



General Assembly

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Report of the Executive Council to the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. According to Article 19(a) of the Organization's Statutes, "The functions of the Council, other than those which are elsewhere assigned to it in these Statutes, shall be:

- (a) *to take all necessary measures, in consultation with the Secretary-General, for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Assembly and to report thereon to the Assembly*".

Moreover, Article 20 of the Statutes provides that:

"Between sessions of the Assembly and in the absence of any contrary provisions in these Statutes, the Council shall take such administrative and technical decisions as may be necessary, within the functions and financial resources of the Organization, and shall report the decisions which have been taken to the Assembly at its following session, for approval".

2. As the two aforementioned statutory provisions indicate, the Executive Council is required to report to the General Assembly on its activities, dealing both with the decisions it has taken in implementation of General Assembly resolutions and with the administrative and technical decisions it has taken between Assembly sessions.

3. At its thirty-fifth session, held at Cancun, Mexico, in May 1989, the Executive Council decided on the form and content of its report to the Assembly and adopted decision 21(XXXV) on this subject, which reads as follows:

"The Executive Council,

Noting that it is obliged, pursuant to Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Statutes of the Organization, to present a report on its activities to the General Assembly:

1. *Thanks the Secretary-General for the draft of such a report with whose general plan and content it agrees;*



2. *Requests the Secretary-General to complete this report in the light of the decisions taken by the present Council session and to submit it for approval to its thirty-sixth session.*"

4. Since this document reports on matters covered in decisions already taken by the Council, it is being transmitted for information at the Council's ninety-sixth session, to be held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, on 25 August 2013, immediately before the General Assembly session.

II. Sessions of the Council

5. Since the nineteenth session of the General Assembly, held at Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, in 2011, the Executive Council has held four ordinary sessions, whose dates and venues were as follows:

- ninety-second session, 13 October 2011 at Gyeongju, Republic of Korea (with Italy in the Chair)
- ninety-third session, 13 June 2012 at Madrid, Spain (with Kenya in the Chair)
- ninety-fourth session, 25 October 2012 at Campeche, Mexico (with Kenya in the Chair)
- ninety-fifth session, 29 May 2013 at Belgrade, Serbia (with Romania in the Chair)

The Executive Council will hold its ninety-sixth session at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, on 25 August 2013.

6. At these four ordinary sessions already held, the Executive Council adopted a total of 67 decisions, viz.:

- ninety-second session: 4 decisions
- ninety-third session: 19 decisions
- ninety-fourth session: 21 decisions
- ninety-fifth session: 23 decisions

III. Analysis of decisions taken by the Council

7. The decisions taken by the Council may be divided under the following headings: organization of Council sessions, statutory matters and elections, administration and finance, the general programme of work, ongoing and forthcoming projects and studies, and affiliate membership. Such decisions include both those necessary for the implementation of recommendations of the Assembly, pursuant to Article 19(a) and those of an administrative and technical nature which the Council is empowered to take between sessions of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes.

8. As classified, the decisions taken by the Council at its ninety-second, ninety-third, ninety-fourth, and ninety-fifth sessions are divided under the five above-mentioned headings as follows:

(a) Organization of Council sessions (agenda, dates of future meetings, votes of thanks)

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/1(XCII) | - CE/DEC/1(XCIV) |
| - CE/DEC/4(XCII) | - CE/DEC/19(XCIV) |

- CE/DEC/1(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/18(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/19(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/21(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/1(XCV)
- CE/DEC/23(XCV)

- (b) **Statutory matters and elections (reports of the Chairman and the Secretary-General, procedure and calendar for the election of the Secretary-General of the Organization for the period 2014-2017, membership, authorizations granted for the use of the UNWTO logo, UNWTO institutional image, United Nations system activities, Joint Inspection Unit recommendations, guidelines on the selection of venues of the Executive Council and General Assembly sessions, preparation for the twentieth session of the General Assembly, election of officers and report of the Staff Association)**

- CE/DEC/2(XCII)
- CE/DEC/3(XCII)
- CE/DEC/2(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/3(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/4(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/10(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/11(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/12(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/17(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/2(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/3(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/6(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/7(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/10(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/11(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/17(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/18(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/2(XCV)
- CE/DEC/3(XCV)
- CE/DEC/4(XCV)
- CE/DEC/6(XCV)
- CE/DEC/12(XCV)
- CE/DEC/14(XCV)
- CE/DEC/16(XCV)
- CE/DEC/22(XCV)

- (c) **Administration and finance (financial situation, accounts, contributions and administrative matters, human resources matters)**

- CE/DEC/6(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/7(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/8(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/9(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/8(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/9(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/8(XCV)
- CE/DEC/9(XCV)
- CE/DEC/10(XCV)
- CE/DEC/11(XCV)
- CE/DEC/13(XCV)

- (d) **General programme of work and related issues (programme of work, Programme and Budget Committee, technical committees on competitiveness and sustainability issues, UNWTO White Paper, World Tourism Day, implementation of an ethics function, information and communication technologies at the Secretariat, study on tourist/consumer protection, visa and travel facilitation)**

- CE/DEC/5(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/13(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/14(XCIII)
- CE/DEC/4(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/5(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/12(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/13(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/14(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/20(XCIV)
- CE/DEC/5(XCV)
- CE/DEC/7(XCV)
- CE/DEC/15(XCV)
- CE/DEC/17(XCV)
- CE/DEC/21(XCV)

(e) Affiliate membership

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| - CE/DEC/15(XCIII) | - CE/DEC/18(XCV) |
| - CE/DEC/16(XCIII) | - CE/DEC/19(XCV) |
| - CE/DEC/15(XCIV) | - CE/DEC/20(XCV) |
| - CE/DEC/16(XCIV) | |

9. In the following paragraphs, the Executive Council draws the attention of the Assembly to the salient decisions it took among the 67 enumerated above.

IV. Recommendation by the Executive Council to the General Assembly of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2014-2017

10. Having taken note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and its recommendations regarding the selection and employment conditions of executive heads in the United Nations system organizations, the Executive Council requested candidates to submit their candidature with all other information as specified in established procedures by the indicted deadline (CE/DEC/17(XCIV)).

11. Having complied with all established procedures, the Council held a secret ballot during its ninety-fifth session in accordance with the guiding principles for the conduct of elections by the secret ballot, noted that the ballot gave 28 votes to Mr. Taleb Rifai (Jordan) and recommended the General Assembly to appoint Mr. Taleb Rifai for the period 2014-2017 (CE/DEC/16(XCV)).

V. General programme of work and budget for 2014-2015

12. Having considered the draft general programme of work and budget of the Organization for the period 2014-2015 and the report of the PBC and considering the situation resulting from the application of a Zero Nominal Growth budget policy for the last six consecutive years, the Executive Council decided to continue discussions on the resources gap and proposed intervention and support from Member countries, with the aim of reaching a consensus on the programme of work and budget 2014-2015 before the 20th session of the general Assembly (CE/DEC/17(XCV)).

VI. Election of the Programme and Budget Committee members

13. Recalling the resolution A/RES/602(XIX) on the merger of the Programme Committee (PC) and the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) into a single committee—the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC)—the Executive Council appointed by consensus the members of the PBC until the 21st General Assembly to be held in 2015 (CE/DEC/13(XCIII)).

VII. Guidelines on the selection of venues of Executive Council and General Assembly sessions

14. The Council, having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the selection of venues of Executive Council and General Assembly meetings, considers that there is a need to balance the statutory requirements with the practice of the geographical rotation of the meetings (CE/DEC/11(XCIV)).

15. It decided that when the Council meets to recommend a nominee for the post of Secretary-General, the meeting shall be held at the UNWTO Headquarters and endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-

General to try to hold at least one meeting of the Executive Council at the Headquarters of the Organization in non-Assembly years (CE/DEC/11(XCIV)).

VIII. Implementation of an ethics function

16. The Council endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General to apply ethical standards at the UNWTO against the benchmark applied by the United Nations (CE/DEC/12(XCIV)).

17. It requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary agreements with UNOPS for the provision of these functions starting preferably on 1 January 2013, while keeping costs to some 30,000 euros per annum (CE/DEC/12(XCIV)).

IX. UNWTO institutional image

18. The UNWTO presented to the Executive Council the report regarding the new UNWTO institutional image and its application to the official languages, which was welcomed by the Council as the demonstration of the efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen the communication of the Organization (CE/DEC/11(XCIII) and CE/DEC/10(XCIV)).

X. United Nations system activities

19. The Council noted with interest the UNWTO's regular collaboration with various United Nations networks and mechanisms, as well as its participation in technical meetings of the system. It highly commended the work of the Secretariat in contributing to the Rio+20 process, which resulted in a bold political outcome document, "The Future We Want", and whereby "Sustainable Tourism" has been included for the first time in such an important global document (CE/DEC/6(XCIV)).

20. It applauded the unanimous decision taken by the UN General Assembly in adopting the resolution entitled "Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environmental protection" (A/RES/67/223) and further supported the work of UNWTO in this area (CE/DEC/6(XCV)).

21. It also commended the important work of the Secretariat related to this commissioned project of the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) and its opportunity to mobilize ODA for developing countries (CE/DEC/6(XCV)).

22. The Council encourages the Secretariat to continue its participation in the discussions and activities leading to the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda (CE/DEC/6(XCIV) and CE/DEC/6(XCV)).

XI. Protection of tourists/consumers and travel organizers

23. The Executive Council welcomed the activities of the Working Group and the Secretariat in the field of tourist protection, took note that the Convention will be complementary to other instruments that are being elaborated by regional institutions, such as the European Union, among others, and entrusted the Secretary-General to advise the Working Group to continue the elaboration of the text of the Convention taking into account the results of such consultations and to report on its progress to the General Assembly (CE/DEC/5(XCIV) and CE/DEC/5(XCV)).

XII. Technical committees on competitiveness and sustainability issues

24. The Council endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the two renewed committees on competitiveness and sustainability issues and approved the change in the names of:

- (a) The Sustainable Development of Tourism (SDTC) to “Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)”, and
- (b) The Market and Competitiveness Committee (MCC) to “Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC)”;

25. It also requested the Secretary-General to organize the first meeting of both committees in the framework of the forthcoming General Assembly (2013, Zambia and Zimbabwe) (CE/DEC/7(XCV)).

XIII. Human resources matters

26. The Council took note of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization and expressed its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in the service of the Organization. It also approved amendments to Rule 17(1) Special Leave as follows: “A special leave of up to eight weeks may be granted to an official in the case of adoption of a child”, and Rule 24(4) Age of Retirement as proposed (CE/DEC/13(XCV)).

XIV. Affiliate Members

27. During the period considered, the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership convened at each of the sessions of the Council to transmit to it its recommendations. The Council thus approved 26, 12 and 50 applications at its ninety-third, ninety-fourth and ninety-fifth sessions respectively, for affiliate membership, that is to say, a total of 88 which will have to be approved by the Assembly (CE/DEC/16(XCIII), CE/DEC/16(XCIV) and CE/DEC/19(XCV)).

28. Having heard the report on the integration of UNWTO TedQual Certified Programmes and the Knowledge Network within the Affiliate Members Programme, the Executive Council recognized the benefit that this proposal represents to all participating parties, UNWTO Affiliate Members, the Knowledge Network and the UNWTO.Themis Foundation, thus approving the above proposal for its ratification at the 20th session of the General Assembly (CE/DEC/20(XCV)).

XV. Thematic discussion: follow-up of the T20 meeting on visa and travel facilitation

29. The Executive Council commended the important initiatives presented by Member States towards facilitation of visa procedures and hopes that these can be used by other countries to advance in the same direction and requested the Secretary-General to maintain visa facilitation as a priority of work of the Secretariat and advance it through advocacy at the highest political level and the identification and dissemination of case studies.

30. It also requested the Secretary-General to engage in discussions with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to support the advancement of international benchmarks to harness technology in visa processing and issuing (CE/DEC/20(XCIV)).

XVI. Preparations for the twentieth session of the General Assembly

31. The Council took note of the report on the preparations for the twentieth session of the General Assembly and listened to the joint presentation made by both host countries (CE/DEC/22(XCV)).

XVII. Officers of the Executive Council

32. For 2012, Kenya was elected as Chairman of the Council, with Romania and Jamaica occupying the posts of first and second Vice-Chairmen, respectively (CE/DEC/3(XCII)).

33. In 2013, the chairmanship of the Council was entrusted to Romania and the Vice-Chairman posts to Jamaica (first) and to Mozambique (second) (CE/DEC/18(XCIV)).

XVIII. World Tourism Day: themes and host countries for 2014 and 2015 to be proposed to the General Assembly

34. The Council decided to propose to the General Assembly the host countries for the celebration of World Tourism Day in 2014 and 2015:

- **World Tourism Day 2014: Mexico**
- **World Tourism Day 2015: Burkina Faso**

35. The Council took note that the themes for World Tourism Day 2014 and 2015 will be proposed by the Secretariat to the 96th session of the Executive Council (CE/DEC/21(XCV)).

XIX. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

36. The General Assembly is requested:

- (a) To take note of the information presented concerning the Council's activities, and in particular the results of its ninety-second, ninety-third, ninety-fourth and ninety-fifth ordinary sessions;
- (b) To take cognizance of the major matters considered by the Council, such as the guidelines on the selection of venues of Executive Council, the implementation of an ethics function in the Organization, the implementation of a new UNWTO institutional image, the progress in the field of United Nations system activities, the renewal of the technical committees on competitiveness and sustainability, the integration of UNWTO TedQual Certified Programmes and the Knowledge Network within the Affiliate Members Programme, the results of the thematic discussion on the follow-up of the T20 meeting on visa and travel facilitation, and the recommendation to the Assembly of Mr. Taleb Rifai for the post of Secretary-General of the Organization for the coming period;
- (c) To approve the report of the Council;
- (d) To pay tribute to the dedication and competence demonstrated by its Chairmen, Kenya in 2012, and Romania, which occupied the post of Chair in 2013; and

- (e) To also thank the Vice-Chairmen, Romania and Jamaica in 2012, and Jamaica and Mozambique in 2013, for the quality of the work they carried out in the exercise of their functions.