RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 9 -13 September 2019

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A/RES/710(XXIII)

Adoption of the agenda
Agenda item 1
(documents A/23/1 prov. rev.4 and A/23/1 prov.annot.)

The General Assembly

1. Adopts the agenda of its 23rd session as proposed; and

2. Decides to use the electronic system for voting, with the understanding that traditional voting systems and paper ballots will remain in place as a fall-back option.

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Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
Agenda item 2
(document A/23/2)

The General Assembly

1. Declares elected the Russian Federation as President of its twenty-third session, represented by H.E. Zarina Doguzova, Head of the Federal Agency for Tourism; and

2. Declares elected as Vice-Presidents of its twenty-third session:

Africa:
(a) Cabo Verde
(b) Kenya

Americas:
(c) Argentina
(d) Nicaragua

East Asia and the Pacific:
(e) Indonesia

Europe:
(f) Albania

Middle East:
(g) Iraq

South Asia:
(h) Bangladesh

***
Appointment of the Credentials Committee
Agenda item 3
(document A/23/3)

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the proposals of its President, made in accordance with Rule 13(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

Noting that the members of the Credentials Committee were selected by the Regional Commissions, at the request of the Assembly,

1. Takes note that the following countries have been appointed:

   Africa:
   (a) Angola
   (b) Burkina Faso

   Americas:
   (c) Guatemala
   (d) Nicaragua

   East Asia and the Pacific:
   (e) Thailand

   Europe:
   (f) Malta
   (g) Romania

   Middle East:
   (h) Bahrain

   South Asia:
   (i) Bangladesh; and

2. Notes that the Credentials Committee appointed as its Chair, Nicaragua, and as its Vice-Chair, Malta.

***
A/RES/713(XXIII)

Report of the Secretary-General on the current trends of international tourism
Agenda item 4
(document A/23/4)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on current trends of international tourism,

Takes note of its content and analysis.

***
Implementation of the General Programme of Work
Agenda item 5(a)
(documents A/23/5(a) rev.2 and A/23/5(a) rev.1 Add)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Work and its different annexes,

1. Takes note of the activities implemented and progress achieved;
2. Approves the UNWTO Recommendations on Urban Tourism;
3. Invites Member States to participate actively in the UNWTO Innovation Hubs Network and support active Hubs in their adhesion to the Network;
4. Encourages the participation of the Member States in the existing education and training initiatives presented by the UNWTO Academy as well as their proactive involvement in new initiatives;
5. Endorses the tourism online academy project as presented in Annex VII;
6. Calls upon UNWTO Members to actively support the global consensus process towards United Nations endorsement of the international recommendations for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) at the UN Statistical Commission’s fifty-first session (March 2020);

Having heard the explanations of the Secretary-General regarding the implications for UNWTO of the United Nations Reform, and notably, of the UNWTO’s membership in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG),

7. Supports the decision of the Executive Council that UNWTO shall not be part of the UNSDG for the forthcoming biennium, and that UNWTO membership will be reconsidered for 2022-2023;

Having examined the Draft Programme of Work for 2020-2021,

8. Approves the approach of the Secretary-General to capitalize on the progress achieved by maintaining his Management Vision; and

9. Supports the Secretary-General’s initiative “UNWTO Agenda for Africa 2030 - Tourism for inclusive growth”.

***
Financial situation of the Organization
Agenda item 5(b)
(documents A/23/5(b) rev.1 and A/23/5(b) Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the different parts of the report in document A/23/5(b) rev.1 and the addendum A/23/5(b) Add.1 containing updated information as of 31 August,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the comprehensive information contained in the documents and their annexes;

I. UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 31 August 2019

2. Approves the Secretary-General’s proposal of using the Project Support Cost balance;

3. Delegates to the Executive Council the authority to approve the use of PSC/Reserve Funds, within those years when there is no General Assembly;

4. Decides to continue applying the measure of suspension of rights and privileges provided for in Article 34 of the Statutes as per A/RES/217(VII) paragraph 1(a) and (b) to the Members and/or Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes listed in Annex I.10.B of A/23/5(b) Add.1, if they have not reached an agreement with the Secretary-General on a plan for the payment of their arrears;

5. Decides in view of their compliance with the agreed payment plans during the period of reference of this document, to renew the temporary exemption from provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes to Full Members Gambia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua and Uruguay and to grant temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes to Full Members Chad and Vanuatu as well as to the Affiliate Members PATWA and Azerbaijan Tourism & Management University;

6. Also decides to maintain the temporary exemption to Bolivia, Cambodia, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen, albeit making it clear that these provisions will be reapplied to these Members if they are not up to date with their payment plans by 1 April 2020;

7. Establishes the following conditions for the Members requesting temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and which propose payment plans to settle their arrears in instalments: (i) to discharge the contribution corresponding to the present year before the General Assembly session at which their case is reviewed, and (ii) strict observance of the plan agreed for the settlement of arrears;

Having regard to Afghanistan’s and Libya’s special circumstances,
8. *Grants* them temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financial Rules attached to the Statutes until further revision by the forthcoming 24th session of the General Assembly and calls upon the Full Members Afghanistan and Libya to agree on payment plans for the settlement of their arrears to be submitted to the 24th session of the General Assembly;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Governing Bodies about the application of this resolution and the Members' compliance with the agreements made with a view, as the case may be, to maintaining the temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments;

II. UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018

10. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the unqualified opinion of the External Auditor that the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2018 present a true image of the financial position of the UNWTO as at 31 December 2018 and of its performance, its cash flows and changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2018, in compliance with UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

11. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for correcting the deficit of previous years and ensuring the sound financial stability of the Organization within one year of his mandate;


12. *Endorses* Executive Council decisions CE/DEC/10(CV) and CE/DEC/12(CVIII) on the approval of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years 2016 and 2017 respectively;


IV. Draft Budget for the period 2020-2021

14. *Endorses* the draft Regular Budget of the Organization for the period 2020-2021, for a total amount of EUR 30,096,000 and authorizes the Secretary-General to implement it in accordance with the amounts collected;

15. *Endorses* that the budgetary income approved for the next biennium should be provided by the contributions of the Full and Associate Members in the rounded amounts of EUR 13,273,000 for 2020 and EUR 13,321,000 for 2021, and that the balance to be financed should be covered by the contributions of the Affiliate Members, with the necessary adjustments deriving from any changes in the number of Affiliate Members, and the other sources of funding referred to in document CE/110/5(a);

16. *Approves* the proposed scale of contributions for 2020-2021;

17. *Also approves* the Secretary-General’s proposal on the assessed contributions of the Affiliate Members and the deductions for specific members previously endorsed by the Executive Council; and

V. Election of the External Auditor for 2020-2021

18. *Designates* Spain as the External Auditor to carry out the external auditing of the Organization for the period 2020-2021 for the external audit of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2019 and 2020.
A/RES/716(XXIII)

Membership of the Organization, Full Members
Agenda item 5(c)(i)
(document A/23/5(c)(i))

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the Membership of the Organization (Full Members),

1. **Commends** all the systematic actions and approaches undertaken by the UNWTO Secretary-General and other senior officials in attracting non-member States to join or rejoin the Organization;

2. **Takes note** of the remarkable progress made in the negotiation process with the United States of America on its possible membership in the UNWTO and appreciates the Secretary-General’s valuable efforts in this regard;

3. **Approves** the amendment to the formula for fixing the contributions of the Member States as proposed in the Annex to document A/23/5(c)(i);

4. **Encourages** the United States of America to take all the necessary steps to return to the Organization;

5. **Welcomes** the decision of the Republic of Palau to join the Organization and approves its candidature together with the Secretary-General’s recommendation that its membership obligations take effect on 1 January 2020; and

6. **Calls upon** the member countries of the United Nations that are non-member States of the UNWTO to join the Organization and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this area.

***
Membership of the Organization, Affiliate Members

Agenda item 5(c)(ii)
(document A/23/5(c)(ii) rev.1)

The General Assembly,

Having examined document A/23/5(c)(ii) on the affiliate membership of the Organization,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership on candidatures submitted directly to the Assembly for approval at its 23rd session,

1. Approves the affiliate membership of the candidates provisionally admitted by the Executive Council as listed in document A/23/5(c)(ii);

2. Admits as Affiliate Members the 27 candidates recommended by the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership;

3. Takes note of the withdrawals from affiliate membership; and

4. Recognizes the changes of the modified business names of companies.

***
A/RES/718(XXIII)

Human resources report
Agenda item 6
(document A/23/6)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the human resources situation of the Organization,

1. Takes note of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in the service of the Organization and the contribution to the Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;

3. Encourages Member States to send concrete proposals to the Secretariat for the financing of Junior Professional Officers at UNWTO;

4. Encourages Member States to send to the Secretariat, Officials on Loan, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;

5. Takes note of the amendments to Staff Rules 14(3)(b), 15(1), 15(6), 15(11), 17(1)(d), 24(3)(a), 24(3)(b), 24(4), 24(11)(a), 24(18), 30 and 31(2)(a)(i) as well as to paragraphs 21(b) and (c) of Annex 2 of the UNWTO Staff Regulations and Rules on the Rules of the Joint Appeals Committee, as approved by the Executive Council at its 108th, 109th and 110th sessions;

6. Approves the amendments to Staff Regulations 15(g) and 28;

7. Endorses the reclassification of the following posts, as mentioned in paragraph 10 of document A/23/6:
   (a) Director, P.5, Administration and Finance, reclassified from D.1 to P.5,
   (b) Director, P.4, Regional Department for Europe, reclassified from P.5 to P.4,
   (c) Chief, P.4, Statistics Department, reclassified from P.5 to P.4,
   (d) Manager, P.3, Information and Communication Technologies Department, reclassified from P.5 to P.3;

8. Approves the recommendation to adopt a flexible structure within the approved number of budgetary posts and to allow financing of staff posts outside the 106 posts funded through the regular budget using extra-budgetary funds, as detailed in paragraphs 25 and 26 of document A/23/6;

9. Thanks the Ethics Officer for her report on the activities carried out from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019;

10. Thanks Argentina and Spain for their contribution to the UNWTO Staff Pension Committee for 2018-2019; and
11. *Decides* to elect the following Members to the UNWTO Staff Pension Committee for the biennium 2020-2021: India and Spain.
Reform of the Organization: Progress on JIU recommendations
Agenda item 7
(document A/23/7)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the Reform of the Organization: Progress on JIU recommendations,

1. Welcomes the Secretary-General’s structural and organizational reforms of the Secretariat in order to reinforce compliance with UN standards, takes note of the reports issued by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2018 referenced in the document and thanks the JIU for its insights;

2. Approves the acceptance and implementation status for each one of them, as proposed in Annex I of the document and requests the Secretary-General to report accordingly on them to the JIU;

3. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved, notably since January 2018, with regard to the JIU recommendations issued until 2017 that were pending implementation;

4. Takes particular note of the confirmation by the Korean Government that the ST-EP Foundation is under dissolution and that, until completion of the proceedings, it remains inactive and has ceased all its operations;

5. Considers closed those recommendations that have been 100% implemented; and

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the upcoming sessions of the Executive Council.

***
Endorsement of the Executive Council's decisions and activities (107th-110th sessions)
Agenda item 8
(document A/23/8)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report,

1. Takes note of the information presented concerning the Council's activities, and in particular the decisions of its 107th, 108th, 109th and 110th ordinary sessions;

2. Takes cognizance of the major matters considered by the Council such as the implementation of the programme of work for 2018-2019 and the draft programme of work for 2020-2021, the financial situation and human resources of the Organization;

3. Pays tribute to the dedication and competence demonstrated by its Chairs, Argentina in 2018 and Zambia in 2019; and

4. Thanks the Vice-Chairs, Zambia and India in 2018 and Argentina and Thailand in 2019, for the quality of the work they carried out in the exercise of their functions.

***
The General Assembly

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

***
Adoption of the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics

Agenda item 10
(document A/23/10 rev.2)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics,

1. Takes note of the information provided;

2. Welcomes the final linguistic versions (French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic) reviewed by Member States;

3. Takes note of the reservations expressed by the following Members, which may be further explained in letters annexed to the present resolution: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Flanders, Germany, Greece, Japan, Malta, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland;

4. Decides to adopt the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics in all UNWTO Official Languages;

5. Approves the proposal of the Secretariat for Article 18 of the Convention; and

6. Encourages Member States to take the subsequent legal steps to express their consent to be bound by the Convention at the international level.

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Annex

We, the Members Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Flanders, Germany, Greece, Japan, Malta, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland request the following statement on the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics and its Optional Protocol to be reflected in the annex to the Resolution 722(XXIII):

- We fully agree with the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and are convinced that it is an excellent instrument to advance ethical behaviour among all tourism stakeholders.

- However, several provisions of the draft convention are deemed not appropriate for a legally-binding convention, in particular Article 9 para (5) regarding travel advisories and Article 10 on the “right to tourism”.

- Several provisions in the Convention are directed towards stakeholders other than the Member States as States Parties. Their wording seems inadequate for a legally-binding instrument and raises doubts with regard to the implementation of such provisions. In particular, it remains unclear to what extent the provisions imply obligations for member states with regard to enforcement
- It is not evident how the convention would effectively advance the common goal of strengthening ethics in tourism and provide added value compared to the Global Code of Ethics.
- For the Convention to enter into force, the ratification of ten Member States is necessary. For a global and legally-binding instrument, this low threshold is very unusual and we believe that such a Convention deserves to be supported by a considerable number of Member States before entering into force.

Signed by:

- Austria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Flanders
- Germany
- Greece
- Japan
- Malta
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Switzerland

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics,

1. Expresses its appreciation to Mr. Pascal Lamy, the Chair of the Committee, and to its members for their excellent work in the promotion of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and their efforts in streamlining the process of the development of the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics;

2. Fully endorses the Recommendations on Sustainable Development of Indigenous Tourism as proposed by the Committee, and encourages the Committee to stimulate their dissemination among all relevant tourism stakeholders;

3. Acknowledges the follow-up activities on the Recommendations on the Responsible Use of Ratings and Reviews on Digital Platforms, and invites the Committee to continue monitoring the developments in this field;

4. Appreciates the promotional booklet for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism; and thanks the Committee Members and the Secretariat for their valuable input;

5. Pays tribute to the UNWTO Ethics Award laureates for the editions of 2018 and 2019, namely Europa Mundo Vacaciones (Spain) and Serviço Social do Comércio (Brazil), respectively;

6. Congratulates the 442 companies and trade associations from 72 countries, which have adhered to the Private Sector Commitment to the Code and have reported on their implementation as of June 2019, and takes note of the 130 suspended entities; and

7. Encourages tourism stakeholders around the world to implement more responsible business operations, and invites new companies and trade associations to join the Private Sector Commitment to the Code of Ethics.

***
Election of the Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics
Agenda item 12
(documents A/23/12)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the proposal of the Selection Board (composed of the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Executive Council and the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members, the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel of the UNWTO) with regard to the four members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the period 14 September 2019 until the 25th session of the General Assembly in 2023,

1. Takes note that, in accordance with resolution 706(XXII), the Chair Pascal LAMY as well as the Members I Gede ARDIKA, Jean Marc MIGNON, Ron OSWALD and Rosette Chantal RUGAMBA, and the Alternates Hiran COORAY, Günnur DIKER and Suzy HATOUGH will continue their respective mandates until the 24th session of the General Assembly in 2021;

2. Endorses the proposal of the Selection Board;

3. Appoints the following individuals as members of the Committee for the period from 14 September 2019 until the 25th session of the General Assembly in 2023:

   (a) Mr. Luis Fernando JIMÉNEZ GUZMAN (Colombia)
       Senior Lecturer in Tourism, University Externado de Colombia and former Secretary General of Colombian National Tourism Board

   (b) Mr. Lawal Mohammed MARAFA (Nigeria)
       Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

   (c) Mr. Hiroaki MATSUURA (Japan)
       Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Health Economics and Demography, Shoin University

   (d) Ms. Gabriela TIGU (Romania)
       Full Professor, Business and Tourism Faculty, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

4. Decides that, consequently, the composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics is as follows:

   Chair: Mr. Pascal LAMY (2017-2021)
          Former Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

   Members:
   - Mr. I Gede ARDIKA (2017-2021)
     Former Minister of Tourism of Indonesia
Mr. Luis Fernando JIMÉNEZ GUZMAN (2019-2023)
Senior Lecturer in Tourism, University Externado de Colombia and former Secretary General of Colombian National Tourism Board

Mr. Lawal Mohammed MARAFA (2019-2023)
Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Mr. Hiroaki MATSUURA (2019-2023)
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Health Economics and Demography, Shoin University

Mr. Jean-Marc MIGNON (2017-2021)
Former President, International Social Tourism Organisation (ISTO)

Mr. Ron OSWALD (2017-2021)
Former General Secretary, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations (IUF)

Ms. Rosette Chantal RUGAMBA (2017-2021)
Managing Director of Songa African Tourism Company, Rwanda

Ms. Gabriela TIGU (2019-2023)
Full Professor, Business and Tourism Faculty, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Alternate Members:
Mr. Hiran COORAY (2017-2021)
Chairman, Jetwing, Sri Lanka

Ms. Gunnur DIKER (2017-2021)
Adviser to the President, Association of Turkish Travel Agents (TÜRSAB)

Ms. Suzy HATOUCH (2017-2021)
CEO of Dar Al-Diwa for Tourism Human Resources Development Consultancy, Jordan

***
A/RES/725(XXIII)

World Tourism Day: information on the activities of 2018 and 2019, adoption of themes and designation of the host countries for 2020 and 2021

Agenda item 13
(document A/23/13 rev.1)

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the observance of World Tourism Day in 2018 and the preparations in place for the celebrations of World Tourism Day 2019;

2. Encourages Member States to celebrate World Tourism Day 2019 and promote the role of tourism in contributing to supporting better education in support of better quality employment in tourism and the UN decent work agenda;

3. Expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Hungary and India for hosting the official celebrations of World Tourism Day 2018 and 2019;

4. Approves the theme for the celebrations of World Tourism Day 2020 “Tourism and Rural Development” and designates MERCOSUR to host the official celebrations of World Tourism Day in 2020; and

5. Approves the theme for the celebrations of World Tourism Day 2021, “Tourism for Inclusive Growth” and designates Côte d’Ivoire to host the official celebrations of World Tourism Day in 2021.

***
The General Assembly,

Having received the proposals of the Regional Commissions, the Associate Members and the Board of Affiliate Members,

1. Declares the following Full Members elected as members of the Executive Council for the period 2019-2023, for the 17 seats to be filled:

   Africa:
   1. Algeria
   2. Côte d’Ivoire
   3. Kenya
   4. Senegal
   5. Tunisia
   6. Seychelles (until 2021), Mauritius (2021-2023)

   Americas:
   1. Guatemala
   2. Chile (until 2021), Paraguay (2021-2023)

   East Asia and the Pacific:
   1. China
   2. Japan
   3. Republic of Korea
   4. Thailand

   Europe:
   1. France
   2. Italy
   3. Portugal
   4. Turkey

   Middle East:
   1. Saudi Arabia

2. Recalls that the Associate Members will be represented by Flanders on the Executive Council until the 24th session of the General Assembly; and

3. Takes note that the Affiliate Members will be represented on the Executive Council by the Chair of the Board.
Place and dates of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly
Agenda item 15
(document A/23/15)

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

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

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