DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2011

(b) Report of the Programme Committee

Note by the Secretary-General

This document contains the section of the 36th Programme Committee meeting’s report (24-25 February 2009) regarding the specific points that refer to the 2010-2011 programme of work.
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1. The Programme Committee (PC) held its thirty-sixth meeting at the Organization’s Headquarters on 24 and 25 February 2009. The meeting was chaired by Datuk Dr. Victor Wee (Malaysia).

Preparation of the General Programme of Work 2010-2011

2. The Director of Programme and Coordination (DPC) reminded the Committee the procedures adopted for the preparation of the next Programme of Work (PoW). He then presented the first draft of PoW 2010-2011, underlining the focus on fewer objectives, fewer activities and a smaller number of specific actions, as requested by the Executive Council in order to increase the relevance to and benefits derived by Member States.

3. The Programme Committee recognised that, in the light of the current unstable global economic situation, it is not easy to decide on detailed activities and the corresponding budgetary allocations with accuracy for the next biennium. In recognition of the worsening global economic situation, the Programme Committee saw the need for clear leadership by UNWTO in providing information, analyses and policy direction for Member States to help them navigate their tourism industry through the crisis.

4. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Secretary General establishes a contingency mechanism for special activities or unexpected events that may arise after the approval of the PoW by the General Assembly (October 2009) and that may require UNWTO intervention.

5. The Committee examined, jointly with the Committee on Budget and Finance, the preliminary overall budgetary allocation granted to Programme activities in 2010-2011, other than the cost of the relevant staff. Both Committees agreed with the sum proposed, as well as with the need to maintain a high degree of flexibility in line with the evolution of the global economy, with costs at headquarters, and with the level of payments of the Members’ regular contributions to the Organization.

6. The Committee approved the Draft Programme of Work for 2010-2011 as presented during the 36th PC meeting. However, it recommended the following adjustments in order to better balance the activities planned and the priorities established by Member States:
   1. To put more emphasis and increase budget allocations in the following areas: A.2, A.3, A.4 and B.1
   2. To reduce budget allocations in the following areas: A.1 and B.2

7. Finally, the Programme Committee expressed its satisfaction with the way in which the Secretariat had prepared the draft PoW and asked to be kept informed of any new developments.