

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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REQUEST BY THE ARAB MONETARY FUND FOR OBSERVER STATUS  
IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS  
AND THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES

The following communication, dated 2 February 1995, has been received from the Director-General of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

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As you know the GATT Council of Representatives agreed at its meeting on 17 December 1993 to accord observer status to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) at the meetings of the GATT Council and the Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

In view of the entry into force of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a successor to the GATT as of 1 January 1995 and in the absence of automaticity of transfer of membership and observership status from the latter to the former, the AMF would like hereby to reapply for its admission as an observer organization to meetings of the General Council, Council for Trade in Goods and Council for Trade in Services in the WTO.

In support of this request I should re-emphasize that AMF's basic purposes include beside assistance to its member countries in the correction of balance-of-payments disequilibria the promotion of trade, exchange and payments liberalization and open markets at both the regional and international levels. Since its inception AMF has been endeavouring to promote a greater, active participation of its members in international efforts aimed at the creation and maintenance of a more balanced world trade system. AMF continues to firmly believe that the effective discharge of its mission in that respect requires *inter alia* following the work of WTO as closely as it did with regard to GATT. In testimony of this the AMF has recently, among several other related initiatives, organized jointly with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait a specialized seminar on the Uruguay Round and Arab countries in which WTO was actively represented.

I would therefore appreciate it if, on the strength of the above representation, this matter could be given favourable consideration at an appropriately timed meeting of the relevant WTO body.