NEW MEMBERSHIP

Note by the Secretary-General

In this report, the Secretary-General informs the Executive Council about the contacts carried out by the Secretariat with non-member States.
NEW MEMBERSHIP

1. The Secretary-General wishes to inform the Members of the Council about the demarches taken vis-à-vis States that are not members of the Organization, and in particular, the following three States:

Norway

2. The Government of Norway informed the Secretary-General that the appropriate steps for admission are under progress and expected to be concluded soon.

New Zealand

3. Contacts have been maintained with New Zealand. In particular, the Assistant Secretary-General took advantage of the celebration of World Environment Day, last June, to visit this country, which confirmed its decision to join the UNWTO.

4. It appears that the decision, taken in principle, will come into effect once the ongoing inter-ministerial discussions make it possible to establish the details of the funding of the country's contribution.

Vanuatu

5. In June 2005, the Republic of Vanuatu already informed the Secretary-General of its interest in joining the Organization. The Secretariat at that time carried out the follow-up actions to that request.

6. In July 2008, the country again informed the Secretariat of the interest of the Ministry of Tourism in the UNWTO. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has likewise notably announced its intention to open a permanent mission to the Organization in Madrid. The Secretariat is once again in contact with the authorities of the country with a view to being able to possibly take the measures enabling it to join the UNWTO.