

1st minute = 160 syllables

The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** was established in 1964 as a permanent intergovernmental

body. **UNCTAD** is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment and development opportunities

of developing countries and assists them in their efforts to integrate into world economy on an equitable basis. Currently 191

nations are Member States of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. You will find the headquarters of this very important

2nd minute = 180 syllables

international organization in Geneva in **Switzerland**. The organization has a staff comprising 400 people and disposes of an annual budget of 69

million US dollars. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the **World Trade Organization** have set up an agency for technical co-operation.

This agency is called **International Trade Center**. The International Trade Center supports the economies of developing countries and **transition countries**.

They shall be enabled to realize their full potential for developing exports and improving import operations. The **technical cooperation projects** of

3rd minute = 200 syllables

the International Trade Center are carried out in all developing countries. These projects are undertaken at the request of the governments of the countries concerned, and they are

administered from the headquarters of the International Trade Center in Geneva. In addition to specific technical co-operation projects, the ITC **provides** services

from its headquarters in Geneva that are **available** to developing countries in transition. The International Trade Center's technical co-operation work is **coordinated**

with a number of other organs outside the United Nations' system. The International Trade Center maintains **a close liaison** with the United Nations Conference on Trade and

4th minute = 220 syllables

Development and the World Trade Organization for specific technical cooperation activities. The **center's budget** is funded by the United Nations and the World Trade Organization and finances

general research and development on trade promotion and export development. The International Trade Conference is a joint subsidiary organ of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

The broad policy guidelines for technical co-operation work of the International Trade Conference are determined by the governing organs of its permanent bodies. An Executive

Director is responsible for the management of the International Trade Center.

Staff at the ITC headquarters in Geneva numbers approximately 200.

Several hundred **consultants** are

5th minute = 240 syllables

assigned to projects of the International Trade Center in developing countries and economies in transition each year all over the world. On 1 May 2004 the **enlargement** of the European

Union has taken place. The enlargement of the European Union is one of the most important opportunities for the European Union at the beginning of the 21st century. At the same time

it is a unique, historic task to support the integration of the continent by peaceful means, extending a **zone** of stability and prosperity to new member-states. In March 1998 the European

Union formally launched the process that will make enlargement possible. It **embraces** the thirteen applicant countries. At its Luxembourg summit in December 1997, the **European Council**

6th minute = 260 syllables

decided that the enlargement process should **encompass** the European Conference, the **accession** process and accession negotiations. The European Union can already look back on a history of successful enlargements. In

1951 it was the Treaties of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community. The European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community were established in

1957 through the Rome Treaty, which was signed by six founding members: Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the **Netherlands**. Denmark, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland joined the European Union in 1973. Followed Greece in 1981. Portugal and Spain **acceded** in 1986, while Austria, Finland and Sweden joined in 1995.

7th minute = 280 syllables

Countries outside the European Union will significantly benefit from an enlarged Union. A single set of trade rules, a single tariff, and a single set of administrative procedures will apply not only just across

the existing member-states but across the Single Market of the enlarged Union as well. This will simplify dealings for operators from countries outside the European Union and at the same time improve conditions for investment and trade. - A recent study

of the Commission of the European Communities estimates that the enlargement of the European Union could increase the **growth** of the **gross domestic product** of the acceding countries by up to **2.1 percentage points** annually. Concerning the

budgetary consequences of enlargement, the framework has already been decided by the European Council in Berlin, and includes a **modest** amount for transfers to the Central and East European countries for the period up to 2006.