Seventy-third session
Hyderabad, India, 8-9 July 2004
Provisional agenda item 13

SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCES

Note by the Secretary-General

In this document, the Secretary-General informs the Members of the Council on the scheduling of conferences of WTO in 2004 and 2005.
SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCES

1. In view of the number of meetings of WTO organs, technical meetings, periodic conferences and other events, the Secretary-General wishes to inform the Council of a proposed schedule for the second half of 2004 and for 2005.

2. This schedule was established to spread out the different events in order to ensure better organization and high-level participation on the part of the Member States and of other entities that are invited.

I. 2004

a) Meetings of WTO organs

3. With regard to the meetings of the Regional Commissions, at the time of writing of this report, all of them have already been held or are scheduled to be held before the session of the Council.

4. The seventy-fourth session of the Executive Council is to take place in November 2004.

5. The subsidiary organs of the Council have also met during the first half of 2004, with the exception of the Committee on Market Intelligence and Promotion and the Sub-Committee for the examination of candidatures for affiliate membership, which always hold their meetings in the context of the Council sessions.

6. Three Committees will hold a second meeting before the end of the year:

   - the Quality Support and Trade Committee, in September
   - the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, in October
   - the Programme Committee, in November

b) Other events

7. Aside from the different seminars, workshops, and working groups organized by the WTO, the major events scheduled to be held between now and the end of the year are the following:

   - World Tourism Day celebration in Malaysia, 27 September
   - Leadership Forum of Advisers, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 30 September-1 October
   - Tourism Policy Forum, Washington, United States, 19-20 October 2004
   - Seventh meeting of the WTO Strategic Group, Monaco, 27 October 2004
II. 2005

a) Meetings of WTO organs

8. Pursuant to resolution 474(XV), the sixteenth session of the General Assembly will be held in Senegal at the end of November or at the start of December 2005, due to weather considerations and the Ramadan period. A preliminary visit has been made to Dakar. The Senegalese authorities have reiterated their willingness to make all the necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth functioning of the session. To this end, contacts are in progress between the Ministry of Tourism and the Hotel Méridien for the fitting out of a conference hall with sufficient capacity to accommodate the plenary sessions.

9. The subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, namely the Regional Commissions, are to hold their first meeting of the year before the Executive Council session of May/June 2005. These Commissions are to hold a second meeting in the context of the General Assembly in Dakar.

10. The seventy-fifth session of the Executive Council is to take place in May/June 2005. In a letter dated 19 May 2004 to the Secretary-General, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy of Bulgaria, H.E. Ms. Lydia Shouleva officially presented the candidature of her country to host this session. It will be up to the Council of November 2004 to take a decision regarding this matter.

11. The Technical Committees, subsidiary organs of the Council, are also to hold their annual meeting during 2005. Three of them have already established a period for the holding of their respective meetings next year:

- Committee on Sustainable Development of Tourism: end of February/early March 2005 in Aswan, Egypt
- Committee on Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism: March 2005 at Headquarters
- Programme Committee and Committee on Budget and Finance: April/May 2005.

b) Other events

12. For several years now, the WTO has been periodically organizing events that it should be possible to hold during 2005, such as:

- Understanding Tourism and Designing Strategies. It should be possible to hold this Conference in early 2005. Jordan has officially presented its candidature to host the Conference. Conferences at the regional level could also be organized.

- The fourth edition of the World Congress on Snow and Winter Sports Tourism is to be held in Andorra in the latter part of the first quarter of 2005.
The Conference on the Tourism Satellite Account: Understanding Tourism and Designing Strategies, as a follow-up to the World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism, which was held in Nice in 1999. This Conference could be held in May/June or in September/October 2005. Argentina and Brazil have expressed their interest in hosting this Conference.

Lastly, in light of the interest generated by the Conferences on Sport and Tourism held since 2001, new editions are being considered, possibly for 2004 and/or 2005. Tunisia has indicated its desire to host one such conference in 2004 or later; Portugal has expressed an interest in doing so in 2005. The Secretary-General has resumed contacts with the International Olympic Committee, which after a less active period now seems interested in once again cooperating with the WTO in this field.

13. In accordance with resolution 470(XV) adopted in Beijing, Qatar will host the celebration of World Tourism Day on 27 September 2005.