



Executive Council

Ninety-ninth session
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 1-4 October 2014
Provisional agenda item 5(f)

CE/99/5(f)
Madrid, 7 August 2014
Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General

Part II. Administrative and statutory matters

(f) New membership

I. Application for membership

1. On 7 February 2014, the Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism of the Government of **Samoa** wrote to the Secretary-General to announce his country's formal acceptance of the UNWTO Statutes, with a view to joining the Organization as a Full Member. Samoa is a Member State of the United Nations.
2. In accordance with Article 5(3) of the Statutes, this request will be submitted to the next session of the General Assembly.
3. As the General Assembly, which is empowered to approve candidatures for membership of the Organization, meets every two years and by consequence candidates may have to wait months before being able to take part in certain activities of the Organization, the Executive Council at its seventh session (Madrid, Spain, 1977) recommended in decision 4(VII) that candidates whose applications have been notified to the Council receive certain UNWTO services, and be invited to technical meetings and, subject to the agreement of the Members concerned, the meetings of the Regional Commissions. The General Assembly at its third session (Torremolinos, Spain, 1979) established this practice through resolution 53(III).

II. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council

4. The Executive Council is requested:
 - (a) To take note with satisfaction of the decision of Samoa to join the Organization and to recommend the General Assembly to approve the country's candidature in accordance with Article 5(3) of the Statutes,
 - (b) To request the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps, in accordance with the relevant resolution of the General Assembly (resolution 53(III) adopted in Torremolinos, Spain, in



1979), to ensure that Samoa as a candidate enjoys certain UNWTO services, in particular, being invited to technical meetings and, with the agreement of the Members concerned, to the joint Regional Commission meetings of the CAP-CSA until the General Assembly approves the country's candidature;

(c) To encourage in particular the Secretary-General to continue his efforts vis-à-vis non-member States, with a view to their possible membership; and

(d) To request the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up actions taken regarding these different approaches.

Annex I. Letter of application of Samoa

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Office of the Prime Minister
Apia, Samoa

07 February 2014

Mr. Taleb Rifai
The Secretary General
UN World Tourism Organisation
Captain Haya 42
Madrid 28020
SPAIN

Dear Secretary General

Subject: Samoa's Membership to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation

This serves to confirm the Government of Samoa's intent in becoming a full member of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation in accordance with Article 5.1 of the Organisation's Statutes and obligations. It is also in accordance with Samoa's full membership status as per her admission to the United Nations Organisation on the 15th of December 1976.

It is in that context, that the Government of Samoa hereby formally adopts the Statutes of the World Tourism Organisation.

I look forward to your advice of when our membership candidature will be submitted to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's General Assembly.

Please feel free to liaise directly with the Chief Executive of the Samoa Tourism Authority, Sonja Hunter on hunter@samoa.travel if you should require clarification or to advice on when our membership fees will fall due.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tuilaepa Fatialofa'.

Tuilaepa Fatialofa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi
Prime Minister & Minister of Tourism
Government of Samoa

copy: Mr. Zolton Gomogyi, Executive Director for Membership Services, UNWTO
Mr. Aiono Mose Sua, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Ms. Sonja Hunter, Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Tourism Authority