PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Addendum 2

Note by the Secretary-General

The Members will find in the present document a copy of the report of the Working Group established by the Executive Council and chaired by Tunisia, which was entrusted with studying the matter of the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General.

This document was submitted to the Executive Council at its eighty-first session, which approved its conclusions. On this basis, the Council decided to present a draft resolution, whose text is attached herewith, for consideration by the Assembly.
PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Addendum 2

Report of the Working Group

1. The Working Group established by the Executive Council to study in depth the matter of the procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General, held its first meeting at Tunis, on 22 September 2007.

2. The following participants, each representing one of UNWTO’s Regional Commissions, attended:

   - Argentina
   - China
   - Poland
   - Syrian Arab Republic
   - Tunisia, as the Chairman of the Executive Council

3. After opening the meeting, the Chairman invited the Secretariat to present to participants the documentation submitted. This consisted principally of a document containing the suggestions and comments regarding the question received from the Member States and a document analysing the procedures existing in other organizations of the UN system prepared by the Legal Adviser.

4. This was followed by a “tour de table” during which each participant expressed the views of the Members of each Regional Commission on this subject.

5. After deliberating carefully on the subject, the Working Group decided to give priority to the three following governing principles:

   - to give a larger role to the General Assembly,
   - to align itself on the practice observed in this matter by the UN and several specialized agencies to avoid any politicization of the process and secure harmony between the post of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General,
   - to allow the Secretary-General to select his Deputy, under the supervision of the UNWTO’s decision-making bodies.

6. The Working Group noted that there is an emerging consensus in favour of giving a larger role to the General Assembly in the process of the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General. At the same time, the majority of organizations in the UN system appoint their Deputy Secretary-General on the basis of approval by their Governing Body on the proposal of the Executive Head. This predominant mechanism offsets the risk of imposing upon the Secretary-General—who remains the top official of the Secretariat—a collaborator in which he does not have full confidence or with whom he is unable to work effectively.

7. The Working Group therefore recommends that, in the future, the item “Election of the Deputy Secretary-General” appear on the agenda of the General Assembly, and that Members should have the opportunity to vote on the candidate proposed by the Secretary-General for this post. This procedure would be analogous to that governing at present the election of the nominee for the post of Secretary-General.
8. This matter should be taken up after the item “Election of the Secretary-General” and would also require a two-thirds majority of States present and voting.

9. The second concern of the Working Group was ensuring that the best talent is sought while maintaining the requisite geographical distribution of candidates for UNWTO’s senior posts. To this end, it seems desirable that the Secretariat should publicize the vacancy for the post of Deputy Secretary-General and invite the Members to present candidatures.

10. In this regard, the Working Group considers meritorious the proposal emanating from the Middle East Commission which proposes that, during the fourth year of each term of office, each Regional Commission could submit the names of one or several candidates for the post of Deputy Secretary-General, with the agreement of the Member States of which they are nationals. Following the nomination of the Secretary-General by the Council’s spring session, the nominee would be invited to review the various candidatures received by the Secretariat, whether directly or through the regional commissions, and transmit his/her recommendation to the Council session held on the eve of the General Assembly. In the interest of regional balance, the recommended candidate should come from a region different from that of the Secretary-General nominee. The Council would then transmit the nominee’s proposal to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption, as previously indicated.

11. Concerning the term of office of the Deputy Secretary-General, the Working Group believes that the present provision “The term of office of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General will be concurrent” is correct. It is implicit in this text that the Deputy Secretary-General should serve for no longer than the Secretary-General. Accordingly the Working Group considers that the text adopted by the sixteenth General Assembly and which reads “the terms of office of the Secretary-General shall be renewable only once” should also apply to the Deputy Secretary-General.

12. The Working Group believes that these changes could be made without formally amending the Statutes.

13. It goes without saying that the above recommendations should be implemented with the necessary flexibility taking into account scheduling and other types of constraints that may arise. They may be deviated from by agreement between the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Executive Council if circumstances so require.

14. Finally, the Working Group proposes for the sake of clarity that Staff Regulation 15 should address separately the procedures for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General, on the one hand, and the recruitment of Directors and Principal Officers, on the other.

15. The Working Group, however, desires that the UNWTO Legal Adviser review the present proposals in order to ensure their necessary legal coherence and their conformity with current legislation.
Seventeenth session
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23-29 November 2007

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General

Agenda item 25
(documents A/17/25 and A/17/25 Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 512(XVI) whereby, among other things, it requested the Executive Council to study the matter of the procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General,

Having taken cognizance of the documents prepared by the Secretary-General on this subject, as well as of the report of the Working Group created by the Executive Council to deal with this matter, chaired by Tunisia,

1. Notes that in a very wide majority of the organizations of the United Nations, the Deputy Secretary/Director-General is appointed by the Chief of the Secretariat after consultation with or approval by a policy-making organ;

2. Shares the opinion of the Working Group that the following three principles should be observed in this matter:
   - an increased role should be conferred to the General Assembly in the appointment process,
   - the procedure should be in line with the practice followed in this matter by the United Nations and the specialized agencies,
   - the Secretary-General should be allowed to select his/her Deputy, so as to make it possible to form a cohesive team;

3. Decides that, from among the candidates who come forward, notably, at the initiative of the Regional Commissions, the Secretary-General presented by the Executive Council to the Assembly shall inform the Council of his/her choice at the Council session preceding the General Assembly, in order for the Council to transmit it to the General Assembly with its support, for consideration and decision by the latter, at the same time that it appoints the Secretary-General;
4. Decides further that the term of office of the Deputy Secretary-General shall be renewable only once, that it shall end at the same time as that of the Secretary-General, and that, in the interest of regional balance, the Secretary-General and his/her Deputy must be from different regions; and

5. Entrusts the Executive Council with seeing to the implementation of the present resolution, pursuant to the powers accorded to it by Article 20 of the Statutes, in the event of difficulties encountered resulting from serious personal or professional developments that cause the post of Deputy Secretary-General to fall vacant.