Seventeenth session
Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), 23-29 November 2007
Provisional agenda item 1

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Items considered during the Technical Segment

Item 1

Adoption of the agenda (document A/17/1 prov.)

The provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly was drawn up by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5(1) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

Item 2

Appointment of the Chairman of the Assembly's Technical Segment

At the start of the Technical Segment, the Assembly will designate a chairman to preside over the various technical meetings (provisional agenda items 3-13).

Item 3

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

According to rule 13(1) of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure, the President proposes to the Assembly the nine delegates of Full Members who will compose the Credentials Committee, having regard to equitable geographical representation following the practice adopted at previous sessions, viz.: two for Africa, two for the Americas, two for Europe, one for East Asia and the Pacific, one for South Asia and one for the Middle East. The Committee is required to meet immediately after the first meeting so that it may submit its initial report to the Assembly at the end of the third meeting.
Item 4

Report on implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 2006-2007 (document A/17/4)

In this document the Secretary-General reports on the activities carried out by the Secretariat in implementation of the programme of work for 2006-2007, focusing on the following nine main areas. He also indicates progress in the evaluation of programme execution.

(a) Statistics and economic measurement of tourism
(b) Market intelligence and promotional techniques
(c) Sustainable development of tourism
(d) Ethical and social dimensions of tourism
(e) Improving competitiveness: quality, investment, trade, health, safety and security
(f) Education, Training and Knowledge Management
(g) Regional Activities, Cooperation for development and Poverty Alleviation
(h) Activities for the Affiliate Members: Business Council, Education Council and Destination Council
(i) Communications, Publications and Documentation Resources

Item 5

Administrative and financial matters

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization (document A/17/5(a))

The Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the state of the Organization's finances at 31 August 2007.

(b) Election of the Members of the WTO Staff Pension Committee (document A/17/5(b))

The candidatures of Full Members to serve as members or alternates on the WTO Staff Pension Committee for the biennium 2008-2009 will be referred to the General Assembly in document A/17/5(b)).
(c) **Linguistic diversity** (document A/17/5(c))

In this document, the Secretary-General submits to the Assembly, the requests received from member States to expand the Organization's linguistic diversity.

**Item 6**

**Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules**

(a) **Suspension of membership in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes** (document A/17/6(b)(c))

Under this item the Secretary-General transmits to the Assembly, in accordance with resolution 217(VII), a list of the Members subject to the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes, informing it of any developments in this regard since its previous session. The Assembly will also receive a list of the Members that have accumulated arrears equal to or exceeding four years' contributions and that could be liable to the provisions of Article 34.

(b) **Requests for temporary exemption from the application of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules** (document A/17/6(b)(c))

Under this item the Secretary-General transmits any requests for suspending the application of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules that may have been submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 172(VI), provided the Council has established that the delay in paying contributions is due to circumstances beyond the control of the Members concerned and these Members have agreed with the Council on measures to settle their arrears.

**Item 7**

**Draft programme of work and budget of the Organization for the period 2008-2009** (document A/17/7)

Pursuant to paragraphs (h) and (i) of Article 12 of the Statutes, the Organization's draft general programme of work and budget for the period 2008-2009 is submitted to the General Assembly for approval. This draft programme budget was prepared by the Secretary-General in the light of the findings of a survey of Members and in accordance with the guidelines established by the Council at its seventy-ninth session (Algiers, Algeria, November 2006 - decision 11(LXXIX). It was considered successively by the Programme Committee and by the Committee on Budget and Finance in May 2007 and recommended by the Executive Council at its eightieth session (Hammamet, Tunisia, 12-13 June 2007) for adoption by the Assembly. It will be the subject of a final review by the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Executive Council immediately prior to the Assembly.
Item 8

Assessment of Members' contributions for the period 2008-2009 (document A/17/8)

The Secretary-General informs the General Assembly under this item of the provisional agenda of the proposed amounts of the contributions of the Associate and Affiliate Members to the Organization’s budget for the period 2008-2009. An addendum concerning the assessment of the Full Members’ contributions will be prepared on conclusion of the eighty-first session of the Council, which will be required to propose to the Assembly the scale of assessments.

Item 9

Election of the Auditors for the period 2006-2007 (document A/17/9)

Under this agenda item, the Secretary-General submits to the Members a proposal to amend Article 15 of the Financial Regulations, which provides for the designation of two Auditors, so as to increase the number to three. The Executive Council’s recommendation of nominees from among the Full Members for the two posts of Auditor of the Organization for the financial period 2006-2007 will be conveyed to the Assembly in document A/17/9.

Item 10

Cooperation with the United Nations system

(a) Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms (document A/17/10 (a))

In this document, the Secretary-General reports on the participation of WTO in the different coordination meetings of the United Nations system.

(b) Joint Headquarters Committee (document A/17/10 (b))

Under this item of the provisional agenda, the Secretary-General reports to the Assembly on the developments regarding this matter.

Item 11

Approval of agreements concluded by the Organization (document A/17/11)

Under Article 12 of the Organization’s Statutes, the General Assembly is required to approve the agreements concluded with governments, international organizations and private organizations or institutions.
Item 12

World Committee on Tourism Ethics

(a) Report of the Committee (document A/17/12 (a))

Under this item of the provisional agenda, the Secretary-General informs the Assembly on the Committee’s activities since the previous meeting.

(b) Appointment of its members for the period 2007-2011 (document A/17/12 (b))

In this document, the Secretary-General presents to the Assembly recommendations from the various Regional Commissions for appointments to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics.

Item 13

World Tourism Day: information on the activities of 2006 and 2007, adoption of themes and designation of the host countries for 2008 and 2009 (document A/17/13)

The report submitted under this item informs the Assembly of the various activities marking World Tourism Day in 2006 and 2007 and proposes the themes selected for World Tourism Day 2008 and 2009, as well as the host countries designated by the Regional Commissions for the Americas in 2008 and for Africa in 2009.

Items considered during the Ministerial Segment

Item 14

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly

For the opening of the Ministerial Segment of the General Assembly, the office of President will be performed by the head of delegations of Senegal, the President of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, held at Dakar, Senegal, in November/December 2005. Under his presidency, the General Assembly will be required to elect its new President, in accordance with rule 16(2) of its Rules of Procedure.

Rule 43 of the General Assembly’s Rules of Procedure provides for all elections to be carried out by secret ballot. It is nevertheless recalled that the Presidents of the previous sixteen sessions of the Assembly were all elected by acclamation after consultations between the delegations, the head of delegation of the host country being traditionally chosen for this office.
Immediately after his or her election, the President of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly is required to assume office and take his or her place at the rostrum.

In accordance with rule 17(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly shall elect its eight Vice-Presidents who, together with the President, will be the Assembly's Officers. These nine Officers will be elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation, following the practice adopted at previous sessions, viz.: two for Africa, two for the Americas (one being the President, presumably), two for Europe, one for East Asia and the Pacific, one for South Asia and one for the Middle East.

Item 15

Report of the Secretary-General (documents A/17/15 and A/17/15 Add.1)

Under this item, and in accordance with rule 5(1) of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the Secretary-General submits his report on the situation of international tourism and the challenges faced by the Organization. An addendum will be provided on the situation of the Organization.

The ensuing general debate will take place at the end of the first plenary meeting of the Ministerial Segment (morning of Tuesday, 27 November), continue during the second plenary meeting (afternoon of Tuesday, 27 November), and conclude at the third plenary meeting (morning of Wednesday, 28 November). Heads of delegation that so desire may make statements on the problems and prospects of international tourism and the direction of the Organization's activities. In view of the time allotted to the general debate and of the number of delegations that will undoubtedly wish to participate, it is essential to limit the speaking time of heads of delegation to five minutes at most.

Item 16

Report of the Executive Council to the General Assembly (document A/17/16)

In accordance with Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Statutes, the Executive Council reports to the Assembly, for approval, on "all necessary measures" taken "for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Assembly" and on the "administrative and technical decisions" considered necessary and consequently taken by it between sessions of the Assembly.
Item 17

Report of the Chairman of the Affiliate Members (document A/17/17)

In this document the Chairman of the Affiliate Members reports to the General Assembly, in accordance with rule III(11) of the Rules of Procedure of the Affiliate Members, on their activities and on those of their various Councils since the sixteenth session of the General Assembly and on prospects for future action.

Item 18

Report of the Credentials Committee (document A/17/18)

In accordance with rule 13(4) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the Credentials Committee, after examining the credentials of the delegates of Full and Associate Members and the identification papers of the Affiliate Members and observers of organizations invited to the session, will report its findings under this agenda item.

Item 19

New Membership (documents A/17/19(a) (I) and A/17/19(a)(II))

In his report on this subject, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of changes that have occurred since its sixteenth session in the membership of the Organization. Particular reference is made to admissions to full and affiliate membership, which the Assembly will be required to consider in accordance with Articles 5, and 7 of the Statutes and rules 49 and 50 of its Rules of Procedure.

Item 20

Risk assessment and management status report (document A/17/20)

In accordance with decision 14(LXXVIII), the Secretary-General presents to the Council his report on risk assessment and management. He also reports on the results of the avian flu crisis simulation exercise for Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.
Item 21

Status report on the quality policy of destinations and establishment of the World Center of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal (document A/17/21)

The Secretary-General reports to the Members on activities undertaken in this regard, as well as the establishment of the World Center of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal.

Item 22


In accordance with resolution 503(XVI), the Secretary-General reports to the Council on the progress made with a view to the implementation of this Programme on poverty reduction through sustainable tourism.

Item 23

Tourism and climate change (document A/17/23)

The Secretary-General presents to the Assembly this guidance paper on the subject of the interaction between tourism development and climate warming, which provides the necessary information for deliberation on the UNWTO’s position regarding this important subject for the entire United Nations system and the outlook for UNWTO action based on the conclusions of the Davos Conference and the Ministerial Summit in London.

Item 24

Acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (document A/17/24)

In this document, the Secretary-General reports on the steps taken for the application of this Convention to our Institution.

Item 25

Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General (documents A/17/25 and A/17/25 Add.1)

In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 512(XVI) adopted at the last session of the General Assembly, the Members of the Council will find in this document a summary of the suggestions and comments received from the Members regarding this subject. Members will also be informed on the results of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group set up by the Executive Council at its last session.
Item 26

Report of the Working Group entrusted to study the feasibility of a legal instrument to deal with the facilitation of tourist travel (documents A/17/26 and A/17/26 Add.1)

In this document, the Secretary-General informs the Members of the Council of the outcome of the first meeting of the Working Group, held at the Headquarters on 25 April 2007, in accordance with decision 3(LXXIX) of the Council. The results of the second meeting scheduled in connection with the General Assembly will be presented in an addendum.

Item 27

Election of Council Members (document A/17/27)

In document A/17/23 the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of the present membership of the Executive Council, the geographical distribution of its seats among the six regions of the Organization, the number of seats to be allotted to each region for the election of half the Members of the Executive Council and of the candidatures received by the Secretariat.

Pursuant to rules 54 and 55 of its Rules of Procedure, the Assembly is required to elect, by secret ballot, half the Members of the Executive Council, bearing in mind, the recommendation of the Executive Council in its decision 26(XXXV) not to elect as Members of the Executive Council States subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules and Article 34 of the Statutes.

Item 28

Place and dates of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly (document A/17/28)

The place and dates of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly must be decided by the General Assembly at its sixteenth session in accordance with rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure.

This rule provides that the Assembly shall meet at Headquarters every two years. It may meet elsewhere if the Assembly so decides, provided the host country defrays the expenses involved in holding the session away from Headquarters.

This document also reports on candidatures received for hosting that session.