Seventeenth session
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 22-29 November 2007
Provisional agenda item 12 (b)

THE WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

(b) Appointment of its members for the period 2007-2011

Note by the Secretary-General

In this document, the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly, for its endorsement, the new composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, along with a proposal for a staggering of the renewal of the seats of the Committee for the subsequent composition. The Secretary-General also informs the Assembly of the name of the candidate he proposes as next Chairman of the Committee.
THE WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

(b) Appointment of its members for the period 2007-2011

1. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics holds its foundation in The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism which was adopted, by consensus, in 1999 by the General Assembly of Santiago de Chile. The provisions governing the appointment of its members and the operation of the Committee are laid down in the Protocol of Implementation of the Code (Part I), as approved by General Assembly resolutions A/RES/438(XIV) of 2001 and A/RES/469(XV) of 2003.

2. According to the Protocol of Implementation, the members of the World Committee are eminent persons, independent of governments and who are appointed in a personal capacity.

3. The Committee comprises eleven Committee members and their eleven alternates who are nominated and designated by their respective constituencies, the Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of the Organization. The Chairperson of the Committee is elected by the members of the Committee upon proposal of the Secretary-General, after informing the Executive Council and the General Assembly of the proposed candidate.

Members of the Committee

4. The nomination and election of the new members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the period 2007-2011\(^1\) took place during the first semester of 2007, in compliance with the terms stipulated in the above mentioned Protocol.

5. The six UNWTO Regional Commissions proceeded with the election or designation of six Committee members and their six alternates at their meetings held during the first half of 2007. From among the nominations received from the Affiliate Members, four Committee members and their four alternates were designated following consultations held between the Chairmen of both the Executive Council and the Affiliate Members on the occasion of the Executive Council meeting in Tunis (June 2007). As refers to the Associate Members, two nominations were received corresponding to one Committee member and one alternate.

6. The composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the period 2007-2011 (Annex 1) is submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement.

\(^1\) The term of office of members of the Committee for the period 2007-2011 covers the period between the seventeenth and the nineteenth sessions of the General Assembly (November 2007 to October/November 2011).
Chairman of the Committee

7. The Secretary-General expresses his sincere gratitude to Mr Diego Cordovez (Ecuador), first Chairman of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, for the outstanding work the Committee has accomplished under his able leadership during these last four years, in particular, by setting a sound basis for the future operations of this world body.

8. To continue the pace in this positive direction, the Secretary-General would like to inform the General-Assembly of his intention to propose Dr. Dawid de Villiers from South Africa to chair the Committee for the period 2007-2011.

9. Dr. de Villiers is already well known by the Members of the Organization. As former Deputy Secretary-General of the UNWTO from 1998 to 2005, he has personally contributed to the final drafting of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. After the approval of the Code by the General Assembly in 1999, he was responsible for guiding and monitoring the correct implementation of the ethical principles of the Code. Prior to joining the Organization, he was Minister of Environment and Tourism in the Government of National Unity of South Africa, under President Mandela. He also held several positions in public life such as South Africa's Ambassador to London and Cabinet Minister for several portfolios. After retiring from UNWTO, he continued to serve as Chairman of the UNWTO Strategic Committee and as Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Ethical Matters. A short Curriculum Vitae of Dr. de Villiers is attached as Annex 2.

Continuity of the work of the Committee

10. The Secretary-General believes that in order to ensure a degree of continuity deemed necessary in the work of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, it would be advisable to consider the staggering of the renewal of its seats. This procedure could be envisaged at the end of the four-year term of office of the new members (2007-2011) when, on the occasion of the nineteenth General Assembly of 2011, only three of the six members (and corresponding alternates) of the Regional Commissions and two of the four members (and corresponding alternates) of the Affiliate Members would be newly appointed, while the other members would remain on the Committee for two additional years. With regard to the Associate Members, the term of office of their sole representative (and that of his/her alternate) will end in 2011, with the appointment of a new member (and alternate) for four years.

11. The acceptance of this proposal by the General Assembly would only entail the incorporation of a minor amendment in the text of the Protocol of Implementation of the Code (Part I) stating that "half of the membership of the Committee will be renewed every two years starting in 2011".
12. Member States are therefore invited to decide on the convenience of staggering the renewal of the Committee. In case the principle of the staggering is accepted, the General Assembly could entrust the Committee with the preparation of a proposal containing an appropriate procedure for such a staggered renewal of the seats along with its recommendation concerning the members to be replaced in 2011, for its approval at the eighteenth session of the Assembly in 2009.

Next Committee meeting

13. At its fifth meeting held in Madeira, Portugal, in June 2007, the Committee did not take any decision concerning the date and the place of its next meeting.

14. For this reason, it will be up to the Secretary-General to convene the next meeting of the new Committee during the first semester of 2008 either at the UNWTO headquarters or at any other venue deemed appropriate.

15. Any Member State wishing to host the sixth meeting of the Committee during the first half of 2008 is invited to communicate it in writing to the Secretary-General. The UNWTO standard specifications for holding official meetings outside the UNWTO headquarters are applicable to the meetings of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics.
ANNEX 1

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

for the period 2007-2011

Full Members

Africa

Member: Mr. Goodie Minabo IBRU (Nigeria) (member in 2007-2009 and alternate in 2009-2011)
Alternate: Mr. Aloyce K. NZUKI (United Republic of Tanzania) (alternate in 2007-2009 and member in 2009-2011)

Americas

Member: Mr. Carlos GUTIÈRREZ (Argentina) (member in 2007-2009 and alternate in 2009-2011)
Alternate: Mr. Hermes NAVARRO DEL VALLE (Costa Rica) (alternate in 2007-2009 and member in 2009-2011)

East Asia and the Pacific

Member: Mrs. Victoria V. JASMIN (Philippines)
Alternate: Mr. I Gede ARDIKA (Indonesia)

Europe

Member: Mr. Helmut KRÜGER (Germany)
Alternate: Mr. Zoltàn SOMOGYI (Hungary)

Middle East

Member: Ms. Laurice HLASS (Jordan)
Alternate: Mr. Mahmoud EL KAYSOUNY (Egypt)

South Asia

Member: Mr. Iqbal WALJI (Pakistan)
Alternate: Mr. Mohamad Ali PAKSERESHT (Iran)

Associate Members

Member: Mr. Carlos Alberto Silva (Madeira)
Alternate: Mr. Urbain Claeys (Flemish Community of Belgium)
Affiliate Members

Employers

*Merry:* Mrs. Christel DE HAAN (RCI-Resort Condominiums International)
*Alternate:* Mr. Julio C. ABREU (EFAPCO-European Federation of the Associations of Professional Congress Organizers)

Employees:

*Merry:* Mr. Ron OSWALD (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations [IUF/UITA])
*Alternate:* Mr. Norberto LATORRE (UTHGRA-Unión Trabajadores Hoteleros Gastronómicos de la República Argentina)

Educational institutions

*Merry:* Ms. Sietske GRAS-DIJKSTRA (Netherlands)
(NHTV Breda University of Professional Education)
*Alternate:* Mr. Steve NOAKES (Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre, Australia)

Non-governmental organizations

*Merry:* Mr. Norberto Tonini (Italy)
(International Bureau of Social Tourism [BITS])
*Alternate:* Mr. Sultan ABU JABER (Arab Tourist Organisation)
Dr. Dawid (Dawie) de Villiers, was Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) from January 1998 to December 2005. He is presently Chairman of the UNWTO Strategic Group and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Ethical Matters. Before joining UNWTO he was South Africa's Environment and Tourism Minister in the Government of National Unity under President Mandela. Prior to that he served as South Africa's Ambassador to London from 1978 to 1980 when he was appointed as Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism. Over the subsequent years he held several Cabinet portfolios such as: Budget and Welfare; Administration and Privatisation; Mineral and Energy Affairs and Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises. Dr de Villiers played a key role in the negotiations that facilitated South Africa's transition to democracy as leader of the National Party's negotiating team. He represented South Africa in International rugby and captained the National team for several years.