MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION

Note by the Secretary-General

In this report, the Secretary-General transmits to the Executive Council recent information concerning the membership of the Organization.
MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION

Norway

1. The Secretariat was informed on 8 September 2008 of the decision of the Kingdom of Norway to join the World Tourism Organization and has submitted to the Spanish Government, the Depositary of the Statutes, the documents corresponding to such membership. Norway has never belonged to the UNWTO, but it was a member of its predecessor, the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), and in particular, it was such at the time of the adoption of the Statutes of the Organization on 27 September 1970.

2. This being the case, and pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Statutes, Norway becomes, without any further procedural formalities, a Member of the UNWTO and the 154th country belonging to the Institution.

Vanuatu

3. The Secretariat and the Spanish Government have received, in the requisite form, the country's request for membership in the UNWTO. In accordance with Article 5(3) of the Statutes, this request will be submitted to the next session of the General Assembly.

United Kingdom

4. The Secretariat and the Spanish Government have received the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the Organization in the second half of 2009. The Secretary-General will inform the Council of all the aspects of this decision and of the steps undertaken in order that this country might reconsider it.