

FOR DECISION

Agenda item 10

**Report on the preparations for the
twenty-third session of the General Assembly**

CE/110/10 Rev.
Madrid, 13 June 2019
Original: English

Executive summary

This document reports on the updates to the tentative draft provisional programme outline approved by the Council in its 109th session (CE/DEC/10(CVIX)).

Under the theme of “Education and Employment in Tourism”, the 23rd session of the General Assembly will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 9 to 13 September 2019. On Tuesday, 10 September, a High-level Summit on Innovation and Sustainable Development in Tourism will be organized in the framework of the General Assembly.

On the morning of Wednesday, 11 September, the official opening will take place, followed by the first plenary session of the Assembly. On Thursday, 12 September, the delegates will be requested to participate in the ministerial debates on “Education and Employment in Tourism, realizing SDG 4 and SDG 8” and “Medical and Health Tourism”.

The 111th session of the Executive Council and the meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee are scheduled to take place on Friday, 13 September.

Action by the Executive Council

DRAFT DECISION¹

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the twenty-third session of the General Assembly,

Takes note of the information provided;

Welcomes the possibility of using an electronic system for voting during the General Assembly session; and

Decides to use the electronic system for voting at the 111th session of the Executive Council, with the understanding that manual voting using paper ballots will remain in place as a fall-back option.

¹ This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.

I. Introduction

1. At its last session, the General Assembly accepted the generous invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation (resolution A/RES/708(XXII)) to host the 23rd session of the Assembly.
2. Under the theme of “Education and Employment in Tourism”, the session and other related meetings will be held in Saint Petersburg from 9 to 13 September 2019, in accordance with Rule 1(2) of its Rules of Procedure.

II. Programme of meetings

3. This document reports on the updates to the tentative draft provisional programme outline approved by the Council in its 109th session (CE/DEC/10(CVIX)).

A. Preparatory and related meetings

4. The meetings of the following committees will take place prior to the first plenary session of the Assembly:
 - (a) Committee on Tourism & Sustainability
 - (b) Committee on Tourism & Competitiveness
5. The Credentials Committee will meet on 11 September after the official opening.
6. The Plenary of the Affiliate Members will also be held before the first plenary session of the Assembly, on Monday, 9 September.
7. The Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership will take place on Friday, 13 September, prior to the 111th session of the Executive Council.
8. In order to enhance the technical nature of the General Assembly’s proceedings and to encourage high-level participation of the private and public sectors, a High-level Summit on Innovation and Sustainable Development in Tourism will be held on 10 September.
9. A number of social events will also be organized in the framework of the Assembly (see Annex). Detailed information on them will be communicated at a later stage.

B. Regional Commission

10. In accordance with decision CE/DEC/20(CV), there would only be one meeting of each Regional Commission in 2019, to take place on dates prior to the 110th session of the Executive Council.
11. However, in the case of the Regional Commission for Africa, the dates had to be rescheduled and its meeting will be organized in the framework of the Assembly. The Commission meeting will be held on 10 September 2019.

C. General Assembly session

12. The provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly has been drafted in accordance with Rule 5(1) of its Rules of Procedure. Members are kindly reminded that they may propose the inclusion of new items in the provisional agenda, provided they follow the procedure laid down for this purpose in Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
13. On the morning of Wednesday, 11 September, the official opening will take place, followed by the first plenary session of the Assembly. The Assembly will be called upon to

elect the President of its twenty-third session, in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure. A welcome dinner is also scheduled on the same day.

14. On Thursday, 12 September, in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, two ministerial debates on “Education and Employment in Tourism, realizing SDG 4 and SDG 8” and “Medical and Health Tourism” will take place.

D. Executive Council and Programme and Budget Committee

15. The 111th session of the Executive Council is scheduled to take place immediately after the last plenary session of the Assembly, on Friday, 13 September in the morning, for the election of Council Officers for 2020 and the filling of vacant seats on certain subsidiary organs of the Executive Council for the period 2019-2023.
16. The meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) will be held immediately after the Executive Council for the election of its Chair and Vice-Chair.

III. Facilities provided to the Organization by the Government of the Russian Federation

17. The authorities of the Russian Federation have already taken all necessary measures to host this session in the facilities of ExpoForum International, one of the leading Russian convention and exhibition centres, and other venues downtown and to provide all necessary services to the delegates of the UNWTO Member States. They will also facilitate the entry into their territory of Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of the UNWTO, as well as of the other participants invited by the Secretary-General.
18. The Agreement between the Organization and the host Government establishes in particular the obligations and commitments that the Government has generously agreed to meet in convening and conducting the proceedings of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly and the other related meetings, in accordance with the Statutes, rules and practices of the Organization.
19. An electronic voting system will be provided for voting during the sessions of the Council and the General Assembly with the understanding that paper ballots will remain in place as a fall-back option for elections. The electronic voting system will allow delegates to cast their votes from their seats using tablets while ensuring anonymity in the case of elections.

IV. Invitations and working documents

20. The corresponding convocation letters and invitations issued by the Secretary-General to all Members, together with the provisional agenda prepared in accordance with Rule 5(1) of the General Assembly’s Rules of Procedure and an information note, were sent by e-mail within the prescribed time limits, i.e., ninety days before the opening of the session and posted in electronic format on the UNWTO website.
21. The working documents necessary for the General Assembly’s discussions and resolutions on the various agenda items will also be posted on UNWTO webpage within the time limits prescribed in Rule 8 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure.
22. In light of the United Nations mandate to promote sustainability, the World Tourism Organization is strengthening its efforts towards environmental sustainability by implementing paperless events and conferences.

V. Languages of the Assembly

23. The five official languages and the Chinese language (resolution A/RES/694(XXII)) will be used for the Assembly and the other related meetings, in part or in totality, as each meeting requires.

Annex: Preliminary programme outline of the twenty-third session of the UNWTO General Assembly

(as of 13 June 2019)

| Day and venue | MORNING | LUNCH | AFTERNOON | EVENING |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Monday 9 September Venue: TBC | 10:00-13:30 (En. Sp. Ru.) Plenary of the Affiliate Members* | | 16:00-18:00 Boat excursion along the Neva River | |
| | 09:00-17:00 Sightseeing tour of St. Petersburg | | | |
| Tuesday 10 September Venue: Expoforum | 10:00-14:00 (En. Fr.) Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) 10:30-12:00 (En.) Committee on Tourism & Sustainability* 12:00-13:30 (En.) Committee on Tourism & Competitiveness* | 13:30-15:00 Lunch hosted by Kenya* | 15:00-18:00 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar. Ch.) High-level Summit on Innovation and Sustainable Development in Tourism | 19:00-22:00 Welcome Cocktail and UNWTO Awards Ceremony Venue: Mariinsky Theatre II |
| Wednesday 11 September Venue: Expoforum | 09:30-10:30 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar. Ch.) Official Opening 10:30-10:45 Group photo for heads of delegation | 13:30-15:30 Lunch hosted by Morocco* | 15:30-18:30 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar. Ch.) 2nd Plenary | 20:30-22:30 Welcome Ceremony hosted by the Russian Federation Venue: Peter and Paul Fortress |
| | 10:45-13:00 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar. Ch.) 1st Plenary | | | |
| | 13:00-13:30 (En. Ru.) Press conference* | | | |
| | 13:00-13:30 (En.) Credentials Committee * | | | |
| Thursday 12 September Venue: Expoforum | 10:00-13:00 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar. Ch.) Ministerial Debate on “Education and Employment in Tourism, realizing SDG 4 and SDG 8” | 13:30-15:30 Lunch hosted by Philippines* | 15:30-18:30 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar. Ch.) 3rd Plenary and Ministerial Debate on “Medical and Health Tourism” 17:00-18:00 (En.) Associate Members meeting* 15:30-18:30 (En. Sp.) Affiliate Members Board* | 20:00-22:00 Cocktail hosted by Russian Federation Venue: Planetarium |
| Friday 13 September Venue: Presidential Library | 08:00-10:00 (En.) Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership | International Symposium on “Film industry as a tool for creating the image of a tourism destination” | 17:00-19:00 Vintage steam train ride on the St. Petersburg-Tsarskoye Selo route | 20:00-22:00 Farewell Dinner hosted by the Russian Federation Venue: Catherine Palace, Tsarskoye Selo |
| | 10:00-12:00 (En. Fr. Sp. Ru. Ar.) 111th session of the Executive Council | | | |
| | 12:00-12:30 (En. Fr. Sp.) Programme and Budget Committee (PBC)* | | | |

* By invitation