RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23 - 29 November 2007

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Tourism Education and Research Centre (Canada), University of Surrey - School of Management Studies for the Service Sector (United Kingdom), University of Tourism, Economics and Law "KUTEL" (Ukraine), and World Youth Student and Educational Travel Confederation.

Including bodies admitted as Affiliate Members during the session.
1. Participation in the seventeenth session

V. Organizations

1. United Nations

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations – Joint Inspection Unit

a) Programmes and Funds

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations High Commissioner for the Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

b) Specialized Agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Finance Corporation (IFC World Bank)

c) Related Organization

World Trade Organization (WTO)

2. Intergovernmental Organizations

Interamerican Development Bank (IBD)

Organization of American States (OAS)

Parlamento Centroamericano - PARLACEN

3. International Organizations

Ocean Security Initiative

VI. Other entities

Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and UNWTO ST-EP Foundation.
2. **Agenda of the session**

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Appointment of the Chairman of the Assembly’s Technical Segment

3. Appointment of the Credentials Committee


5. Administrative and financial matters
   - Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization
   - Election of the Members of the UNWTO Staff Pension Committee for the period 2008-2009
   - Linguistic diversity

6. Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules
   - Suspension of membership
   - Requests for temporary exemption from the application of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules

   - Programme
   - Budget

8. Assessment of Members’ contributions to the Organization’s budget for the period 2008-2009


10. Cooperation with the United Nations system
    - Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms
    - Joint Headquarters Committee

11. Approval of agreements concluded by the Organization

12. World Committee on Tourism Ethics
    - Report of the Committee
    - Appointment of its members for the period 2007-2011

14. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly (who are to preside over the deliberations of the ministerial segment)

15. Report of the Secretary-General


17. Report of the Chairman of the Affiliate Members

18. Report of the Credentials Committee

19. New membership

20. Risk assessment and management status report

21. Status report on the quality policy of destinations and establishment of the World Centre of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal


23. Tourism and climate change


25. Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General

26. Report of the Working Group entrusted to study the feasibility of a legal instrument to deal with the facilitation of tourist travel

27. Election of Council Members

28. Place and dates of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly

29. Review and adoption of the draft resolutions of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly
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A/RES/515(XVII)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents A/17/1 prov. and A/17/1 prov.annot.)

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the Secretary-General's recommendation to take up item 19 before the consideration of the current item 15 in order to allow the new Members to fully take part in the discussions of the ministerial segment,

Decides to adopt the agenda of its seventeenth session as proposed and to consider its different items in the order thus modified.

A/RES/516(XVII)

Appointment of the Chairman of the Assembly's Technical Segment

Agenda item 2

The General Assembly,

Taking into account the consultations held and bearing in mind the practice observed during the previous sessions of the Assembly,

Decides to appoint as co-Chairmen of the technical segment Mr. Alejandro Varela, coordinator of multilateral relations of the Secretariat of Tourism (Argentina) and Datuk Dr. Victor Wee, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Tourism (Malaysia), in their capacity as candidates for the posts of Chairmen of the Committee on Budget and Finance and of the Programme Committee.
A/RES/517(XVII)

Appointment of the Credentials Committee

Agenda item 3

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the proposals of its President made in accordance with rule 13(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

Noting that the Members of the Credentials Committee were selected by the Regional Commissions, at the request of the Assembly,

1. Takes note that the following countries have been appointed:
   Australia
   Brazil
   Canada
   Democratic Republic of Congo
   Ghana
   Iraq
   Israel
   Poland
   Sri Lanka; and

2. Notes that the Credentials Committee appointed as its Chairman Mr. Philip Noonan (Australia) and as its Vice-Chairman Mr. Mbahingana Elias Kakule (Democratic Republic of Congo).

A/RES/518(XVII)

Report on implementation of the Organization’s general programme of work
for the period 2006-2007

Agenda item 4
(documents A/17/4 and A/17/4 Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Organization’s general programme of work for the period 2006-2007;

Having before it the report on the evaluation survey conducted with Member States in connection with the Programme of Work 2006-2007 and with the progress made in the achievement of the UNWTO Agenda 2010’s objectives;
1. Notes with satisfaction the continuous efforts of the Secretariat in all areas of activity, and more specifically in:

a. Implementation of international standards in tourism statistics and the development of Tourism Satellite Accounts;

b. Analysis of tourism market trends and of tourism marketing and promotion activities, including the rapid-assistance capability in crisis situations;

c. Integration of sustainability in tourism policies and management practices, with special emphasis being given to the Millennium Development Goals;

d. Promotion of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and inclusion of this instrument into national laws and regulations, implementation of the UNWTO standards of accessibility and strengthening of the campaign against sexual exploitation of children in tourism;

e. Assistance to Member States in the framework of the Doha Round of multilateral negotiations on services and the implementation of the UNWTO guidance on tourism quality systems and standards and of the joint UNWTO-IH&RA recommendations on hotel classification;

f. Implementation of the Safety and Facilitation Enhancement (SAFE) strategy, the establishment of a Working Group on the subject of facilitation, establishment of an advisory and assistance system to Members regarding the issue of Avian and Human Influenza (AHI);

g. Further development of the UNWTO.TedQual and the UNWTO.Sbest initiatives;

h. Assistance to Member States for the improvement of information and communication technologies;

i. Increased technical assistance activities, multiplication of ST-EP projects and diversification of external funding sources and partnerships; and

j. Improvement of communication, publication and documentation services, including the UNWTO e-Library and the new UNWTO website;

2. Notes with satisfaction the outcomes of the World Tourism Day 2007 on the theme: Tourism Opens Doors for Women and requests the Secretariat to strengthen its activities contributing to reinforce the place of women in the tourism sector, including within the UNWTO Secretariat;
3. Appraises positively the activities carried out by the Secretariat regarding tourism and climate change and entrusts the Secretariat to carry out the necessary activities to follow-up on the main recommendations of the Davos Declaration;

4. Notes with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to ensure the coordinated implementation of the Organization's Programme of Work and invites him to strengthen these efforts;

5. Views positively the quantitative and qualitative results of the survey on the evaluation of the Programme of Work 2006-2007 and Agenda 2010, as appraised by the large number of Member States that responded to the survey; and

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for these achievements.

A/RES/519(XVII)

Administrative and financial matters

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization

Agenda item 5(a)
(documents A/17/5(a) and A/17/5(a) Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization,

1. Notes with satisfaction that, by the date of the present session, some 90 per cent of the total contributions receivable from Members for the current year and 107 per cent of the estimated income from contributions had been received;

2. Takes cognizance that, in fulfilment of the recommendation of its sixteenth session, a balance between expenditure, which have been kept under control, and income has been maintained;

3. Observes that income from arrear contributions to date amounts to 1,157,481 euros, representing 165 per cent of the amount estimated for 2007;
4. **Expresses its gratification** at the excellent current financial situation of the Organization and, in light of the good results expected for this financial year, authorizes the Secretary-General to make a provision of 100,000 euros charged against the present financial year and transferable to the 2008-2009 budgetary period in order to cover expenses that will be entailed by the application, in relation with the intervention of the auditors of the Organization, of the international public sector accounting standards (IPAS) adopted by the United Nations System and whose implementation is planned for the beginning of 2010;

**Observing nevertheless** that persistent delays in paying contributions hamper the smooth operation of the Organization,

5. **Urges** the Members of the Organization to observe with the utmost rigour the statutory and regulatory provisions governing the Organization's financial affairs, with particular regard to the due date of contributions specified in paragraph 12 of the Financing Rules, so as to ensure, in the interest of all the Members, that the execution of the programme and other activities of the Secretariat is in no way hampered by shortage of funds; and

6. **Also urges** the Member States, Associate Members and Affiliate Members in arrears with their contributions to work out the most appropriate formulas for discharging their financial commitments and to reach the necessary agreement with the Secretary-General to ensure that they can readily meet the payments on their arrears.

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A/RES/520(XVII)

**Administrative and financial matters**

**(b) Election of the Members of the UNWTO Staff Pension Committee for the period 2008-2009**

Agenda item 5(b)

(documents A/17/5(b) and A/17/5(b) Add.1)

The General Assembly,

**Having taken cognizance** of the Secretary-General’s report on this subject,

**Having taken note** of the willingness of the two present Members of the Committee Argentina and Spain to continue their term of office,
1. Thanks them for their contribution;

2. Decides to re-elect them for the biennium 2008-2009, and

3. Entrusts the Secretary-General with contacting the countries whose names have been put forward to serve as alternates.

A/RES/521(XVII)

Administrative and financial matters

(c) Linguistic diversity

Agenda item 5(c)
(document A/17/5(c))

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the request for the amendment of Article 38 presented by China for the introduction of Chinese as an official language of the Organization,

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 33 of the Statutes that stipulate, on the one hand, that any amendment must be adopted by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of Full Members present and voting, and on the other hand, that an amendment comes into force when two-thirds of the Member States have given notice of their approval of such amendment,

Sharing the opinion of the Secretary-General that the introduction of the Chinese language would constitute an advance for the Organization in light of the growing role of China in international tourism exchanges,

1. Decides to adopt the Chinese language as an official language of the World Tourism Organization;

2. Establishes that, consequently, Article 38 of the Statutes shall read as follows: "The official languages of the Organization shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish";

3. Calls upon the Members to ratify the amendment introducing the Chinese language;
4. Notes that the introduction of Chinese as an official language will not be possible prior to the ratification of the corresponding amendment unless additional means are generated, in particular, through voluntary contributions;

5. Notes also that the amendment to Article 38 making Arabic an official language of the UNWTO has not yet been ratified and appeals to the Members to proceed with such ratification;

Having been informed, furthermore, of the request by Kazakhstan to introduce Russian as an official language of the meetings of the Commission for Europe, and of the request of Spain for Spanish to also be considered a working language of the Commission for Europe if other languages are to be introduced in that Commission,

6. Entrusts the Commission for Europe and the Committee on Budget and Finance with studying the implications that such introductions would entail and to report to the Executive Council so that the latter may submit an opinion to it;

7. Welcomes the efforts already undertaken with regard to communicating in an increased number of languages, which allows better dissemination of the UNWTO's works among their users in both the public and private sectors; and

8. Decides to expand this practice in a manner that does not entail additional costs for the UNWTO.

A/RES/522(XVII)

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

(a) Suspension of membership

Agenda item 6(a)
(documents A/17/6(a)(b) and A/17/6(a)(b) Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Considering resolution 217(VII) adopted at its seventh session, whereby it recognized that Article 34 of the Statutes, providing for suspension of Members that persist in a policy contrary to the fundamental aim of the Organization as established in Article 3 of the Statutes, is applicable in the case of prolonged non-payment of obligatory contributions to the budget of the Organization,

Also considering the report submitted to it by the Secretary-General in pursuance of the aforementioned resolution,

1. Notes that the following Members are subject to Article 34 of the Statutes and that consequently all their rights and privileges of membership are suspended:
FULL MEMBERS

AFGHANISTAN
BAHRAIN
BOLIVIA
BURUNDI
CAPE VERDE
CHAD
CONGO
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
DJIBOUTI
GAMBIA
IRAQ
KYRGYZSTAN
MALAWI
MAURITANIA
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SIERRA LEONE
SUDAN
TOGO
TURKMENISTAN
UGANDA
ZIMBABWE

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is no longer subject to Article 34 of the Statutes since it has repaid part of its contribution arrears, and that Kazakhstan has paid the final instalment of its payment plan and is totally up-to-date with its contributions to UNWTO.

3. Further notes that Article 34 of the Statutes will be applicable to the following Members if, within a period of one year, they have not agreed with the Secretary-General on a plan for the payment of their arrears:

FULL MEMBER
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

ABRESI – ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE GASTRONOMIA
A.T.S. s.r.l.
EL MEJABAAT EL KOUBRA TOURS
FACULTY OF TOURISM & HOTELS – CAIRO UNIVERSITY – AL FAYOUM BRANCH
4. Decides to continue applying the measure of suspension of rights and privileges provided for in Article 34 of the Statutes under the following conditions:

(a) when a Member of the Organization is in arrears in the payment of contributions for four financial years, whether consecutive or not, it being understood that part payment of contributions does not preclude application of the measure of suspension; and

(b) when that Member has not agreed with the Secretary-General on a plan for the payment of its arrear contributions within a period of one year from the date of the General Assembly resolution stating that suspension is applicable to that Member in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes; and

5. Requests the Secretary-General to apply this resolution and to report on its application to each session of the Executive Council.

A/RES/523(XVII)

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

(b) Requests for temporary exemption from the application of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules

Agenda item 6(b)
(documents A/17/6(a)(b) and A/17/6(a)(b) Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the recommendations made by the Executive Council at its 78th, 79th and 80th sessions with respect to requests for temporary exception from the application of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules,

Considering the documents submitted by the Secretary-General regarding this matter,
1. Approves the Executive Council's recommendations;

2. Decides to renew the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules as they apply to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mali, Mongolia, and Nicaragua which are complying with the agreed plans for the settlement of their contribution arrears;

3. Decides to renew the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules to the Full Members Georgia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Peru, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Rwanda and Yemen, albeit making it clear that these provisions will once again be applied to these Members if they are not up to date in their payment plans by 1 April 2008;

4. Entrusts the Secretary-General with informing Yemen that it should submit a new payment plan for the debt corresponding to the years 1979 to 1989, there being no provision in the existing regulations for exemption from contributions;

5. Decides to grant temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 to the Full Members Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Mauritania and Uruguay, which submitted payment plans approved by the Council; and

Recalling its decisions CE/DEC/5(LXXIX) and CE/DEC/8 (LXXX) concerning Iraq,

6. Notes with satisfaction that this Full Member has paid the total of its 2007 contribution to the Organization;

Aware that Iraq and the Secretariat are pursuing their negotiations concerning that country's contribution arrears;

7. Agrees pursuant to CE/DEC/7(LXXXVII), to accord a grace period of two years for Iraq, to submit to its 86th session a payment plan prepared in cooperation with the Secretariat;

8. Decides accordingly to grant Iraq temporary exemption from the application of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules subject to discharge of its regular contributions in 2008 and 2009, and in accordance with the agreement reached with the Secretariat on 13 November 2007;

9. Adopts the recommendations of the Executive Council and establishes the following conditions for the Members requesting temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules and which propose payment plans to settle their arrears in instalments:
(a) to discharge the contribution corresponding to the present year before the General Assembly session at which their case is reviewed;

(b) strict observance of the plan agreed for the settlement of arrears;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Full Members concerned, that the decision just taken in their regard remains subject to strict compliance with the aforementioned conditions; and

11. Notes that the Members listed below continue to be subject to the provisions of paragraph 13:

FULL MEMBERS

AFGHANISTAN
BAHRAIN
BURUNDI
CAPE VERDE
CHAD
CONGO
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
DJIBOUTI
GABON
KYRGYZSTAN
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
MALAWI
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SIERRA LEONE
SUDAN
TOGO
TURKMENISTAN
UGANDA
ZIMBABWE

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

ABRESI – ASSOCIAÇAO BRASILEIRA DE GASTRONOMIA (Brazil)
ASOCIACIÓN DEMAYORISTAS DE VIAJES ESPAÑOLAS (AMAVE) (Spain)
ASOCIACION MUNDIAL PARA LA FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL TURÍSTICA (AMFORT) (Spain)
A.T.S. s.r.l. (Italy)
EL MEJABAAT EL KOUBRA TOURS (Mauritania)
ENTREPRISE TOURISTIQUE DE KABYLIE (Algeria)
ESCOLA UNIVERSITARIA DE TURISME DE L'UNIVERSITAT DE LES ILLES BALEARS (Spain)
Draft programme and budget of the Organization for the period 2008-2009

(a) (b) Programme-budget

Agenda item 7(a)(b)
(documents A/17/7 Rev., A/17/7 Add.1 and A/17/7 Add.2)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the draft general programme of work and budget of the Organization for the period 2008-2009, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 23(2) of the Statutes, and previously examined by the Executive Council and its subsidiary bodies, the Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Welcomes the new format of the programme presented with a much clearer, solid and comprehensive manner, and the new objectives which have been included in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Members of the Programme Committee;
2. **Endorses** the Secretary-General’s proposals to strengthen programme activities with extra-budgetary resources;

3. **Notes with satisfaction** the new organizational structure of the Secretariat to ensure stronger coherence, more coordination and better evaluation of its activities thanks to the creation of the Division for Programme and Coordination;

4. **Approves** the general programme of work of the Organization for the period 2008-2009 as recommended by the Programme Committee and endorsed by the Executive Council at its 81st session (documents A/17/7 Rev., A/17/7 Add.1 and A/17/7 Add.2);

Having taken note of the recommendation of the Executive Council [decision 7(LXXX)] concerning the use of the surplus from the financial period 2004-2005, which amounts to 647,249.52 euros,

5. **Authorizes** the allocation of the surplus to strengthen the activities of the Organization’s programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009;

Having considered document CE/81/8 in which the Secretary-General, pursuant to Council decision CE/DEC/16 (LXXX), proposed to adjust the 2008-2009 budget downwards in the light of the evolution of the U.S. Dollar / euro parity and the prevailing consumer price index in the Headquarters host country,

Noting that the Executive Council at its eighty-first session reviewed the draft budget for 2008-2009 and incorporated various cost-saving measures, employing for this purpose a rate of exchange of 0.7143 euros to the US dollar (EUR 1 = 1.40 USD), and deciding to estimate at a lower level the forecast rate of inflation for the period under consideration,

6. **Approves** a budget of 25,110,000 Euros for the financial period 2008-2009 representing a nominal growth of 3.9% over the approved budget for 2006-2007, and a decrease in real terms;

**Aware** that the evolution of the economic situation in the host country could make possible a limited decrease in the budget for 2009;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the Executive Council at its 84th session on this subject;

8. **Authorizes** the Executive Council, if circumstances so permit, to reduce the 2009 budget in order to maintain it at a level corresponding to zero growth in real terms; and

9. **Entrusts** the Secretary-General with taking the appropriate measures, in consultation with the Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance, to ensure the necessary coordination of the programme’s implementation and, in the preparation process of the following programming cycle for 2010-2011, concentration on a limited number of activities reflecting the priorities of Members.
BUDGET OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2008-2009

<table>
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<tr>
<td>PART I – Programme of work</td>
<td>6.265.000,00</td>
<td>6.721.000,00</td>
<td>12.986.000,00</td>
<td>6.823.000,00</td>
<td>7.033.000,00</td>
<td>13.856.000,00</td>
<td>6,7</td>
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<tr>
<td>PART II – Executive Organs and Meetings</td>
<td>2.529.000,00</td>
<td>2.809.000,00</td>
<td>5.338.000,00</td>
<td>2.422.000,00</td>
<td>2.942.000,00</td>
<td>5.364.000,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PART III – Programme Support Services and other budgetary provisions</td>
<td>2.854.000,00</td>
<td>2.987.000,00</td>
<td>5.841.000,00</td>
<td>2.903.000,00</td>
<td>2.987.000,00</td>
<td>5.890.000,00</td>
<td>0,8</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>11.648.000,00</td>
<td>12.517.000,00</td>
<td>24.165.000,00</td>
<td>12.148.000,00</td>
<td>12.962.000,00</td>
<td>25.110.000,00</td>
<td>3,9</td>
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<tr>
<td>. Difference between gross and net salaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.576.000,00</td>
<td>1.646.000,00</td>
<td>3.222.000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL WITH STAFF ASSESSMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13.724.000,00</td>
<td>14.608.000,00</td>
<td>28.332.000,00</td>
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BUDGETARY RECEIPTS

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>. Staff assessment</td>
<td>1.576.000,00</td>
<td>1.646.000,00</td>
<td>3.222.000,00</td>
<td>253.000,00</td>
<td>394.750,48</td>
<td>647.750,48</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>. Sundry income</td>
<td>369.000,00</td>
<td>542.479,11</td>
<td>911.479,11</td>
<td>232.000,00</td>
<td>408.000,00</td>
<td>640.000,00</td>
<td>(28,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. Income from the sale of publications</td>
<td>350.000,00</td>
<td>350.000,00</td>
<td>700.000,00</td>
<td>457.000,00 (1)</td>
<td>457.000,00 (1)</td>
<td>914.000,00 (1)</td>
<td>(8,6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>. Affiliate Members</td>
<td>435.000,00</td>
<td>435.000,00</td>
<td>870.000,00</td>
<td>457.000,00</td>
<td>457.000,00</td>
<td>914.000,00</td>
<td>5,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>. Income from 2002-2003/2004-2005 Surplus</td>
<td>200.000,00</td>
<td>453.520,89</td>
<td>653.520,89</td>
<td>158.000,00</td>
<td>489.249,52</td>
<td>647.249,52</td>
<td>(1,0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance to be paid by Full and Associate Members</td>
<td>10.294.000,00</td>
<td>10.736.000,00</td>
<td>21.030.000,00</td>
<td>11.048.000,00</td>
<td>11.213.000,00</td>
<td>22.261.000,00</td>
<td>5,9 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) 326 Affiliate Members
(2) variation due to 2,0 per cent increase in contributions for 2008 and 1,5 per cent for 2009 (base year 2007) and to the incorporation of new Members
A/RES/525(XVII)

**Draft programme and budget of the Organization for the period 2008-2009**

(a) (b) Programme-budget

*Sustainable tourism development in a network of cross-border parks and protected areas in West Africa*

The General Assembly,

Having seen the report of the Secretary-General on the activities conducted in connection with the follow-up of this project,

Recalling General Assembly resolution A/RES/494 (XVI), whereby it endorsed the proposals to strengthen project coordination and follow-up activities at the subregional and national levels, with the establishment of a subregional technical committee and national task forces, made the UNWTO the executing agency of the project and conferred to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) the role of project leader,

1. **Notes with satisfaction** the progress made with respect to project follow-up, with the establishment of a permanent follow-up committee composed of the following: Benin, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, UNWTO, OIC, and the Regional Coordination Office of the project;

2. **Takes note** of the composition of the aforementioned committee;

3. **Welcomes** the activities conducted by the OIC and UNWTO Secretariats to support regional coordination of the project among the member States, particularly for the purposes of:
   - Preparation and validation of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the feasibility study;
   - Fundraising for the execution of the feasibility study;
   - Promotion of the project at the regional and international levels;

4. **Notes with satisfaction** the positive results achieved over the course of the 2006-2007 biennium, particularly in the application of the recommendations by the member countries, and the strengthening of the partnership among the UNWTO, OIC, IDB, and the ST-EP Foundation;
5. Approves the programme of activities for 2008-2009 elaborated by the follow-up committee of the project;

6. Urges the OIC and the UNWTO to continue helping the member States in mobilizing international financing institutions and agencies and development partners, and in obtaining the resources needed for the implementation of the project;

7. Takes note of the proposal submitted by Ghana and Nigeria during the Accra Forum to expand the project to the other six countries of ECOWAS that are not part of the project (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo) and thereby give it true regional scope; and

8. Requests the permanent follow-up committee to study this proposal with a view to submitting the matter to the member States for decision.

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A/RES/526(XVII)

Assessment of Members’ contributions to the Organization’s budget for the period 2008-2009

Agenda item 8
(document A/17/8)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of Members’ contributions for the period 2008-2009,

Having before it the recommendations of the Executive Council in this regard,

1. Decides to accept the Council’s recommendations and approves the proposed scale of contributions as modified to reflect the increase in the number of member States and the increase in the budget, as foreseen in resolution 404(XIII);

2. Observes that, in accordance with the formula used for calculating the contributions of member States [resolution 404(XIII)], UNWTO has used the same economic and population statistical averages adopted by the United Nations to determine the contributions of its own Members;

Considering that the approved budget for the next financial period amounts to 25,110,000 euros, subject to the provisions of the resolution adopted under agenda item 7,
3. **Decides** that the budgetary income approved for the next period should be provided by the contributions of the Full and Associate Members in the amounts of 11,048,023 euros for 2008 and 11,213,743 euros for 2009 and that the balance to be financed should be covered by the contributions of the Affiliate Members and the other sources of funding referred to in document A/17/8;

4. **Agrees** to the proposal of the Secretary-General that, in order to reflect more realistically their capacity to pay, while taking into account the special nature of their membership, the Associate Members should, with effect from 2008-2009, be divided into two separate categories each being 10% lower than the contribution of the Full Members in groups 13 and 9 respectively; and

5. **Also decides** to retain the proposal of the Affiliate Members, accepted by the Executive Council in decision CE/DEC/22(LXXX), to add to their contribution an annual assessment of 400 euros for funding their access to UNWTO’s e-library, as a consequence of which the contribution of the Affiliate Members for the period 2008-2009 is fixed at 2,400 euros per year.

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**A/RES/527(XVII)**

**Election of the Auditors for the period 2008-2009**

*Agenda item 9 (document A/17/9)*

The General Assembly,

**Expressing its appreciation** of the competent work of the Auditors elected for the current biennium, Ms. Rita Mitra and Manish Kumar (India) and Mr. Fernando Casas Guillén and Mrs. Mercedes Lebrancón Cortés (Spain),

1. **Thanks** them for their contribution;

Having regard to Articles 12(g) and 26 of the Statutes of the Organization, which states that the General Assembly shall elect two Auditors on the recommendation of the Executive Council;

Noting that, for the period 2008-2009, the Secretariat has received expressions of interest from three countries, France, India and Spain;
Considering that the complexity of the Organization’s accounts has increased markedly in recent years due both to the significant growth in UNWTO’s membership and to the Organization’s success in attracting voluntary contributions;

2. Agrees with the Secretary-General that it is possible to accommodate all three candidatures while respecting the stipulations of the Statutes, it being understood that one of the auditors will be responsible for examining the accounts relating to technical cooperation activities financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and

3. Decides, consequently, to designate France and Spain as the Auditors for the period 2008-2009, and to entrust to India the function of special Auditor in charge of inspecting the accounts relating to the activities carried out by the UNWTO in its capacity as an executing agency of the UNDP, with the funds coming from this Programme.

A/RES/528(XVII)

Cooperation with the United Nations system

(a) Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms

Agenda item 10(a)
(document A/17/10(a))

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of document A/17/10(a),

1. Notes with satisfaction the participation of UNWTO on a regular basis in the various coordination mechanisms of the United Nations System and, in particular, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the High Level Committee on Programmes and the High Level Committee on Management;

Recalling that coordination mechanisms serve, in particular, the important function of eliminating duplication and promoting complementarity between the UNWTO’s programmes and those of other institutions,

2. Congratulates the Secretary-General on the success of the meeting of the United Nations Chief Executives Board, which was held in April 2006 in Madrid, and pays special tribute to the Spanish Government for the generous hospitality and notable support it provided to this event, which made it possible to increase the visibility of the Institution;
3. **Notes** with satisfaction that in 2007, the annual meeting of the Legal Advisers of the system was hosted by the UNWTO at its headquarters on 26 and 27 April 2007, as well as that of the annual session of the United Nations Communications Group on 21 and 22 June 2007;

4. **Welcomes** the decision of the Chief Executives Board to establish, at the request of the UNWTO, a network of agencies and organs of the United Nations involved in the field of tourism, called UNTEN, and **requests** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve, through this network, the best possible synergies among the members that comprise it; and

5. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to continue to participate actively in the system's coordination mechanisms and to keep the Executive Council informed about the matters dealt with and the results of discussions.

A/RES/529(XVII)

**Cooperation with the United Nations system**

(b) **Joint Headquarters Committee**

Agenda item 10(b)

(document A/17/10(b))

The General Assembly,

**Having taken cognizance** of document A/17/10(b),

1. **Considers favourably** the establishment in March 2006, following the example of other specialized agencies of the United Nations, of a Joint Headquarters Committee to facilitate the Organization's functioning in Madrid;

2. **Notes** that the Committee has met three times since its creation;

3. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the measures taken jointly by the Spanish Government and the Secretariat regarding the safety and security of the headquarters, as well as the follow-up actions on the part of the host country regarding the identity documents of the staff members and their families; and

4. **Entrusts** the Secretary-General with keeping the Council informed of the outcome of the next annual meeting of the Committee.
Approval of agreements concluded by the Organization

Agenda item 11
(documents A/17/11 and A/17/11 Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the agreements and working arrangements concluded, in accordance with Article 12 of the Statutes, with governments and intergovernmental organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations,

Decides to approve the following agreements:

(a) Framework Cooperation Agreement between Peru and the UNWTO

(b) Framework Cooperation Agreement between El Salvador and the UNWTO

(c) Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Korea and UNWTO

(d) Memorandum of Understanding between the UNWTO and the Andean Community

(e) Cooperation Agreement between the UNWTO and the Regional Office for South America of the World Conservation Union

(f) Framework Cooperation Agreement between UNWTO and the Iberoamerican Secretariat (SEGIB)

(g) Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and the public enterprise Turismo Andaluz, S.A.

(h) Memorandum of Understanding among SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation), GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) and DGCID (Direction générale de la coopération internationale et du développement), France

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and the Sun Yat-Sen University

(j) Agreement between the European Travel Commission and the UNWTO

(k) Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and Open Travel Alliance (OTA)

(l) Cooperation Agreement between UNWTO and Microsoft Corporation

(m) Agreement between UNWTO and Strategic Business Meeting, S.A. (SBM)
A/RES/531 (XVII)

World Committee on Tourism Ethics

(a) Report of the Committee

Agenda item 12
(document A/17/12 (a))

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics on its activities for the period 2003-2007,
Having also considered the declaration issued by this Committee, known as “The Madeira Message”, by which the latter calls on UNWTO Members to take up the multiple challenges that sustainable tourism development is presently facing, in particular, as a consequence of sustainability, climate change, poverty, religious radicalism, economic instability, migration and many others,

1. **Concurs** with the Committee that, in view of the rapidly changing global environment, a clear, strong and continued commitment is needed from all tourism stakeholders to observe the fundamental values contained in the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and to integrate them into their activities and operations;

2. **Recognizes** that tourism has become a powerful activity that can be effectively utilized to drive sustainable development, create new jobs and reduce poverty with the objective of achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

3. **Endorses The Madeira Message** of the Committee and calls on all UNWTO Members to re-endorse the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and to incorporate the principles in their tourism activities, policies and business operations;

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General of the UNWTO to transmit The Madeira Message, along with a report on the Code of Ethics and the renewed commitment of the General Assembly to its implementation, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for its dissemination to the General Assembly of the United Nations;

5. **Welcomes** the announcement made by the Italian delegation that the conditions for the effective functioning of the Secretariat of the Ethics Committee in Italy will be in place by the beginning of 2008 and thanks the Italian Government once again for its generous offer; and

6. **Finally acknowledges** the comments and observations received from some Member States and further resolves that these remarks should be conveyed to the Committee for follow-up action.
ANNEX

THE MADEIRA MESSAGE

(on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism)

The Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, meeting in Madeira, came to a unanimous conclusion that the application of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism is of fundamental importance for the development and success of the tourism industry, and that it can make a valuable contribution to the sustainable growth of societies.

• The world community is going through a period of rapid and widespread change and, at the same time, is facing enormous challenges. The present is characterized by political instability in many countries as well as challenges to safety and security. This situation has fuelled a sense of uncertainty. There are clear signals that our present lifestyles and consumption patterns are causing harm to the fragile ecosystems that support life on Earth. The consequences are evident in global warming, loss of biodiversity, desertification and the increasingly difficult struggle for sustainability. And, overriding it all, the vast and worsening divide between haves and have-nots, with all its problems of disease, crime and social collapse, constitutes a real threat to long term peace, stability and freedom.

• It was against this background that the heads of State and Government of the United Nations unanimously agreed to the Millennium Declaration in 2000. In the Declaration they accepted collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity. They confirmed that certain fundamental values are essential to a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. These include: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. The Millennium Declaration represented the international community’s response to the development and security challenges of a rapidly changing global environment. They recognised that, even as the World has accumulated great wealth, many people still suffer in poverty and deprivation.

• The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism provides a framework for international cooperation to use the strength of tourism more effectively in dealing with these issues. The values to which the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism is anchored are in essence the same values on which the Millennium Declaration is based. It is, thus, the conviction of the World Committee that the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism is the corner stone of sustainable tourism development and the guiding principle to safeguard its future.

• The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism links up with the Millennium Declaration and Goals. Tourism has grown into a major global business and a core sector of the world economy. The wide ranging impact of tourism on society has turned it into a significant international player. A few points illustrate the magnitude and power of the industry:
Tourism has been the fastest growing economic activity over a period of more than half a century; it is expected to double in size over the next 12 to 14 years; it has become the biggest export industry; it is highly labour intensive and one of the biggest employers—especially for women and young people; it consists of more small-, micro- and medium-sized businesses than any other economic sector; it impacts strongly on local farming, fishing, trading (to include handicrafts), and services and the construction industry; it is a key strategy towards poverty-reduction; it plays a critical role in conservation and sustainable development; and it builds bridges of mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples and nations and promote world peace.

The impact of tourism goes well beyond its economic value. It is therefore critical that we vigorously promote those values that form the foundation of sound, responsible and sustainable tourism and that we avoid the damage that opportunistic and unguided forms of tourism could inflict on the environment, society and the economy.

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World Committee on Tourism Ethics

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

Agenda item 12
(document A/17/12 (b))

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on the appointment of new members of the Committee for the term 2007-2011 (covering the period between the seventeenth and the nineteenth session of the General Assembly),

1. Expresses its gratitude to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Diego Cordovez, as well as to the members and alternates of the Committee for the excellent ground-setting work they have carried out during the first and decisive phase of the Committee (2003-2007);
2. Endorses with satisfaction the new composition of the Committee, which resulted from the election and designation process validly completed during the first semester of 2007 within each of the three constituencies of the Organization -the Full, Associate and Affiliate Members-, as follows:

Full Members:

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

- **Americas**
  - Mr. Carlos GUTIÉRREZ (Argentina) (member in 2007-2009 and alternate in 2009-2011)
  - Mr. Hermes NAVARRO DEL VALLE (Costa Rica) (alternate in 2007-2009 and member in 2009-2011)

- **East Asia and the Pacific**
  - Ms. Victoria V. JASMIN (Philippines) (member)
  - Mr. I. Gede ARDIKA (Indonesia) (alternate)

- **Europe**
  - Mr. Helmut KRÜGER (Germany) (member)
  - Mr. Zoltán SOMOGYI (Hungary) (alternate)

- **Middle East**
  - Mrs. Laurice HLASS (Jordan) (member)
  - Mr. Mahmoud EL KAYSOUNY (Egypt) (alternate)

- **South Asia**
  - Mr. Iqbal WALJI (Pakistan) (member)
  - Mr. Mohamad Ali PAKSERESHT (Iran) (alternate)

Associate Members:

- Mr. Carlos Alberto SILVA (Madeira) (member)
- Mr. Urbain CLAEYS (Flemish Community of Belgium) (alternate)

Affiliate Members:

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

- **Employees:**
  - Mr. Ron OSWALD (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association – IUF) (member)
  - Mr. Norberto LATORRE (Unión de Trabajadores Hoteleros Gastronómicos de la República Argentina – UTHGRA) (alternate)
• **Educational institutions:**
  - Mrs. Sietske GRAS-DIJKSTRA (NHTV Breda University, Netherlands) (member)
  - M. Steve NOAKES (Griffith University, Australia) (alternate)

• **Non-governmental organizations:**
  - Mr. Norberto Tonini (Bureau international du tourisme social, BITS) (member)
  - Mr. Sultan ABU JABER (Arab Tourist Organisation) (alternate)

3. Welcomes the Secretary-General’s intention to convey to the Members of the Committee the candidature of Mr. Dawid de Villiers for the position of Chairman of the Committee;

4. Concurs with the Secretary-General on the convenience of staggering, in the future, the renewal of the Committee, and entrusts the new Committee with the formulation of an appropriate procedure for the two-phased renewal of its seats and the recommendation on the members to be replaced in 2011, for approval at the eighteenth session of the Assembly;

5. Thanks both the Government of India and the Regional Government of Madeira (Portugal) for having hosted the fourth and fifth meetings of the Committee in Bangalore (June 2006) and Funchal (June 2007) respectively; and

6. Requests the Secretary-General to precede with the necessary consultations in order to determine the venue of the sixth meeting of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics at the UNWTO Headquarters during the first semester of 2008.

A/RES/533(XVII)

**World Tourism Day: information on the activities of 2006 and 2007, adoption of themes and designation of the host countries for 2008 and 2009**

Agenda item 13
(document A/17/13)

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the observance of World Tourism Day in 2006 and 2007 and on the candidatures submitted by various States to host World Tourism Day in 2008 and 2009,
1. **Conveys its deep gratitude** to the Governments of Portugal and Sri Lanka for having organized impressive programmes on the occasion of World Tourism Day in 2006 and 2007 respectively, in their capacity as the host country of these events.

**Having considered with interest** the proposals formulated by the Executive Council in the light of the themes suggested by the Members for 2008 and 2009,

2. **Decides** to select the following themes for the next two editions of World Tourism Day:

   **2008**  
   Tourism – Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change

   **2009**  
   Tourism - Celebrating Diversity

**Recalling** its resolution 470(XV), whereby it adopted the principle of geographic rotation for the celebration of World Tourism Day up to 2009,

3. **Designates** Peru and Ghana to host World Tourism Day in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

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**A/RES/534(XVII)**

**Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly**

**Agenda Item 14**

The General Assembly

1. **Declares elected** Colombia as President of its seventeenth session represented by H.E. Mr. Luis Guillermo Plata, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; and

2. **Declares elected** as Vice-Presidents of its seventeenth session Cameroon (Mr. Baba Hamadou), Ecuador (Mrs. María Isabel Salvador Crespo), Ethiopia (Mr. Mohamoud Dirir), Iran (Mr. Hamid Baghaei), Kazakhstan (Mr. Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov), the Republic of Korea (Mr. Kim Jong min) and Spain (Mr. Pedro Mejía).
The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Organization, presented pursuant to rule 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for his report discussing the situation of world tourism and its outlook, as well as the challenges that will have to be met by the decision-makers of the tourism industry and by the World Tourism Organization;

2. Takes note with interest of the information contained in his report relative to the analysis of the situation of tourism in the world and the prospect of growth that is more moderate, more solid and more responsible;

3. Congratulates the Secretary-General for the efforts made to foster tourism development that is more sustainable, notably in developing countries and in the context of climate change;

4. Favourably receives the Secretary-General’s proposal to hold in 2009 a new major conference on the implementation of the tourism satellite account;

5. Notes with interest the action carried out, at the Assembly’s request, to contribute to risk prevention, and asks that such action be continued;

6. Approves the initiative proposed by the Secretary-General to investigate, in relation with the Executive Council, the feasibility of the preparation of an appropriate legal instrument to deal with the issue of the facilitation of tourist travel;

7. Commends the Organization’s growing commitment to the fight against poverty and in favour of employment creation;

8. Shares the views of the Secretary-General regarding the values of peace and cultural dialogue on which tourism should be based and encourages him to continue to promote them;
9. **Makes note** of his reflections as to how to ensure good governance and harmonious partnership between the public and private sectors, in particular through the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal; and

**Having heard** the oral presentation of the Secretary-General, and the ensuing debate,

10. **Shares his views** concerning the challenges that await the world tourism industry and **encourages** him to continue his efforts aimed at ensuring that the Institution can continue to prepare for the future during his remaining time as the head of the Secretariat.

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**A/RES/536(XVII)**

**Report of the Executive Council to the General Assembly**

**Agenda item 16**

(documents A/17/16 and A/17/16 Corr.)

The General Assembly,

**Having considered** the report of the Executive Council, submitted by its current Chairman pursuant to Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Statutes,

1. **Takes note with interest** of the information presented concerning the activities of the Council and, in particular, the results of its seventy-seventh, seventy-eighth, seventy-ninth and eightieth ordinary sessions;

2. **Thanks** the Council for its assiduous work since the last session of the Assembly;

3. **Approves** the report of the Council;

4. **Pays tribute** to Tunisia, which occupied the post of Chairman in 2006 and 2007, for the dedication and competence demonstrated by H.E. Mr. Tijani Haddad, former Minister of Tourism, and his successor H.E. Mr. Khelil Lajimi, Minister of Tourism; and

5. **Also thanks** the Vice-Chairmen, Ecuador and Portugal in 2006, and Argentina and Hungary in 2007, for the quality of the work they carried out in the exercise of their functions.

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The General Assembly,

Having heard the report of the Chairman of the UNWTO Affiliate Members,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his presentation;

2. Expresses its satisfaction with the appointment of the new Executive Director of the Affiliate Members and the impetus that he is providing to the Secretariat of the Affiliate Members under the new structure, which under the aegis of the Committee of the Affiliate Members, rests upon the activity of three councils: the Business Council, the Destination Council, and the Education Council;

3. Congratulates and encourages the Secretariat of the Affiliate Members on the implementation of the new Affiliate Members Strategic Plan 2007-2010, thanks to the initiative of its Executive Director;

4. Congratulates the Secretariat of the Affiliate Members for the notable increase in its activities and in the number of new Members that have joined the Organization between 2006 and 2007;

5. Takes note of the activities undertaken within the framework of the programme of work, in collaboration with the Affiliate Members and its three councils, which contribute to the integration into the Organization's general programme of the points of view, needs and concerns of the non-governmental sector in areas that are essential to the development of the tourism sector;

6. Expresses its interest in the studies that are being carried out by the different Councils in the fields of marketing, sustainability, the measurement of the economic impacts of tourism, and destination management, in coordination with the general programme of work of the Organization;

7. Supports the implementation of the policy for destination excellence launched at the initiative of the Affiliate Members and which has been taken up, thanks to the support of the Government of Canada and of that of the Province of Quebec, through the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal (CED);
8. Approves the recommendation of the Council to increase the contribution of the Affiliate Members by €400, to a total of €2400, €400 of which will be allocated to financing access by the Affiliate Members to the UNWTO’s e-library, on account of the enormous added value that this service represents for the Members; and

9. Takes note of the composition of the Board of the Affiliate Members, as decided at its thirtieth General Meeting:

Chairman:

GROUP RCI

Vice-Chairmen:

ASSOCIACIÓN MUNDIAL PARA LA FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL TURÍSTICA (AMFORT)
ASOCIACIÓN HOTELERA DE COLOMBIA - COTELCO (Colombia)
ASSOCIATION OF GREEK TOURIST ENTERPRISES (Greece)
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TOURISME SOCIAL (BITS)
CÁMARA ARGENTINA DE TURISMO – CAPTUR (Argentina)
CÁMARA PROVINCIAL DE TURISMO PICHINCHA (Ecuador)
CENTRO ESPAÑOL DE NUEVAS PROFESIONES (Spain)
CONFEDERACIÓN DE ORGANIZACIONES TURÍSTICAS DE LA AMÉRICA LATINA (COTAL)
EGYPTIAN TOURISM FEDERATION – ETF (Egypt)
ENCIRCA (United States of America)
EXCELTUR, ALIANZA PARA LA EXCELENCIA TURÍSTICA (Spain)
FEDERACAO NACIONAL DE HOTEIS, RESTAURANTES, BARES E SIMILARES, FNHRBS (Brazil)
FEDERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE GERMAN TOURISM INDUSTRY - BTW (Germany)
FERIA INTERNACIONAL DE TURISMO-FITUR (Spain)
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (United States of America)
IBERIA, LÍNEAS AERÉAS DE ESPAÑA (Spain)
STITUTO COOPERAZIONE ECONOMICA INTERNAZIONALE-ICEI (Italy)
INSTITUTO PARA LA CALIDAD TURÍSTICA ESPAÑOLA - ICTE (Spain)
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION (IH&RA)
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TOUR OPERATORS (IFTO)
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM (Nigeria)
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS (United States of America)
PATRONATO DE TURISMO DE MADRID (Spain)
RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR TOURISM RIAT (Russian Federation)
SINGIDUNUM UNIVERSITY - THE FACULTY OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (Serbia)
THR - ASESORES EN TURISMO, HOTELERÍA Y RECREACIÓN, S.A. (Spain)
TOURISME MONTRÉAL (Canada)
A/RES/538(XVII)

Report of the Credentials Committee

Agenda item 18

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report submitted by the Credentials Committee, chaired by Mr. Philip Noonan (Australia),

1. Decides to take into account the observations of the Committee regarding the calendar of meetings of the General Assembly so that, in future, the Credentials Committee can be held prior to any elections; and

2. Approves the said report.

A/RES/539(XVII)

Membership of the Organization

(a) New membership

Agenda item 19(a)(l)
(document A/17/19(a)(l))

Full Members

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the changes in membership of the Organization since its sixteenth session, as well as of the applications for full membership received by the Secretary-General listed in document A/17/19(a)(l),
1. Notes that Serbia, successor State of the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, remained a Member of the UNWTO on this account, effective 9 June 2006;

2. Approves with satisfaction the applications for membership submitted by Montenegro, Tajikistan and Brunei Darussalam, in accordance with Article 5(3) of the Statutes;

3. Welcomes with enthusiasm the prospect of the membership of New Zealand, which may occur over the course of 2008, and underlines the UNWTO's keen interest in seeing the membership of a country whose experience is remarkable in areas such as ecotourism and the tourism satellite account;

4. Recalls that pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Statutes, New Zealand, a former member of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), has the right to become a Full Member of the Organization without requirement of vote; and

5. Welcomes the considerable increase in the number of the Members of the Organization over these past years and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard.

A/RES/540(XVII)

Membership of the Organization

(a) New membership

Agenda item 19(a)(II)
(document A/17/19(a)(II))

Affiliate Members

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the applications for affiliate membership received by the Secretary-General,

1. Approves, on the recommendation of the Executive Council and in accordance with resolution 279(IX), the applications for affiliate membership of the following bodies:

1. ADVENTURE TRAVEL TRADE ASSOCIATION (United States of America)
2. AMADEUS IT GROUP (Spain)
3. AMBROSETTI, S.P.A. (Italy)
4. AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (Jordan)
5. ARAB TOURISM ORGANIZATION (Saudi Arabia)
6. ASOCIACIÓN CATALANA DE AGENCIAS DE VIAJES (ACAV) (Spain)
7. ASOCIACION DE HOTELES DE TURISMO DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA (AHT) (Argentina)
8. AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL (Australia)
9. AUTHENTREX, S.A. (Spain)
10. AVIEMORE AND CAIRNGORMS DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (United Kingdom)
11. BROCK UNIVERSITY (Canada)
12. BUSINESS ARCHITECTS CONSULTANCY S. A. (Greece)
13. CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (United States of America)
14. CAMARA DE PERIODISTAS Y COMUNICADORES DE TURISMO (Spain)
15. CÁMARA OFICIAL DE COMERCIO, INDUSTRIA Y NAVEGACIÓN DE LA PROVINCIA DE MÁLAGA (Spain)
16. CAPGEMINI ESPAÑA, S.L. (Brazil)
17. CETUR – CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS E INVESTIGACIONES (Spain)
18. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF THE DODECANESE (Greece)
19. CHARISMA PUBLIC RELATIONS (United Kingdom)
20. CONFERENCIA NACIONAL TURÍSTICA, A.C. (Mexico)
21. CONSORCI ESCOLA D'HOTELERIA DE LES ILLES BALEARS (Spain)
22. CORPORACIÓN COMUNICACIÓN IBEROAMERICANA BARCELÓ Y ASOCIADOS (Spain)
23. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, LEISURE, HOTEL AND SPORT MANAGEMENT GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY (Australia)
24. DNIPRO HOTEL (Ukraine)
25. ELITE TRAVELER (United States of America)
26. ENCIRCA, INC. (United States of America)
27. ENTE BILATERALE NAZIONALE TURISMO (Italy)
28. EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISERS (EFAPCO)
29. FEDERATION OF TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS OF NIGERIA (FTAN) (Nigeria)
30. FISAVET-AOC - FÉDÉRATION INTER-ÉTATS DES SYNDICATS DES AGENCES DE VOYAGES ET DE TOURISME DE L'AФRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET DU CENTRE (Benin)
31. FUNDACIÓN EMPRESARIAL COMUNIDAD EUROPEA CHILE (EUROCHILE) (Chile)
32. FUNDACIÓN IBIT, ISLAS BALEARES PARA LA INNOVACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA (Spain)
33. FUNDACIÓN MUNICIPAL “TURISMO PARA CUENCA” (Ecuador)
34. FUNDACIÓN TURISMO VALENCIA (Spain)
35. GEOS (France)
36. GIT CONSULTORES (Spain)
37. HOHOE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY (HDA) (Ghana)
38. INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM (Croatia)
39. INSTITUTO DISTRITAL DE TURISMO (Colombia)
40. INSTITUTO MUNICIPAL DE TURISMO (IMTUR) DEL AYUNTAMIENTO DE PALMA DE MALLORCA (Spain)
41. INSTITUTO PARA LA CALIDAD TURÍSTICA ESPAÑOLA (Spain)
42. JORDAN APPLIED UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM (Jordan)
43. KOHL & PARTNER TOURISM CONSULTANCY INTERNATIONAL (Austria)
44. MEDITERRANEAN TRAVEL ASSOCIATION - META
45. MONDIAL ENERGY INC. (Canada)
46. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY (United States of America)
47. NON-COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM INTEGRATION "THE WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS" (Russian Federation)
48. RAINFOREST ALLIANCE (United States of America)
49. RENFE OPERADORA (Spain)
50. ROTEIROS DE CHARME HOTEL ASSOCIATION (Brazil)
51. SEBRAE - SERVIÇO BRASILEIRO DE APOIO ÀS MICRO E PEQUENAS EMPRESAS (Brazil)
52. SECRETARIA DE TURISMO DE FORTALEZA (Brazil)
53. THE FUTURE FOUNDATION (United Kingdom)
54. THE INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURISM SOCIETY (United States of America)
55. THE SCHOLARSHIP (United States of America)
56. THE SUN CHANNEL TOURISM TELEVISION (Venezuela)
57. THE TOURISM COMPANY (United Kingdom)
58. TOUR OPERATORS' INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (TOI)
59. TOURISM KWAZULU-NATAL TOURISM AUTHORITY OF TOURISM KWAZULU NATAL (South Africa)
60. TOURISMROI LLC. (United States of America)
61. TOURISMTRADEMARK (Spain)
62. TRALLIANCE CORPORATION (United States of America)
63. TURISMO Y COMUNICACIÓN DE SALAMANCA, S.A.U (Spain)
64. UNION HOTELERA DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS (Spain)
65. UNIVERSIDAD PEDRO DE VALDIVIA (Chile)
66. UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN – TOURISM RESEARCH CENTER (Iran)
67. WEST AFRICA TOURISM UNION (WATU) (Ghana)

2. Takes note of the withdrawal of the bodies from affiliate membership mentioned in document A/17/19(a)(II).
Risk assessment and management status report

Agenda Item 20
(document A/17/20)

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on this matter,

1. Takes note of the different activities carried out as part of the action plan adopted by the General Assembly during its 16th session, in particular with regard to preparedness for a Human and Avian Influenza pandemic (AHI);

2. Appreciates the professionalism that characterized the preparation of the pandemic-simulation exercises for Europe, Africa and the Middle East on the one hand, and on the other hand, for Asia-Pacific, and the results of such exercises;

3. Encourages the further development of the Tourism Exchange Response Network (TERN) understanding that the www.sos.travel portal plays a central role in this development;

4. Welcomes the development of a broader strategic approach to risk and crisis management in tourism in general with the aim to cover other risks of importance and for the benefit of the tourism sector;

5. Appreciates the efforts undertaken to seek external public and private partnerships to complement the resources allocated by the Organization for risk prevention and management; and

6. Congratulates the Organization for having developed a programme of activities on targeted communications for travellers, the travel industry, and tourist destinations and secured the necessary funding.
Status report on the quality policy of destinations and establishment of the
World Centre of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal

Agenda Item 21
(document A/17/21)

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report presented by the Secretary-General,

1. Welcomes the initiative of CED and its mission of bringing added value and expertise to innovative policies and practices on tourism destination management and assisting mainly the local tourism destinations in achieving excellence and quality performance;

2. Appreciates the support offered to UNWTO by the Canadian Federal Government and the Quebec Provincial Government for this important initiative, in collaboration with a group of Affiliate Members;

Noting that the Executive council during its eightieth session has expressed its support to the creation of the Centre and that the Secretary-General has accordingly signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNWTO and CED;

Recalling that it approved under agenda item 11, in accordance of Article 12 of the Statutes, the Memorandum of Understanding concluded with CED;

3. Entrusts the Secretary-General to submit to the eighty-third session of the Executive Council, based on the general principles of the MOU, the rules of procedure in order to ensure effective cooperation between both parties;

4. Expresses its interest in the System for Measuring the Excellence of Destinations (SMED) and in the progress made by the group of experts of the CED in developing the basic principles for a comprehensive set of indicators to measure excellence and asks the Secretariat that this system be disseminated as soon as possible to all the interested countries with a view to ensuring participation and transparency in its application;

5. Thanks the new advisory board of CED (Andorra, Canada, China, France, Monaco, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Spain) for their interests in providing technical and logistic support to this initiative and identifying and addressing the needs of the destinations in the regions they represent, and
6. **Stresses** that the existence of the CED and other external institutions under the aegis of UNWTO, should not create duplication or overlap with the activities of the Organization and entrusts the Secretary-General with ensuring that the necessary mechanisms are put in place for this purpose.

A/RES/543(XVII)

**Progress Report on the ST-EP Programme**

Agenda Item 22
(document A/17/22)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report prepared by the Secretary General on the activities carried out by the Secretariat within the framework of the ST-EP programme, with the support of the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation based in Seoul;

1. **Expresses its satisfaction** over the variety of activities implemented under the ST-EP programme, in particular the publications developed, seminars organized and ST-EP projects launched;

2. **Appreciates** the awareness raising and resource mobilization activities the UNWTO Secretariat addressed to UN Agencies and possible donors;

3. **Applauds** the Members as well as development and private sector organization that have provided financial and technical contributions to the implementation of the ST-EP programme, and **encourages** other Members to join;

4. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the guidance provided to the ST-EP programme through the regular meetings convened by the ST-EP Foundation's Board of Directors, and the projects approved by the ST-EP Board for ST-EP Foundation funding;

5. **Subscribes** to the efforts to consolidate all planning and decision making under the overall umbrella of the ST-EP Foundation;

6. **Notes with interest** that ST-EP identification missions have been fielded to a large number of Member States and that ST-EP project under implementation are well spread around the globe and cover a wide range of activities, especially in favour of the least developed countries;
7. **Suggests** the organization of additional ST-EP seminars to raise awareness and provide skills and experiences to large numbers of tourism officials on making the tourism sector work for the poor, and

8. **Underlines** the central role that UNWTO should play to help reducing poverty levels through sustainable tourism, within the framework of the global commitment of the international community to the Millennium Development Goals.

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**A/RES/544(XVII)**

**Tourism and climate change**

Agenda Item 23

(documents A/17/23 and A/17/23 Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the document relative to climate change and tourism and of the report of the Secretary General,

Taking into account that the effects of climate change have already a serious impact on several tourism destinations; that certain activities relating to the tourism sector generate only a small proportion of the total greenhouse gas emissions; that there is scientific evidence that global warming will continue to increase at an alarming rate if substantial remedial actions are not taken,

1. **Expresses** its appreciation for the active engagement of the UNWTO Secretariat to analyze the complex issues deriving from the inter-relations between climate change and tourism with a view to taking effective measures of adaptation and mitigation, through transfer of advanced clean technologies, to combat the effects of warming on the tourism sector;

2. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Secretary General for having organized the Djerba Conference from 9 to 11 April 2003, the Davos Conference from 1 to 3 October 2007 and the London Ministerial Summit on 13 November 2007, which generated meaningful discussions on climate change and tourism;

3. **Takes note** with satisfaction of the participation in these events of the tourism authorities of a broad number of countries, and of a wide spectrum of tourism stakeholders from the public and private sector and **welcomes** the exchange of views on the problems and the actions to be undertaken;
4. Takes note of the main elements of the Davos Declaration issued on 3 October 2007 and of the conclusions reached at the London Ministerial Summit on 13 November 2007 and emphasizes that the recommendations emanating from these fora should not discriminate against developing countries by creating obstacles to their economic development and in particular of those developing countries located at long distance from tourists generating markets;

5. Recognizes the urgent need for the tourism sector: to adapt to climate change conditions; to mitigate green house emissions in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities included in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); to help the transfer of new technologies especially through the clean development mechanism and to make efforts to secure financial resources to assist developing countries which are especially vulnerable to climate change; and calls on governments, international organizations, professionals of the tourism sector, media, and other actors to engage in the response to one of the greatest challenges of our times;

6. Reiterates the importance for the tourism sector to identify consensus measures to address climate change but without losing sight of all other priorities, especially poverty alleviation and tourism contribution to Millennium Development Goals;

7. Takes note with interest of the preliminary findings of the technical study on climate change and tourism undertaken by a group of experts under the supervision of UNWTO in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and welcomes comments from the State members after the final report has been circulated by the Secretary-General; and

8. Welcomes the close cooperation established by UNWTO with other relevant agencies of the UN System, and in particular with UNEP and WMO, in view of the forthcoming climate change summit to be held in Bali in December 2007 and of the future actions to be taken within the UN framework, and urges UNWTO to work in close consultation with the UNFCCC, which is the appropriate mechanism within the UN system to address issues relating to climate change.
Acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies

Agenda item 24
(documents A/17/24 and A/17/24 Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General and of the annexed documents on the acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations of 21 November 1947,

Recalling that the General Assembly, at its sixteenth session, approved the draft Annex to the Convention that had been submitted to it,

1. Notes that the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations was unable to consider the approved draft annex at its last session;

2. Takes note that, in accordance with decision 14(LXXX), the Secretary-General has prepared, with the assistance of the Legal Adviser, a new draft annex that has received the favourable opinion of the Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations;

3. Acknowledges that this draft annex has received the agreement of a large majority of the Members that transmitted their comments on this subject to the Secretary-General;

4. Notes further that Japan has submitted a new annex proposal that goes in the direction of seeking a consensus; and that this new draft has not drawn any objection on the part of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations.

5. Approves the draft Annex to the Convention reproduced in the annex to the present resolution;

Noting, furthermore, that this acceptance will not affect the regime of privileges and immunities provided for by the agreements already concluded between the Organization and its host country, Spain,

6. Asks the Secretary-General to carry out the necessary formalities for the final acceptance of the standard clauses of the Convention and its Annex, in cooperation with the Legal Counsel of the United Nations;

7. Entrusts the Executive Council with authorizing the Secretary-General on its behalf to give final approval to the text of the Annex after its formal adoption by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, if it is approved without modification by the latter; and
8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to it regarding the completion of such formalities at its next session.

ANNEX

Annex

World Tourism Organization

In their application to the World Tourism Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization"), the standard clauses shall operate subject to the following modifications:

1. Article V and Section 25, paragraphs 1 and 2 (I) of Article VII of the Convention shall extend to the representatives of Associate Members participating in the work of the Organization in accordance with the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the Statutes").

2. Representatives of Affiliate Members, participating in the activities of the Organization in accordance with the Statutes shall be granted:

   (a) All facilities in order to safeguard the independent exercise of their official functions;

   (b) Maximum expeditiousness in the processing of their applications for visas, where required and when accompanied by a certificate that they are traveling on the business of the Organization. In addition, such persons shall be granted facilities for speedy travel;

   (c) In connection with sub-paragraph (b) above, the principle contained in the last sentence of Section 12 of the standard clauses shall apply;

3. Experts, other than officials coming within the scope of Article VI of the Convention, serving on organs and bodies of, or performing missions for, the Organization shall be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent and effective exercise of their functions, including the time spent on journeys in connection with service on organs and bodies or missions. In particular they shall be accorded:

   (a) Immunity from personal arrest or seizure of their personal baggage;
(b) In respect of words spoken or written or acts done by them in the performance of their official functions, immunity from legal process of every kind, such immunity to continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer serving on organs and bodies of, or employed on mission for, the Organization;

(c) Inviolability for all papers and documents relating to the work on which they are engaged for the Organization;

(d) For the purpose of their communications with the Organization, the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags;

(e) The same facilities in respect of currency and exchange restrictions and in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to officials of foreign Governments on temporary official missions.

4. Privileges and immunities are granted to the experts in the interests of the Organization and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Secretary-General of the Organization shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any expert in any case where, in his/her opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Organization.

5. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 above, paragraphs 3 and 4 above shall apply to representatives of Affiliate members performing missions for the Organization as experts.

6. The privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities referred to in section 21 of the standard clauses shall also be accorded to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization, his/her spouse and minor children.

A/RES/546(XVII)

Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General

Agenda Item 25
(documents A/17/25, A/17/25 Add.1 and A/17/25 Add.2)

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 or who present their candidature with the support of their country, 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, insofar as the term of office of the latter is completed normally, 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.
A/RES/547(XVII)

Report of the Working Group entrusted to study the feasibility of a legal instrument to deal with the facilitation of tourist travel

Agenda Item 26
(document A/17/26)

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the decision of the Executive Council to create a Working Group in order to study the feasibility of an appropriate legal instrument to deal with the facilitation of tourist travel, in the face of the proliferation of constraints affecting international travellers,

Having seen the summary of conclusions of the first meeting and having heard the report on the deliberations of the second meeting of the Working Group, which, among other things, analysed the existing international legal instruments on the subject under the auspices of various institutions,

1. Thanks the Working Group for its contribution;

2. Agrees that further prior study of existing needs should be carried out concerning the possible preparation of an instrument on the matter of facilitation, and that to this end, questionnaires should be sent to member and non-member States of the UNWTO and to interested international organizations in order to determine more precisely the areas in which such instruments would be useful and the form that they should take;

3. Asks the recipients of these questionnaires, which shall be established by the Legal Adviser of the Organization according to the instructions given by the Working Group, to respond to them as promptly and as precisely as possible;

4. Recommends to the Working Group that it present to the Executive Council the results of its work sufficiently in advance so as to make it possible for the appropriate Convention or any legal instruments to be adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Executive Council informed of the progress made in this area; and

6. Takes note with satisfaction of the inventory of international instruments relative to the facilitation of tourist travel carried out at the request of the Working Group and asks the Secretary-General to consider the publication of these instruments on the Organization's website.
The General Assembly,

Having regard to Articles 14 and 17 of the Statutes, rules 54 and 55 of its Rules of Procedure and rule 1 of the Executive Council's Rules of Procedure,

Having heard the comment of the Secretary-General indicating that it would be desirable, in future, to no longer split the terms of office of the Members of the Executive Council between two countries, a procedure that is not provided for in the Statutes and which, as experience has shown, brings about numerous difficulties,

Having received the proposals of its Regional Commissions,

1. **Declares** the following Full Members elected as Members of the Executive Council for the period 2007-2009 or 2007-2011, for the 16 seats to be filled:

   - Algeria (2007-2009)
   - Brazil (2007-2011)
   - China (2007-2011)
   - El Salvador (2009-2011)
   - France (2007-2011)
   - Ghana (2007-2011)
   - Indonesia (2007-2011)
   - Iraq (2007-2011)
   - Italy (2007-2011)
   - Kazakhstan (2007-2011)
   - Mali (2007-2011)
   - Mexico (2007-2009)
   - Morocco (2007-2011)
   - Republic of Korea (2007-2011)
   - Russian Federation (2007-2011)
   - Senegal (2007-2011)
   - Tunisia (2007-2011)

2. **Notes** that Madeira will represent the Associate Members on the Council in 2008 and in 2009; and

3. **Further notes** that the Affiliate Members will be represented on the Council by their Chairman (Group (RCI)), in the person of Mr. Carlos Vogeler, until 2009.
A/RES/549(XVII)

Place and dates of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 28
(document A/17/28)

The General Assembly,

Having regard to Article 20 of the Statutes and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure, as well as resolution 351(XI) adopted at its eleventh session,

Having considered the offer submitted by the Government of Kazakhstan,

1. Thanks this Government warmly for its invitation;
2. Notes that this invitation is in accordance with the terms of resolution 351(XI) relative to the procedure for choosing the place of the General Assembly;
3. Decides to hold its eighteenth session in Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2009 on the dates to be agreed upon with the Government of that country; and
4. Reaffirms the importance of the principle of a geographical rotation in the choice of countries to host General Assembly sessions in the future.

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Vote of thanks to the host country

The General Assembly,

Noting with particular satisfaction the successful conclusion of its proceedings, made possible by the excellent working conditions provided to the Organization by the Government of Colombia,

1. Expresses its keen appreciation to the Government and people of Colombia for the warm welcome they extended to its seventeenth session;
2. Conveys its profound gratitude to H.E. Mr. Álvaro Uribe, President of the Republic of Colombia, who honoured the opening ceremony of its seventeenth session with his presence;

3. Thanks H.E. Mr. Francisco Santos Calderón, Vice President of the Republic of Colombia for the personal part he took in the invitation and the holding of this session;

4. Appreciates the opportunity offered to the delegations to discover the wealth of traditions and heritage of the host country and city;

5. Conveys its sincerest congratulations to H.E. Mr. Luis Guillermo Plata, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and Mr. Oscar Rueda, Vice Minister of Tourism and to all of their collaborators for their remarkable collaboration with the Secretariat to ensure the success of the meeting;

6. Is particularly grateful to Mr. Nicolás Curi Vergara, Mayor of Cartagena, for his personal involvement in ensuring that the city would offer the best possible conditions for receiving this session; and

7. Expresses its most sincere congratulations to H.E. Mr. Luis Guillermo Plata for the remarkable effectiveness with which he presided over the proceedings of its seventeenth session.