

**FOR DECISION**

Agenda item 2  
**Election of the President and  
Vice-Presidents of the Assembly**

A/23/2  
Madrid, 12 August 2019  
Original: English

**Executive summary**

The General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session. The Vice-Presidents are recommended by the Regional Commissions. The guidelines for elections and the functions of the officers are also recalled in this document.

**Action by the General Assembly**

---

**DRAFT RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>**

*The General Assembly*

1. *Declares elected* the Russian Federation as President of its twenty-third session, represented by H.E. ....; and
2. *Declares elected* as Vice-Presidents of its twenty-third session:
  - Africa:
    - (a) (To be recommended by the Commission for Africa on 10 September 2019)
    - (b) (Idem)
  - Americas:
    - (c) Argentina
    - (d) Nicaragua
  - Asia and the Pacific:
    - (e) Indonesia
  - Europe:
    - (f) Albania
  - Middle East:
    - (g) Iraq
  - South Asia:
    - (h) Bangladesh

---

<sup>1</sup> This is a draft resolution. For the final resolution adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.

## I. Introduction

---

1. According to Articles 12 and 13 of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session.
2. The President and Vice-Presidents are considered as the Officers of the Assembly for the duration of the session and are elected from among the Full Members.
3. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly establish the guidelines for election of the President and Vice-Presidents and their functions:

“Rule 16 – Officers of the Assembly:

- (1) The session of the Assembly shall be opened by the President of the preceding session or by the head of the delegation to which he belonged.
- (2) The Assembly shall elect its President.
- (3) The Assembly shall elect its Vice-Presidents on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President.

Rule 17 – Functions of the President and Vice-Presidents:

- (1) The President shall ensure the observance of these Rules of Procedure. He shall declare the opening and close of each plenary meeting, direct the discussions at plenary meetings, grant the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce the decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, ensure the orderly conduct of business at each meeting. He may propose a limitation of the time allowed to each speaker or the closing of the list of speakers. He may also declare the suspension of the debates.
- (2) The President shall not participate in the discussions or votes.
- (3) He shall be responsible to the Assembly while it is in session.
- (4) The President may appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to replace him during a meeting or a part of a meeting. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.
- (5) If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected by the Assembly for the unexpired term.
- (6) The President shall represent the Organization during his term of office, on all occasions on which such representation is necessary.”

## II. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

---

4. Rule 43 of the General Assembly’s Rules of Procedure provides for all elections to be carried out by secret ballot. It is nevertheless recalled that the Presidents of the previous twenty-two sessions of the Assembly were all elected by acclamation after consultations among delegations, the head of delegation of the host country being traditionally chosen for this office (Russian Federation).
5. The Regional Commissions held prior to the General Assembly nominate candidates to represent their regions as Vice-Presidents.

6. It is recalled that the 109th session of the Executive Council (30 October – 1 November, Manama, Bahrain) took the decision (CE/DEC/10(CVIX)) that there will only be one Regional Commission meeting for each region in 2019, which each Regional Commission will hold during the first semester of 2019, in the venues decided in their last respective sessions, and on dates prior to the 110th session of the Executive Council held in June 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
7. Further to this decision, five Regional Commissions' meetings took place in 2019: 45th UNWTO Commission for the Middle East (24-25 March 2019, Cairo, Egypt), 64th UNWTO Commission for the Americas (15-17 May 2019, La Antigua, Guatemala), 64th meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe (27-30 May 2019, Zagreb, Croatia), 57th meeting of the Regional Commission for South Asia (3-5 June 2019, Thimphu, Bhutan) and 53rd meeting of the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (3-5 June 2019, Thimphu, Bhutan). The 62nd Regional Commission for Africa will take place on 10 September in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, prior to the Assembly's session.
8. These Regional Commissions elected the following Member States as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly:
  - Americas:
    - (a) Argentina
    - (b) Nicaragua
  - Asia and the Pacific:
    - (c) Indonesia
  - Europe:
    - (d) Albania
  - Middle East:
    - (e) Iraq
  - South Asia:
    - (f) Bangladesh
9. The Regional Commission for Africa, held prior to the 23rd session of the General Assembly, will designate two Vice-Presidents from the region.

\* \* \*