

FOR DECISION

Agenda item 15

Place and dates of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly

A/23/15

Madrid, 2 August 2019
Original: English

Executive summary

The Secretary-General received official communications submitting the candidatures of Kenya, Morocco and the Philippines to host the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in 2021.

The General Assembly is requested to decide on the venue of its twenty-fourth session, having due regard to fair and equitable geographical distribution.

Action by the General Assembly

DRAFT RESOLUTION¹

The General Assembly,

Having regard to Article 10 of the Statutes and Article 1 of its Rules of Procedure,

Having taken cognizance of the three offers submitted, respectively, by the Government of Kenya, by the Government of Morocco and by the Government of the Philippines,

1. *Thanks* these Governments warmly for their respective invitations; and

Having carried out a vote by secret ballot,

2. *Decides* that its twenty-fourth session will be held in in 2021.

¹ 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. Procedure for fixing the place and dates of General Assembly sessions

1. The Articles of the Organization's Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly concerning the place and dates of General Assembly sessions, as well as its relevant resolutions on the matter, are reproduced below for information:

(a) Article 8(2) of the Statutes:

"Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise."

(b) Article 10 of the Statutes:

"The Assembly shall meet in ordinary session every two years and, as well, in extraordinary session when circumstances require. Extraordinary sessions may be convened at the request of the Council or of a majority of Full Members of the Organization."

(c) Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure:

"1. The Secretary-General shall convene the Assembly in ordinary session every two years at the Organization's Headquarters."

2. The Assembly may meet at another place if it so decides, provided the host country reimburses the extra expenses involved in holding the session."

3. The date of the session shall be fixed by the Assembly or by the Council, if so empowered and notified to the Members of the Organization not less than seven months before it is due to be held."

(d) Resolution A/RES/351(XI) of the General Assembly

By this resolution, the General Assembly adopted the procedure for the submission of candidatures by interested States, with particular regard to the timetable for the presentation of candidatures and the signature of agreements between the host State and the Organization.

(e) Resolution A/RES/631(XX)

In this resolution, the Assembly adopted new guidelines for the selection of venues for General Assembly sessions. The guidelines were described in document A/20/5(II)(i).

II. List of venues of the previous sessions

2. It is recalled that, since its inception, UNWTO has held its General Assembly at the following venues:

First session	(1975)	Madrid (Spain)
Second session	(1977)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Third session	(1979)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Fourth session	(1981)	Rome (Italy)
Fifth session	(1983)	New Delhi (India)
Sixth session	(1985)	Sofia (Bulgaria)
Seventh session	(1987)	Madrid (Spain)
Eighth session	(1989)	Paris (France)
Ninth session	(1991)	Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Tenth session	(1993)	Bali (Indonesia)
Eleventh session	(1995)	Cairo (Egypt)
Twelfth session	(1997)	Istanbul (Turkey)
Thirteenth session	(1999)	Santiago (Chile)
Fourteenth session	(2001)	Seoul (Republic of Korea)/Osaka (Japan)

Fifteenth session	(2003)	Beijing (China)
Sixteenth session	(2005)	Dakar (Senegal)
Seventeenth session	(2007)	Cartagena de Indias (Colombia)
Eighteenth session	(2009)	Astana (Kazakhstan)
Nineteenth session	(2011)	Gyeongju (Republic of Korea)
Twentieth session	(2013)	Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe)
Twenty-first session	(2015)	Medellín (Colombia)
Twenty-second session	(2017)	Chengdu (China)

III. Candidatures received for the twenty-fourth session

3. On 18 May 2017, the Secretary-General received a Note Verbale dated 18 May 2017 from the Embassy of Kenya, submitting Kenya's candidature to host the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly in 2021.
4. On 26 June 2017, a Note Verbale was sent by the Secretariat to all UNWTO Members informing of the candidature of Kenya.
5. On 10 April 2018, the Secretary-General received a Note Verbale dated 10 April 2018 from the Embassy of Morocco transmitting the letter from H.E. Mr. Mohammed Sajid, Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy, submitting Morocco's candidature to host the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly in 2021.
6. On 13 April 2018, a Note Verbale was sent by the Secretariat to all UNWTO Members informing of the candidature of Morocco.
7. On 8 March 2019, the Secretary-General received a letter dated 8 March 2019 from H.E. Ms. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Philippine Tourism Secretary, submitting the candidature of the Philippines to host the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly in 2021.
8. On 4 April 2019, a Note Verbale was sent by the Secretariat to all UNWTO Members informing of the candidature of the Philippines.
9. The 31st Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific welcomed the submission of the candidature of the Philippines to host the 24th session of the General Assembly in the Philippines in 2021, and as such, this should meet the requirements of paragraph 9(b) of document A/20/5(II)(i) mentioned above.
10. The 62nd Regional Commission for Africa will be held on 10 September 2019 prior to the 23rd session of the General Assembly in Saint Petersburg and will express its opinion with regard to the candidatures of Kenya and Morocco.

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