Subcommittee
on Multinational Enterprises**

1. During the 288th (November 2003) Session of the Governing Body, the Subcommittee discussed a paper providing information on the establishment, and evolution with regard to the size and composition, of the Subcommittee.¹ The appendix to the paper is attached to the current paper for ease of reference. A consensus emerged during the discussion that a greater balance was desirable for the purpose of ensuring an adequate representation of developing host countries. This consensus was reflected in the recommendation adopted by the Subcommittee that the Governing Body should consider how to achieve a better balance during the ongoing review of its functioning and structures.²
2. Following a request made by the Subcommittee at its sitting during the 291st (November 2004) Session of the Governing Body, further informal consultations have taken place on the subject. These seem to indicate that a consensus has emerged in the meantime that an expansion to 24 regular members might be appropriate to enable more host countries to participate in the discussions of the Subcommittee. Such an expansion would have no financial implications.
3. *The Subcommittee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that, when it decides on the composition and functioning of its committees for the period 2005-08, it establish a Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises with a membership of eight titular and eight substitute members from each tripartite group.*

Geneva, 12 January 2005.

Point for decision: Paragraph 3.

¹ GB.288/MNE/3.

² GB.288/11.

Appendix

Government members of the MNE (Sub)Committee 1979-2005

| Period | Regular members | Substitute members |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Ad hoc committee | | |
| 1979–1981 | Australia, Tunisia, USSR, United Kingdom, Venezuela | Côte d'Ivoire, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, Yugoslavia |
| MNE Committee | | |
| 1981–1984 | Australia, India, Italy, USSR, United States, Venezuela | Algeria, Colombia, German Democratic Republic, Madagascar |
| 1984–1987 | Australia, India, Italy, USSR, United States, Venezuela | Canada, Mongolia, United Kingdom, Upper Volta |
| 1987–1990 | Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, India, Italy, USSR, United States | Canada, United Kingdom |
| 1990–1993 | Australia, India, Italy, Peru, USSR (Russian Federation since 1992), United States | Canada, United Kingdom |
| MNE Subcommittee | | |
| 1993–1996 | Australia, Canada, India, Italy, Russian Federation, United States | Chile, China, United Kingdom |
| 1996–1999 | Canada, Italy, Japan, Namibia, Russian Federation, United States | China, Colombia, United Kingdom |
| 1999–2002 | Canada, Italy, Japan, Namibia, United Kingdom, United States | China, Guatemala |
| 2002–2005 | Italy, Japan, Kenya, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States | Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea, Mexico |