



2017  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
FOR DEVELOPMENT



## General Assembly

Twenty-second session  
Chengdu, China, 11-16 September 2017  
Provisional agenda item 13

A/22/13 rev.1  
Madrid, 28 August 2017  
Original: English

### Election of the Executive Council members

#### I. Membership of the Executive Council

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1. The General Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council, in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes of the Organization, which reads as follows<sup>1</sup>:

*“The Council shall consist of Full Members elected by the Assembly in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly, with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution.”*

2. Article 15 of the Statutes also stipulates that:

*“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...). Election for one-half of the membership of the Council shall be held every two years.”*

3. This provision is enlarged upon in Rule 55(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, paragraph 4 of which reads:

*“The term of office of the Members of the Council shall begin immediately following their election by the Assembly and shall end on the election of their successors.”*

4. Article 14(1) of the Statutes provides that the total number of the Organization’s Full Members determines the number of seats on the Council. In order to achieve, so far as possible, fair and equitable geographical representation, the number of seats per region is calculated on the basis of one seat for every five Members out of the total number of Members in each region. By the time the Organization achieved 158 Full Members, the Executive Council was then composed of 32 seats, in addition to Spain as a permanent member. (See resolution A/RES/671(XXI).

5. At the date of this document, the total number of Full Members of the Organization is 156. Consequently, and in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes, the Council may be composed of 31

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<sup>1</sup> The same provision is repeated in Rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.



members in addition to Spain as a permanent member, during the period between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the General Assembly. However, should the General Assembly approve the candidatures to full membership of the State of Palestine, of the Union of the Comoros, and of the Federal Republic of Somalia the total number would therefore come to 159 Member States (see Annex I). This would mean, however, that despite the fact that the Organization has 156 Full Members and that the General Assembly is considering to approve in this session three more candidatures, the number of seats in the Council would remain unaltered. This situation is neither fair nor representative of the membership of the Organization and fails to fulfil the goal of “equitable geographical distribution”.

6. Aligning the number of seats in the Executive Council with the membership of the Organization would preserve its representative character while at the same time it would facilitate the allocation of an extra seat to the regions that aspire to have a greater voice and a more effective role.

7. The application of the statutory rule of 1/5 to 159 Full Members makes the resulting figure higher than 31. When this situation arises it would seem logical to round the figure up to the nearest higher whole number. As the Statutes do not stipulate a fixed number of seats, this would enable the allocation of extra seats. Other UN organizations follow a similar practice when adapting the size of non-plenary organs to their increasing membership.

8. This rationale was applied by the General Assembly at its 21st session, which, through resolution 671(XXI), decided to allocate an extra seat, establishing thereby the number of seats of the Executive Council for the period 2015-2017 at 32, in addition to the Host Country as a permanent member.

9. In addition, in line with the practice of other specialized agencies of the United Nations and with a view to effectively ensuring the equitable geographic distribution of seats stipulated in the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretariat proposes that the established proportion of one member of the Council for every five Full Members of the Organization be applied to the number of Member States by region in order to determine the number of seats allocated to the region concerned, instead of being applied to the total number of Member States. The resulting figure obtained after this calculation shall be rounded to the nearest higher integer and shall represent the number of seats on the Executive Council assigned to that region. It should be noted that this may increase the number of seats in the Executive Council. If the General Assembly approves this interpretation, which is consistent with the Statutes of the Organization, the need to assign the former so-called “floating seats” would disappear, and seats would be allocated directly to the regions.

10. Even though this rationale may be applied *a priori* without making any statutory amendment, in accordance with resolution 671(XXI) and in order to ensure legal security to this new practice on the composition of the Council, the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly would have to be amended accordingly. In this regard, the text of the amendment to the said Rules is being submitted to the present session of the General Assembly for its approval through document A/22/10(III)(i) rev.1.

11. The current membership of the Executive Council is indicated in Annex II (including Paraguay, which will replace Costa Rica until 2019).

12. Annexes III to VIII provide a graphical representation of terms of office, broken down by region, since the creation of UNWTO, and Annex IX shows how seventeen new Full Members can be elected to the Council, in addition to the seventeen members which stay until the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

13. Column 1 of Annex IX shows the membership in the Organization by Regions.

14. Column 2 of Annex IX shows the Council seats for the period 2015-2017 by Regions.

15. Column 3 and 4 of Annex IX shows the number of member seats continuing of their term until 2019 and the number of member states expiring of their term in 2017 by Regions.

16. Column 5 of Annex IX shows that seventeen Full Members will have to be elected to the Council in the ratio of specified in point 9, as follows:

<b>Africa</b>	5 seats
<b>Americas</b>	3 seats
<b>East Asia and the Pacific (with Samoa)</b>	0 seats
<b>Europe</b>	5 seats
<b>Middle East</b>	2 seats
<b>South Asia</b>	2 seats
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>17 seats</u>

17. And finally Column 6 shows that together with the 17 remaining and the 17 newly elected Full Members, the number of Council seats until 2019 by Regions.

<b>Africa</b>	11 members
<b>Americas</b>	5 members
<b>East Asia and the Pacific</b>	4 members
<b>Europe</b>	9 members
<b>Middle East</b>	3 members
<b>South Asia</b>	2 members
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>34 members</u>

## II. Candidatures for membership of the Council

18. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2017-2021:

### **AFRICA** (5 seats to be filled)

**Namibia**, 8 September 2016, new  
**Zimbabwe**, 21 October 2016, new  
**Sudan**, 23 October 2016, new  
**Mauritania**, 9 December 2016, new  
**Angola**, 16 January 2017, renewal  
**Ethiopia**, 6 February 2017, new  
**Seychelles**, 28 February 2017, renewal  
**Cabo Verde**, 12 March 2017, new  
**Republic of Congo**, 16 March 2017, new  
**Republic of Equatorial Guinea**, 23 June 2017, new

**AMERICAS** (3 seats to be filled)

**Uruguay**, 15 April 2016, new  
**Argentina**, 21 April 2016, new  
**Jamaica**, 21 June 2016, new  
**Brazil**, 24 August 2016, new  
**Honduras**, 22 June 2017, new  
**Peru**, 27 June 2017, renewal

**EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** (no seat)

**EUROPE** (5 seats to be filled)

**Bulgaria**, 22 June 2016, renewal  
**Romania**, 26 September 2016, new  
**Serbia**, 31 October 2016, renewal  
**Azerbaijan**, 14 November 2016, renewal  
**Lithuania**, 21 November 2016, new  
**Russian Federation**, 6 February 2017, new  
**Moldova**, 8 February 2017, new  
**Switzerland**, 10 April 2017, new  
**Turkey**, 11 May 2017, new  
**Greece**, 17 May 2017, new

**MIDDLE EAST** (2 seats to be filled)

**Egypt**, 24 November 2016, renewal  
**Bahrain**, 18 April 2017, new  
**Lebanon**, 28 April 2017, new

**SOUTH ASIA** (2 seats to be filled)

**Iran**, 22 October 2016, renewal  
**India**, 20 July 2017, renewal

19. Any other candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the Assembly will be announced in an addendum to this document.

20. It should be recalled that Executive Council decisions 4(XXXIII) and 4(XXXIV) recommend that "...only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council".

21. Associate Members are, for their part, requested to nominate a representative to the Executive Council.

22. The Board of Affiliate Members is requested to nominate its representative to serve on the Executive Council. This function is traditionally shouldered by the Chair of the Board.

### **III. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly**

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23. After having received the proposals of its Regional Commissions, the Associate Members and the Committee of Affiliate Members, the General Assembly is invited:

- (a) To decide that the number of seats of the Executive Council for the period 2017-2019 will

be 34, in addition to Spain as a permanent member;

(b) To declare which Full Members are elected as members of the Executive Council for the period 2017-2021, for the 17 seats to be filled;

(c) To note that the Associate Members will be represented by their selected representative on the Executive Council for the period 2017-2021; and

(d) To note that the Affiliate Members will be represented on the Council by the Chair of their Board.

## ANNEX I

## STATES MEMBERS OF THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION – 156+3=159

**CAM 24**

Argentina  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

**CEU 42**

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Israel  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Monaco  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Poland  
Portugal  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Spain  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Switzerland  
The FYROM Dem.  
Tajikistan  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan

**CAF 49+2 (Comoros and Somalia) =51**

Algeria  
Angola  
Benin  
Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cabo Verde  
Central African Rep.  
Chad  
Congo  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Rep. of the Congo  
Djibouti  
Equatorial  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Sudan  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome and-Principe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Swaziland  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Uganda  
United R. of Tanzania  
*Union of Comoros*  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

**CME 13+1(Palestine) = 14**

Bahrain  
Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Oman  
Qatar  
*Palestine\**  
Saudi Arabia  
Syrian Arab Republic  
United Arab Emirates  
Yemen

**CSA9**

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
India  
Iran  
Maldives  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

**CAP19**

Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
China  
DPR of Korea  
Fiji  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Lao PDR  
Malaysia  
Mongolia  
Myanmar  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Rep. of Korea  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Vanuatu  
Viet Nam  
Samoa

Observers: Holy See

Associate Members:

Aruba  
Flanders  
Hong Kong, China  
Macao, China  
Madeira  
Puerto Rico

## ANNEX II

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REGION	MEMBERS	TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES IN	
		2017	2019
AFRICA	Angola	----->	
	Democratic Republic of Congo	----->	----->
	Ghana	----->	----->
	Kenya	----->	----->
	Morocco	----->	----->
	Mozambique	----->	----->
	Seychelles	----->	
	South Africa	----->	
	Tunisia	----->	
	Zambia	----->	----->
	AMERICAS	Bahamas	----->
Costa Rica/Paraguay		----->	----->
Ecuador		----->	
Mexico		----->	----->
Peru		----->	
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	China	----->	----->
	Japan	----->	----->
	Republic of Korea	----->	----->
	Thailand	----->	----->
SOUTH ASIA	India	----->	
	Iran(Islamic republic of)	----->	
EUROPE	Azerbaijan	----->	
	Bulgaria	----->	
	Croatia	----->	
	France	----->	----->
	Germany	----->	
	Italy	----->	----->
	Portugal	----->	----->
	Serbia	----->	
	Slovakia	----->	----->
	Spain		<i>Permanent Member</i>
MIDDLE EAST	Egypt	----->	
	Saudi Arabia	----->	----->















ANNEX VII

STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNWTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975 - 2019)  
MIDDLE EAST

	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19									
Bahrain																																																						
Egypt																																																						
Iraq																																																						
Jordan																																																						
Kuwait																																																						
Lebanon																																																						
Libyan A.J.																																																						
Oman																																																						
Qatar																																																						
Saudi Arabia																																																						
Syrian A.R.																																																						
United Arab Emirates																																																						
Yemen																																																						

 Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly  
 Chairmanship





## ANNEX IX

## ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

	<i>Column No 1</i>	<i>Column No 2</i>	<i>Column No 3</i>	<i>Column No 4</i>	<i>Column No 5</i>	<i>Column No 6</i>
<b>REGION</b>	<b>MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION BY REGION</b>	<b>COUNCIL SEATS FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2017</b>	<b>TERMS OF OFFICE CONTINUING UNTIL 2019</b>	<b>TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRING in 2017</b>	<b>NEW SEATS CORRESPONDING TO SETS OF FIVE MEMBERS BY REGION</b>	<b>COUNCIL SEATS FOR THE PERIOD 2017-2019</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>	49+2=51	10	6	4	5	11
<b>AMERICAS</b>	24	5	2*	3	3	5
<b>EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>	19	4	4	0	0**	4
<b>EUROPE</b>	42	9	4	5	5	9
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	13+1=14	2	1	1	2	3
<b>SOUTH ASIA</b>	9	2	0	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b> =====	<b>156+3=159</b> ===	<b>32</b> ==	<b>17</b> ==	<b>15</b> ==	<b>17</b> ==	<b>34</b> ==

The seat of Spain as being a Permanent member of the Executive Council does not appear in the Annex VII

(\*)by the resolution of GA in 2015 Paraguay will replace Costa Rica until 2019

(\*\*) Meanwhile, Australia withdrew from the Organization, and consequently the membership in East Asia and the Pacific decreased from 20 to 19, but the region occupies 4 full seats until 2019