WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

Note by the Secretary-General

In this document, the Secretary-General gives an update on the constitution of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics and reports on the outcome of the First Meeting of the World Committee (Rome, Italy, 25-26 February 2004).
WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

1. It is recalled that by resolution A/RES/469(XV), the General Assembly, at its fifteenth session (Beijing, China, 19-24 October 2003) acknowledged the composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics as finalized by the Executive Council at its seventieth session in June 2003, and welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to convey to the Members of the Committee the candidature of Mr. Diego Cordovez for the position of Chairman of the Committee.

2. By the same resolution 469(XV), the General Assembly further decided to accept the invitation of the Italian Government to hold the first meeting of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics in Italy, as well as it agreed, in principle, to the kind offer of the Italian authorities to establish the permanent headquarters of the Committee in their country, subject to completion of the corresponding administrative and financial arrangements.

3. In line with the above resolution, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics held its first meeting in Rome, Italy, on 25 and 26 February 2004. All eleven Members of the Committee, as well as five alternate Members (representing East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, Associate Members and Affiliate Members/NGOs), attended the meeting.

4. Following the proposal made by the Secretary-General, the Members of the Committee elected Mr. Diego Cordovez, a former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, by acclamation for the position of Chairman of the Committee. With the election of its Chairman, the composition of the Committee has now been completed and is attached as Annex 1.

5. During the meeting, the Committee examined its future operating modalities and reviewed the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee prepared by the Organization's Legal Adviser (copy of which is attached in Annex 2). It should be noted that the text is still subject to minor amendments.

6. The Committee further established a programme of work, for which it identified a number of issues requiring priority action and an increased amount of awareness-raising activities. These priority areas are: (a) exploitation of human beings, in particular children; (b) sustainable development of tourism; (c) liberty of movements of visitors; (d) ensuring effective right to tourism; (e) fair trade in tourism services; and (f) observing ethical principles as a basis for understanding among people and a contribution to peace.
7. Moreover, in order to effectively carry out the functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly, - which consist in promoting the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, as well as evaluating and monitoring the problems encountered in implementing the Code in compliance with part I of its Protocol of Implementation -, the Committee decided to undertake a worldwide awareness campaign on the Code and to launch a comprehensive survey among WTO member States and Affiliate Members designed to assess its current degree of implementation. Additionally, implementation parameters corresponding to the general Code principles under the above priority areas will be prepared so as to guide and assist WTO Members with the practical implementation of the Code.

8. As far as the draft mechanism for the settlement of disputes, as set out in part II of the Protocol, is concerned, the Chairman of the Committee has been entrusted by the Committee to prepare a new, broadly acceptable draft to be examined at the next Committee meeting. Once finalized, the revised draft mechanism will be submitted, after consultation with the Executive Council and the Secretary-General, to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly (autumn 2005).

9. Finally, the Secretary-General and the Italian Government agreed to defer any decision related to Italy’s offer of hosting the permanent headquarters of the Committee until the second meeting of the Committee, to be held from 4 to 6 October 2004 at the WTO headquarters in Madrid. The Secretary-General will report on this matter to the seventy-fourth session of the Executive Council.
ANNEX I

FINAL COMPOSITION OF THE

WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

(2003-2007)

Chairman
Mr. Diego Cordovez (Ecuador)

Members

Representatives of Full Members

Africa

Member: Mr. Mohamed Mounir Ben Miled (Tunisia)
Alternate: Mr. John Ngata Kariuki (Kenya)

Americas

Member: Mr. Edmundo Pérez de Cobos (Mexico)
Alternate: Mr. Mario Carlos Beni (Brazil)

East Asia and the Pacific

Member: Mr. Emil Salim (Indonesia)
Alternate: Mrs. Evelyn Pantig (Philippines)

Europe

Member: Mr. Erich Musyl (Austria)
Alternate: Mr. Mauro di Pietro (Italy)

Middle East

Member: Ms. Laurice Hlass (Jordan)
Alternate: Ms. Laila Bassiouni (Egypt)

South Asia

Member: Mr. Krishnan Nair (India)
Alternate: Mr. Iqbal Walji (Pakistan)

1 Composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics as finalized by Executive Council decision CE/DEC/12(LXX) and endorsed by General Assembly resolution A/RES/469(XV), and completed after the election of its Chairman by the Members of Committee, at their first meeting in Rome, Italy, on 25-26 February 2004.
Representatives of the Associate Members

Member: Mr. Carlos Alberto Silva (Madeira)
Alternate: Mr. Urbain Claeys (Flemish Community of Belgium)

Representatives of the Affiliate Members

Employers

Member: Mr. Alain-Philippe Feutré (France)
(International Hotel and Restaurant Association, IH&RA)
Alternate: Mr. Ahmed El Khadem (Egypt)
(Egyptian Tourist Federation)

Employees:

Member: Mr. Patrick Dalban-Moreynas (Switzerland)
(Union internationale des travailleurs de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de l'hôtellerie-restauration, du tabac et des branches connexes, IUFIUTA)
Alternate: Mr. Nicos Epistithiou (Cyprus)
(Cyprus Hotel Employees Federation, OEXEV-SEK)

Educational institutions

Member: Ms. Perran Akan (Turkey)
(Bogaziçi University)
Alternate: Mr. François Bédard (Canada)
(Université du Québec à Montréal)

Non-governmental organizations

Member: Mr. Norberto Tonini (Italy)
(International Bureau of Social Tourism, BITS)
Alternate: Mr. Heiko Crost (Germany)
(Destination 21/FEE)
ANNEX II

WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(DRAFT INCLUDING MODIFICATIONS ADOPTED
BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST MEETING AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
SUGGESTIONS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY-GENERAL)

A preliminary draft of the Rules of Procedure of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics was prepared initially by the Legal Adviser of the Organization. In application of provision (d) of Part I of the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism annexed to resolution A/RES/438(XIV), the said draft was examined by the Committee at its first meeting, held in Rome on 25-26 February 2004. The following text reflects the modifications made to the preliminary draft on this occasion. It is for the Committee to formally adopt this text at the start of its second meeting.

The present document does not include the explanatory remarks that accompanied the Legal Adviser’s text.

Preamble

1. These Rules of Procedure are adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution A/RES/406/XIII whereby the General Assembly adopted the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and entrusted the World Committee on Tourism Ethics with preparing the guidelines for application with a view to specifying how the principles set forth in the Code are to be implemented, and provision (d) of the annex to resolution A/RES/438(XIV) stipulating that the World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall establish its own Rules of Procedure.

2. These Rules are subordinate to the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization. In cases where its stipulations are deficient or unclear, such stipulations shall be interpreted in the light of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and those of the Executive Council of the Organization.

3. For the purposes of these Rules, the terms "WTO", "Assembly", "Council", "Committee" and "Protocol" shall mean, respectively, the World Tourism Organization, the General Assembly and Executive Council of the WTO, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, and the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism annexed to resolution A/RES/438(XIV) as modified by resolution A/RES/469(XV).
Composition of the Committee

Rule 1

1. The Committee shall consist of twelve members and eleven alternates.

2. The members of the Committee and their alternates shall be appointed in accordance with the stipulations of provision (b) of the Protocol. They shall not receive any orders or instructions from those who proposed their nomination or who elected them and shall not be accountable to them.

3. Save for exceptions resulting expressly from these Rules, alternate members shall have the same rights and obligations as full members. Nevertheless, an alternate member may only vote if the full member for whom he/she is the alternate is absent.

4. In the event of a vacancy of a seat, the full member shall be replaced by his/her alternate, it being understood that if the vacancy concerns both the full member and his/her alternate, they shall be replaced in accordance with the provisions applicable to the initial appointment.

Rule 2

1. The Chairperson of the Committee, who should be an eminent person not directly involved in the activities of the WTO but is from a Member State of the Organization, shall be elected by the other members of the Committee, on the proposal of the Secretary-General of WTO, after obtaining the opinion of the Council.

2. If the Chairperson is unable to attend a meeting, the Committee shall elect a session chairperson from among its full members. If such inability is permanent, a new Chairperson shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1.

Rule 3

The presence of two-thirds of the Committee’s full members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at its meetings. In the event that a full member is unable to attend, he/she may be replaced by his/her alternate.

Rule 4

1. An observer designated by the Executive Council may participate in meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity. Such observer has no vote but may take part in discussions in the same way as the members.
2. The Secretary-General shall attend *ex officio* or may arrange to be represented at the meetings of the Committee. The Secretary-General may address the Committee on any point he/she deems appropriate. The Secretary-General may at any time make to the Committee oral or written statements on any matters falling within the competence of the Committee.

3. The Legal Adviser of WTO shall participate, when necessary, and in an advisory capacity, in the Committee meetings and may address the Committee on any point of law he/she deems appropriate.

**Meetings of the Committee**

*Rule 5*

1. The Committee shall meet once a year, and for as long as its agenda requires.

2. A second meeting during the same year or, if circumstances so warrant, an extraordinary meeting, may be convened if the Committee so decides, and after consultation with the Secretary-General.

*Rule 6*

1. The provisional agenda of each meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General in agreement with the Chairperson. It shall include any item the inclusion of which has been requested by the Assembly, by the Council or by the WTO Regional Commissions or, with the authorization of the Council, by the Committee of Affiliate Members. Full Members of the Organization may bring to the Committee’s attention matters or situations that they deem worthy of consideration.

2. The provisional agenda of each ordinary meeting, together with the supporting documents, shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the members of the Committee and to the observers at least thirty days before the start of the meeting. In the event that an extraordinary meeting is convened, the provisional agenda, together with the supporting documents, shall be transmitted to the members of the Committee as soon as possible and using the most expeditious means.

3. The Committee shall adopt its agenda. If the circumstances so warrant, the Committee may place on its agenda supplementary items proposed by the Executive Council, by the Secretary-General, or by one of its members.

*Rule 7*

1. The meetings of the Committee shall be private unless the Committee decides otherwise. Nevertheless, the Committee may invite persons whose presence it deems useful to follow its discussions. Members of the WTO staff whose presence is necessary for its proceedings may attend the meetings.

2. The Committee may invite experts or external institutions to contribute to its proceedings.
3. The Committee shall decide on the publicity to be given to its deliberations, whose results it shall communicate to the appropriate recipient's.

Rule 8

No one may address the Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairperson.

Rule 9

1. The Committee's working language shall be English. Nevertheless, a second working language may be adopted by the Committee in cases where it is deemed useful for the smooth proceeding of the deliberations of a session of the Committee, within the limits of the available funds.

Rule 10

1. The Committee shall adopt its biennial report, the various decisions it takes (except for those concerning persons), and the recommendations it formulates, preferably by consensus.

2. In the event that all the necessary efforts do not result in a consensus, the decision or recommendation shall be adopted by majority of the members present, with abstentions not being counted in the tally of votes.

3. Voting on decisions concerning persons shall be carried out by secret ballot. In all other cases, the Committee shall vote by a show of hands. In the event of a tie in the voting, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

Functions of the Committee

Rule 11

1. The Committee shall perform the functions of evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Code. To this end, it shall collect information relative to such implementation and shall draw up an inventory of the efforts made by the different stakeholders in tourism to promote and apply the Code, and of the problems encountered in doing so.

2. The Secretary-General shall transmit to the Committee the pertinent information in his/her possession with the support of the Committee of Affiliate Members.

3. The Secretary-General shall place at the Committee's disposal the personnel necessary for the performance of its functions.
Rule 12

1. The Committee shall summarize the information collected and shall include in its biennial report the conclusions drawn from the analysis of such information. Should the need arise, it shall draw up proposals to amend or supplement the Code and to enhance its dissemination and implementation. Separately from its biennial report, the Committee may draw up any recommendations it deems useful.

2. The Secretary-General shall transmit the report and recommendations of the Committee to the Council and to the Regional Commissions, together with his/her observations, for consideration. The Secretary-General shall transmit to the Assembly the recommendations of the Committee together with his/her own observations and, as the case may be, any comments called for by such documents on the part of the Council and the Regional Commissions.

Final provisions

Rule 13

1. These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Committee. Its text shall be transmitted to the Council and to the Assembly for their information.

2. It may be amended by the Committee as necessary. Amendments may be proposed by the Assembly, the Council, or the Secretary-General, or by any full member or alternate member of the Committee. The text of proposals for amendments shall be transmitted to the members of the Committee by the Secretary-General at least thirty days before the Committee meeting at which they are to be considered.