



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

## Board of Trustees Forty-ninth session

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### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) convened in Beijing from 28-29 June 2010 for its forty-ninth session.

2. The following members of the Board were present or represented at the session:

Mr. Lakhdar BRAHIMI..... (Academia)

Mr. CHEN Jian..... (China)

Mr. Simon COMPAORÉ..... (Local authority)

Ms. Shirley FRANKLIN ..... (Academia)

Ms. Geraldine FRASER-MOLEKETI..... (UN)

Ms. Radha KUMAR (Vice Chair)..... (Academia)

Mr. Henri LOPES (Chair)..... (Congo)

Mr. Valery LOSHCHEVININ..... (Russian Federation)  
Represented by Mr. Evgeny TOMIKHIN (Designated alternate)

Mr. Jean-Baptiste MATTÉI.....(France)  
Represented by Mr. Hervé DEJEAN DE LA BATIE (Designated alternate)

Mr. Nicolas MICHEL ..... (Academia)

Ms. U. Joy OGWIU.....(Nigeria)  
Represented by Mr. Adamu EMOZOZO (Designated alternate)

Ms. Anne Kristin SYDNES.....(NGO)

**Ex Officio:**

Mr. Carlos LOPES, Executive Director, UNITAR

**Secretary:**

Mr. Brook BOYER, UNITAR

**Observers:**

Mr. Bernard LELARGE, French Embassy

Mr. Artem MARDASHEV, Russian Embassy

**United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

Mr. Craig BOLJKOVAC, Manager, Chemicals and Waste Management

Ms. Sueli GIORGETTA, Manager, Knowledge Systems Innovation

Mr. Francesco PISANO, Manager, UNOSAT

Ms. Akiko PERONA, Acting Chief, Communications and Information Technology

Ms. Hang LI, Collaborator, Chemicals and Waste Management

3. The Chairman welcomed members to the forty-ninth session of the Board. The Chairman announced that in accordance with rule 15 of the Board's rules of procedure, he approved the designation of Mr. Hervé Dejean de la Bâtie as the representative of Mr. Jean-Baptiste Mattéi, Mr. Adamu Emozozo as the representative of Ms. U. Joy Ogwu, and Mr. Evgeny Tomikhin as the representative of Mr. Varlery Loshchinin. The Chairman also announced the presence of Mr. Bernard Lelarge and Mr. Artem Mardashev as the designated alternates of representatives Mr. Dejean de la Bâtie and Mr. Tomikhin, respectively. The Chairman announced that with the presence of 12 members, including the three members represented by the approved designated alternates, the Board had constituted quorum.
4. The Chairman announced that the Secretary-General nominated two new members to the Board: Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu from Nigeria and Professor Alfredo Valladão from Brazil. The Chairman welcomed the Secretary-General's appointments of Ms. Shirley Franklin and Mayor Compaoré for a second term.
5. Before giving the floor to the Executive Director, the Chairman expressed thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China for the kind hospitality, and to the United Nations Association of China for its support.
6. The Executive Director also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Association of China, and recognized Ambassador Chen Jian for deepening collaboration between UNITAR and China. The Executive Director provided additional information on the newly appointed members, Ms. Ogwu and Professor Valladão, and explained why the two new members were unable to be physically present in Beijing.
7. The Executive Director informed the Board that the Institute came close to meeting its 27 to 30 per cent growth target during the past biennium despite not receiving a EUR 2.2 million contribution from Spain. He indicated that the growth was testimony of the capacity of the Institute to meet challenges with flexibility and mobilize support. The Executive Director announced that with some \$18 million of the estimated \$25 million target already committed, and with some \$9 million already received, the Institute was on the way to meeting 2010 targets. In view of strengthening the Institute's autonomy,

he mentioned that the 2010-2011 financial targets would aim to attain 25 per cent of funding in the form of self-generated income by the end of the biennium. In conclusion, the Executive Director pointed the Board's attention to the panel discussion organized at the end of the session with the Counselor's Office of the State Council.

8. Ambassador Chen Jian expressed the honour of China to host the Board of Trustees and his satisfaction to facilitate the session.

**9. The Board took note of the welcoming remarks.**

10. Under item 2, "Adoption of the agenda", the Chairman invited the Board to consider the provisional agenda. There were no comments, and the agenda was adopted.

11. Under item 3, "Proposed organization of work", the Chairman proposed that business be conducted from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 on Monday, 28 June. For Tuesday, 29 June, he suggested that business resume at 9:00 (in lieu of 10:00) in view of moving forward with a discussion of the conclusions and recommendations to enable the Board to adjourn by 13:00. The Board adopted the proposed organization of work as announced by the Chairman.

12. The Chairman then introduced item 4 of the agenda, "Introduction of new members of the Board", and invited the Executive Director to take the floor. The Executive Director suggested that the Board may wish to move ahead with the next item as the two new members were introduced under item one. The Executive Director then expressed his appreciation to the two members whose terms expired on 31 December 2009, Ambassador Tõnis Nir, former Chairman of the Board, and Ambassador Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos. **The Board took note.**

13. Under item 5 of the agenda, "Finance and administration", the Chairman noted that the Committee on Finance met on 17 June 2010 to review the item's various sub-items, and that the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee were circulated to Board members. The Chairman then invited Finance Committee member Ms. Shirley Franklin to elaborate.

14. Ms. Franklin provided a summary of the Committee's conclusions. Under sub-item 5a, "Unaudited financial statements", she noted that the Committee was pleased that there was only a slight variation in income as was previously recognized by the Executive Director in his welcoming remarks. Under sub-item 5b, "Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions", Ms. Franklin noted that the ACABQ recommendations could be easily implemented by the Secretariat. Under sub-item 5c, "Update on the 2009 external audit", Ms. Franklin indicated that the Committee took note of the recommendations in the draft report and requested the Secretariat to provide a timetable for implementation and report to the Committee on implementation. Under sub-item 5d, "Risk analysis for the Bergen and Brasilia offices", Ms. Franklin noted that Committee expressed some concerns on the long-term funding implications for the offices, but mentioned that for case of Brasilia, funding was assured through a Memorandum of Understanding. After some discussion on this sub-item, Ms. Franklin informed the Board that the Committee took note and invited the Board to take note of the Secretariat's observations.

15. The Chairman then opened the floor for comments under sub-items 5a-5d. The Executive Director suggested that the Board consider the items and the Committee's findings sequentially. Under sub-item 5a, he recalled to the Board his previous remark on targeted income not materializing and suggested that no action was required. He further underlined that the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Biennium 2008-2009

expressed satisfaction that cash and term deposits on hand had increased from \$12.9 to \$14.1 million, and that assets had decreased from \$15.7 million to \$15.4 million due to re-evaluation of the Institute's IT inventory to better reflect real value.

16. In applauding the Executive Director and recognizing the financial performance of the Institute despite the morose economic climate, one member requested clarification on the possible consequences of the Spanish funds not materializing. The Executive Director noted that as a result, UNITAR had to postpone important IT investments, freeze posts and curtail or reduce activities targeting Latin America.
17. The Chairman requested clarification on the status of the Spanish funding for the past biennium. The Executive Director replied by stating that the Institute would be able to recover from the Spanish funding not materializing and opted to take a conservative view and not count on it, with the hope and anticipation that some of the commitments would be fulfilled based on the donor's satisfaction of a high delivery rate from 2008 funded projects and activities. **The Board took note.**
18. Under sub-item 5b, the Executive Director reiterated that the ACABQ recommendations were extremely light and mostly on presentation with few issues of any real substance. He attributed this to the Institute's introduction of results-based budgeting, with a budget document clearly reflective of this methodology.
19. The Chairman invited members to comment. There were none, and **the Board took note.**
20. Under sub-item 5c, the Executive Director mentioned that the recommendations as contained in the latest draft report could be grouped into three areas. In the first, he indicated that while the Board of Auditors cited progress on results-based management, the draft report observed that the Institute had only undertaken a performance reporting exercise for its programming function, and that a recommendation was issued to extend this exercise to all divisions, including the Support Services Department. The Executive Director mentioned that management had already planned on making this practice UNITAR-wide for the current biennium, and that the recommendation could be considered as simply taking note of what was intended. The second area was related to the outstanding service agreement with the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). The Executive Director underscored that the recommendation repeated an earlier recommendation which was under implementation. However, this time the auditors identified specific issues where UNOG-UNITAR responsibilities needed clarity. Finally, the third area was related to evaluating After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liabilities and the methods on calculating the value of the amount to be set aside yearly. The Executive Director stressed that the issue was problematic across the United Nations and that the recommendation would very likely appear in the final report, with the answers to be provided by the United Nations controller.
21. In commending UNITAR for having received a positive draft report, one member pointed out a minor issue that could possibly linger in relation to the lack of resources to conduct the internal audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and that it would be important for the Institute to avoid being disadvantaged as responsibility should lie with OIOS to resolve this matter. The member also noted a challenge on the annual leave that has accrued in terms of actuarial value, and that this could become a major problem.
22. The Executive Director commented that UNITAR has informed OIOS that the Institute can pay for the audit services. On leave, the Executive Director informed the Board that

the auditors clearly made a miscalculation and that this would need to be corrected in the final report.

23. **The Chairman proposed, and the Board agreed, to take note of the discussions and elaboration.**
24. Under sub-item 5d, Risk analysis for the Bergen and Brasilia offices, the Executive Director announced that the risk analyses list a number of important elements to take into account to sustain the offices. For Brasilia, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Government of Brazil and that the office was expected to be opened by the end of the year. He underlined that the issue of the Bergen Office was somewhat different as the office was not initially planned. Rather, the prospects of opening a project office materialized following discussions with city authorities and other local partners about the Institute benefitting from the satellite 'dumping ground' that Bergen offered. The Executive Director informed members that the Institute received a negative reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide financial support to the establishment and annual costs of an office in Bergen, and that UNITAR was studying ways of responding, since the correspondence affirmed interest in considering funding projects in the field of synergies between humanitarian emergencies, human rights and climate change and disaster risk reduction.
25. One member requested some clarity on what was expected of an office in the region. The Executive Director underlined the special case of Bergen, not because of its geographic location, but because of the benefits that the Institute's satellite imagery programming could obtain through the exchange of satellite data and cooperation with local expertise. Another member suggested that the Institute may wish to consider reapproaching Norway by indicating that satellite services would benefit developing country satellite and humanitarian agencies, and that such an argument could prove to be useful. A member asked what the consequences would be if the Norwegian government's response was considered final. Another member suggested consultations with Norway. Turning to the Brasilia Office, one member noted that he was pleased that headway was being made with the opening of offices in developing countries and the Brasilia Office could perhaps be a model for other developing countries. He asked for clarity on the complementarities the office would bring to the host country and the rest of Latin America, and indicated that he looked forward to seeing the first report of the office's programming.
26. The Executive Director mentioned that the Brasilia Office was based on tripartite negotiations with the Ministry of Planning and Budget, the Public Administration School and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. The office's added value would be synergy to internationalize Brazilian cooperation for Latin American and Portuguese speaking African countries with new training themes and training delivery methodologies. In relation to Bergen, the Executive Director acknowledged that in the risk analysis document, there might be the impression that Bergen is similar to regional offices since the document was drafted in view of differentiating the office from the associated CIFAL training centres for local authorities which are not fully integrated within the Institute's financial and administrative structure. In conclusion, the Executive Director underscored that there would be absolutely no financial risk and that if adequate support was not provided, the Institute's satellite programming would continue with its current work without expansion. **The Board took note.**
27. On sub-item 5e, the Chairman invited Ms. Franklin to brief the Board on the Committee's discussion on the update on the request for financing the Institute's core diplomatic training. Ms. Franklin noted that the request was considered and debated,

and that the request made by the Secretary-General for the General Assembly to provide a subvention was not approved.

28. The Chairman invited the Executive Director to elaborate. The Executive Director explained that this sub-item was linked to item 6 of the agenda, "Principles and new conditions for admission to core diplomatic training". In reference to sub-item 5e, he explained that while the outcome was not entirely positive, it was important to have brought the issue to a closure as it has been pending since the early 1980s. The Executive Director informed members that a proposal was before the Fifth Committee to provide a long-term loan, but this proposal was not accepted by the Executive Director as it would represent a financial liability which the Institute would not be in the position to reimburse. He noted that the final outcome could be considered positive, as it supports the Institute's Strategic Plan and new business model, as well as the creation of a fellowship fund to defray or reduce the costs of training to developing country beneficiaries. He said that during the course of the Fifth Committee's negotiations the Institute informed Member States that an unfavourable decision on the recommendation of the Secretary-General would require UNITAR to immediately begin charging fees.
29. The Executive Director informed the Board that there was discussion in the Committee on Finance to use the World Bank's categories of economies to distinguish between different levels of income within the large group of developing countries, and that this seemed to be a satisfactory solution, with the condition that the category listings would not prejudice the official list of least developed countries (LDCs) of the United Nations. In the short term, however, and given the time required to implement a pricing structure and payment facility, the Executive Director noted that UNITAR has taken an intermediary step to charge a flat fee to countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and that it has approached high and middle-high income countries to contribute to the fellowship fund. One member, without questioning the general strategy regarding CDT funding, raised concern about the interim solution proposed for 2010. He suggested that the matter should have been brought to the Committee on Finance before the session of the Board.
30. Referring to annex 8 of the Board's documentation, one member asked for some clarity on whether the fellowship fund should be defined as a multi-donor fund, and asked if this required multiple donor agencies to be on board in order to qualify. The Executive Director replied that this was not the case for UNITAR, in contrast to the requirements of other agencies, such as UNDP.
31. In reference to the same document, another member made reference to the list of donor countries contributing to core diplomatic training and questioned whether charging fees might raise a barrier for them to continue providing support. The Executive Director indicated that contributions from CDT donors thus far had by and large earmarked support for specific facets of CDT programming, based on language (e.g. French, Spanish) or specific topics (e.g. migration). He underlined that what no one wanted to fund was the core set of CDT activities, yet this was the most popular part of the Institute's diplomatic training curricula.
32. Making reference to item 6 of the agenda and the discussion of the Board at its past session, one member asked if new conditions for admission to core diplomatic training were required. The Executive Director replied in the affirmative, indicating that the Board had previously set conditions for the core training and that the proposed changes required formal approval by the Board in line with the Statute.
- 33. The Board took note of the update on the request for financing core diplomatic training.**

**34. The Board approved the principles and new conditions for admission to core diplomatic training as presented below:**

- i. Core diplomatic training shall remain a universal service open to diplomats from all Member States, with priority given to persons from developing countries, in line with Article VIII, paragraph 8a of the Statute;
- ii. Diplomats from countries with high-income economies shall participate on a fee-paying basis;
- iii. Efforts shall be undertaken to continue to provide core diplomatic training free-of-charge to diplomats from developing countries and other countries with medium to low income economies;
- iv. A fellowship fund, established in line with the Institute's 2010-2012 Strategic Plan, will enable the Institute to either defray or reduce fees for diplomats from countries with medium to low income economies, and from the least-developed countries in particular. The strength of the fund will determine the extent to which the Institute is able to defray or reduce fees.

35. Under item 7, "Progress on the implementation of the 2010-2012 Strategic Plan", the Executive Director indicated that the Plan was being monitored on a quarterly basis and that a number of targets have already been met under the four strategic areas, and that if requested, the Institute could provide details. The Chairman invited members to comment. There were none, and **the Board took note**.

36. Under item 8 of the agenda, "Proposed framework for performance evaluation of the Executive Director", the Executive Director briefly reviewed the performance evaluation process for UNITAR staff and proposed that the Board introduce the same process which includes a work plan with observations on the degree to which expectations were met, and that the Board may wish to entrust oversight of these responsibilities to the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

37. Although the Board appreciated the Executive Director's initiative, some members raised questions on whether the Board was competent or whether it would be appropriate to report performance to the Board, as proposed in the agenda item's annotation.

38. Citing relevant provisions from the Statute, the Executive Director confirmed that the Board is a governing body and that he has a number of statutory reporting requirements. He further indicated that there is currently no mechanism for performance reporting and, in line with the Institute's drive to strengthen its results-management framework, he believed all staff should have performance reporting requirements.

39. One member commented that the proposal appeared to be in conformity with the Statute, but noted that the proposal was not necessarily the only option that the Board could consider. Another member indicated that the issue was complex and that a simple solution should be sought.

40. The Executive Director suggested that as a possible alternative, the proposal could be left under review, and one member suggested that the Board may wish to nominate a member(s) to look into the issue in more detail.

41. To conclude discussion on the item, **the Chairman proposed, and the Board agreed, that the Institute would further study this item with all appropriate persons and/or entities in view of presenting a revised proposal at a later session.**

42. Under item 9, "the Institute's activities of the area of research", the Chairman gave the floor to the Executive Director, who reviewed the Institute's new structure and noted that each of the training units have been presented to the Board. He informed members that the Research Department deals with quality control mechanisms (Monitoring and Evaluation), cutting edge methodologies on learning and adult training in general (Knowledge Systems Innovation), and UNOSAT, in terms of its linkages to applying new forms of knowledge. The Executive Director also announced that a short presentation on the Institute's work on nanotechnology, including the partnership with research institutions in China, would be presented.
43. The Chairman thanked the Executive Director and invited Ms. Sueli Giorgetta to take the floor. Ms. Giorgetta presented an overview of the Knowledge Systems Innovation's main areas of work. She highlighted the unit's research activities on training methods and tools and technology-enhanced learning, following actions required by the Institute's 2007-2009 Strategic Reform Plan and the 2010-2012 Strategic Plan. Ms. Giorgetta presented UNITAR's wiki on training methods and tools, clarifying that it had evolved from an initially planned glossary of terms into a knowledge-based platform, which compiles also a number of toolkits, guidelines and templates.
44. In the area of technology-enhanced learning Ms. Giorgetta emphasized the launching of UNITAR's new Virtual Learning Environment in January 2010. She presented the main elements of the new learning environment and gave a brief demonstration of the pedagogical features. Ms. Giorgetta also presented some statistics for the first semester of 2010. She informed the Board that UNITAR conducted 34 e-learning courses between February and June, and had close to 900 participants. She also announced that projections indicated that the Institute will increase its offers of e-learning courses by about 54 per cent in relation to 2009, conducting 100 courses in 2010.
45. The Board inquired about the utilization of tools such as wikis on e-learning courses and on the type of instructional design adopted, particular in relation to interactive activities. It was clarified that the instructional design of a particular course is strictly linked to expected learning outcomes, thus there is quite a variation of learning approaches utilized within the various courses delivered by UNITAR. As regards the type of interactive activities most used, it was indicated that discussion forums, case studies (group work), and peer review are examples of learning activities reflected in some courses.
46. The Chairman thanked Ms. Giorgetta and invited Mr. Francesco Pisano, the Manager of UNOSAT, to present the Institute's activities in the field of satellite imagery and analysis.
47. Mr. Francesco Pisano indicated that UNOSAT has consolidated its leadership in applied research for operational applications of satellite technology in the areas of geospatial information, navigation and geopositioning. Today UNOSAT has an extensive global network of beneficiaries within and outside the UN system, divided into three groups: humanitarian aid and relief coordination, human security and monitoring, and territorial planning and capacity development. In 2009, UNOSAT registered a total of one million downloads of its maps on the internet. In the same year UNOSAT was called on to support 40 humanitarian crises and several development programmes worldwide. While UNOSAT draws its funding from earmarked contributions and project fees, it is still seeking predictable and stable un-earmarked funding from donors interested in ensuring the expanded availability of this technology of central importance to the international community.

48. Members acknowledged and praised the important role of UNOSAT in developing new applications of satellite technology for the UN family and its Member States. During the discussion several questions and answers clarified the links existing between the three main areas of applications on which UNOSAT concentrates (humanitarian aid, human security and territorial planning and capacity development). Members encouraged UNITAR to publicize the work of UNOSAT and its unique capabilities in order to inform the UN at large of this opportunity. In responding to specific questions, Mr. Pisano explained that the origin of data used for UNOSAT work is entirely commercial and that UNOSAT needs predictable and dependable funding to avoid interruption of service. He also commented on the user and beneficiary communities underlining the non controversial nature of UNOSAT work and the absence of sizeable risk in the way the information produced is used and handled by these communities, which is consistently in line with international agendas and responding to the objectives of international public goods. Members expressed interest in expanding the work on UNOSAT in new areas such as migration, collaboration with peace keeping operations, and monitoring of drug trafficking activities. One member underlined the importance of existing dissemination and disclosure rules in use at UNITAR for UNOSAT products and introduced the possibility that these rules be enhanced in the future to avoid legal issues.
49. The Executive Director suggested that Institute could prepare a document on such safeguards for consideration by the Board at its 50<sup>th</sup> session. **The Chairman proposed, and the Board agreed, to request such a document for its consideration.**
50. The Chairman then invited Mr. Brook Boyer, Manager of the Monitoring and Evaluation Section, to take the floor. Mr. Boyer provided a brief background and overview on the section, including its aims to strengthen the Institute's management efficiency, programme relevance and effectiveness, accountability and organizational learning. The manager indicated that the section works to accomplish these aims through conducting research and reviewing existing practices and approaches both within and outside UNITAR; proposing strategies, policies and frameworks for improved managing for results, taking into consideration the variation of UNITAR programming and the contextual particularities of the Institute; issuing guidance documents and tools; providing advice and support to programmes; and working to promote organizational learning and knowledge management. Mr. Boyer informed members that a new monitoring and evaluation system was being designed and implemented incrementally in line with the Institute's 2010-2012 Strategic Plan. He concluded his presentation by indicating that strengthening the managing for results capabilities through enhanced monitoring and evaluation will take time and is not without challenges.
51. Several members requested the floor to make observations or ask questions, including clarification on the levels and types of evaluation conducted by the Institute, and if the Institute conducts evaluations of its trainers and resource persons. One member mentioned that challenges, particularly the tension between mobilizing financial resources and managing for results could be turned into an opportunity to strengthen the attractiveness of its programming for the donor community.
52. The Chairman thanked the Manager of Monitoring and Evaluation and invited Mr. Craig Boljkovac, Manager of the Chemicals and Waste Management Programme to take the floor.
53. Mr. Boljkovac gave a brief overview of how UNITAR, as an organization that is recognized for its work with developing countries in particular, was requested by governments to partner with OECD to raise awareness and assist to build capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. This dynamic research area brings opportunities and

risks. UNITAR is working in partnership, particularly in China and other developing countries, to bring information and undertake South-South training and capacity building about nano to those responsible for environmental and health protection in countries. Pilot projects (including methodologies) commenced in September 2010 in Colombia, Nigeria and Thailand. **The Chairman proposed, and the Board agreed, to take note of the presentations.**

54. Under item 10, "Any other business", the Chairman invited Ms. Akiko Prerona, Acting Chief, Communications and Information Technology Section, to take the floor.
55. Ms. Perona informed the Board that UNITAR plans to organize a week-long event and a panel exhibition in the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, the largest exposition ever held with an expected 70 million visitors during its six month period. By participating in an event of this scale, UNITAR aims at raising awareness of the Institute amongst the Chinese public and an international audience. The Shanghai World Expo will not only be an excellent marketing opportunity for UNITAR, but also an important first step to establishing a new partnership or strengthening existing partnerships with Chinese institutions, governments and corporations by co-organizing events and possibly developing future courses together as a result of the expo. Efforts are put into raising funds at the programme and corporate levels to cover the costs of participation. Approximately half of the \$150,000 budget has been raised.
56. Members congratulated the Institute for its initiative to participate in the Shanghai World Expo. One member recommended that this should fit into an overall marketing strategy and UNITAR should exploit this opportunity to market itself. Moreover, it is logical to link companies who are already contributing to UNITAR activities for fund raising efforts. There were some concerns over the negative impact to the environment by an event this scale, even though most of the visitors are Chinese and many pavilions are built with recyclable materials.
57. The Chairman invited members to propose other items under any other business. There were none, and **the Board took note of the presentation on the Institute's planned participation at the World Expo.**
58. Under item 11 of the agenda, "Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Board", **the Chairman proposed, and the Board agreed, that the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Board would take place in Geneva from 31 January to 1 February 2011.**
59. The Chairman indicated that the Board had concluded its discussion on all items of the agenda. He expressed thanks to the host, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Association of China, for the hospitality and support which enabled the meeting to progress smoothly, and asked Ambassador Chen Jian to kindly forward the Board's sincere appreciation to the hosts. The Chairman then congratulated the Executive Director and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat and others for the efficient work and for contributing to a successful Board session.
60. One member took the floor and on behalf of all members congratulated the Chairman for his leadership.
61. The meeting was adjourned.