PROPOSAL FOR THE ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON A GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General presents this document to the members of the Executive Council submitted upon request of the Indian delegation.
PROPOSAL FOR THE ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON A GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS

1. At the seventy-second session of the Executive Council which was held in Beijing, China, in October 2004, during the consideration of the agenda item related to the election of the Council's Officers for 2004, the delegation of India raised the question of the geographical rotation of the chairmanship of the Executive Council. On 23 June 2004 Mrs. Rahi Vinay Jha, Secretary for Tourism of the Indian Government, submitted to the Secretary-General an official communication requesting the inclusion of an item on this matter in the provisional agenda of this session.

2. The text of this communication is attached.

3. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, and in consultation with the Council's Chairman (the Russian Federation), this item has been included in the supplementary agenda of the session.

4. Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council are given below:

**Officers of the Council**

**Rule 5**

1. The Council shall elect by secret ballot from among its Members a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman for a term of one year.

3. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be eligible for a second term of office.

4. The annexed graph shows the States elected to the chairmanship of the Council since the Organization's inception.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAF</td>
<td>Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon</td>
<td>76, 80, 84, 88, 92, 96, 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAM</td>
<td>Venezuela, USA, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil</td>
<td>76, 80, 88, 92, 96, 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>Philippines, Indonesia</td>
<td>78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEU</td>
<td>Poland, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Russian F.</td>
<td>78, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CME</td>
<td>Iraq, Jordan</td>
<td>79, 83, 87, 91, 95, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>Nepal, India, Sri Lanka</td>
<td>83, 87, 91, 95, 99, 03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* elected for a one-year period
Thank you for accepting our suggestion of choosing Destination Marketing as the topic for the Seminar to be held in conjunction with the Executive Council Meeting of WTO in Hyderabad. I also extend my warm welcome to you and your team to Hyderabad.

I have received the provisional agenda of the session. I would like to put forward an item for inclusion in the agenda.

As you would recollect, during the Seventy second session of the Executive Council held in Beijing, India had put forth our candidature to the post of Chairman of the Executive Council. In the last 10 years, we have had 3 chairmen from Europe, 3 from Africa, 2 from the Americas, but only 2 from South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific combined. In the fitness of things, the next term should have gone to a country from Asia, and India was the only candidate from the region.

However, in order to avoid an election, India withdrew its candidature, and I had made it clear that we were withdrawing from the fray to prevent the politicization of this distinguished organization. I concluded my statement by pointing out that WTO, even as it is evolving into a full fledged arm of the United Nations, should adopt and practice the principle of geographic distribution, equity and fair play, in terms of posts and positions. This would, inter alia, include the rotation of the post of the Chairman of the Council between regions.

At that juncture, while appreciating India’s efforts to avoid a contest, you had specifically mentioned that this point of rotation of the post of Chairman will be taken up in the next meeting of the Council for deliberation and decision.

It is our considered position that the issue of geographic rotation of the post of the Chairman of the Executive Council should be included in the agenda for the forthcoming Executive Council Meeting in Hyderabad.

I trust that you shall take appropriate action in the matter, in consultation with the present Chairman of the Council.

To conclude, let me assure you that the Government of India will make all efforts to ensure that the Council Meeting will be a success, and the delegates will have a memorable time in India. We are looking forward to meeting all of you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Francesco Frangialli,
Secretary General,
World Tourism Organisation,
Madrid.

(Rathi Vinay Jha)