

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS 112TH SESSION**

Tbilisi (Georgia) 15 -17 September 2020

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CE/DEC/1(CXII)

DECISION

Agenda item 1
Provisional agenda
(document CE/112/1 prov.rev.1)

The Executive Council

1. *Adopts* the agenda of its 112th session as proposed; and
2. *Decides* to take up item 7 before item 6.

CE/DEC/2(CXII)

DECISION**Agenda item 2
Communication of the Chair
(document CE/112/2)**

The Executive Council,

Recalling that the Secretariat, on the proposal of the Chair of the Executive Council, circulated on 7 September 2020 through Note Verbale a draft decision on exceptional arrangements and special procedures governing the Executive Council during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was placed under silence procedure until 9 September 2020, at 24:00,

Noting that the silence procedure concluded without objections,

Considers adopted the decision as established in the circulated document.

CE/DEC/3(CXII)

DECISION

Agenda item 3(a)
Current trends and prospects of international tourism
(document CE/112/3(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

Requests the Secretary-General to continue closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on international tourism as well as supporting the Members States and the sector at large in their efforts to improve their tourism intelligence systems as a means to accelerate recovery, and to build resilience and evidence-based planning and managing of tourism.

DECISION

Agenda item 3(b)
Implementation of the General Programme of Work
(document CE/112/3(b) rev.3)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the Implementation of the General Programme of Work,

1. *Takes note* of the activities implemented and progress achieved;
2. *Endorses* the Women in Tourism Action Plan and requests the Secretary-General to regularly report on its implementation (Annex VI);
3. *Approves* the establishment of a Working Group with the mission of preparing a proposal for an integral reform of the existing Rules of Procedures of the Affiliate Members and to set the basis of the creation and operation of a Committee for Affiliate Members (Annex IV-C);
4. *Also approves* the modus operandi and composition of the Technical Committee on Tourism Online Education, as presented in Annex VII;
5. *Approves* the creation of the Committee pending confirmation of its composition;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the 113th session of the Executive Council the rules of procedure proposed for the Committee as well as the list of invited participants;
7. *Welcomes* the advancement of international standards regarding the assistance to tourists in emergency situations and regarding tourism consumer rights in the post-COVID-19 scenario;
8. *Approves* the terms of reference of the committee for the development of an International Code for the Protection of Tourists, as presented in Annex VIII; and
9. *Commends* the efforts of the Secretary-General in pursuing stronger collaboration with the European Institutions and achieving the explicit inclusion of tourism in the context of the EU GREEN DEAL.

CE/DEC/5(CXII)

DECISION

Agenda item 3(c)
Establishment of a UNWTO Regional Office for the Middle East in Saudi Arabia
(document CE/112/3(c))

The Executive Council,

Noting that the Minister of Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Aqil Alkhateeb, informed the Secretary-General of the intention of Saudi Arabia to establish a UNWTO Regional Office for the Middle East to strengthen the cooperation and support of the UNWTO for the Middle East Region,

Having examined the information submitted by the Secretary-General on the proposal to establish a UNWTO Regional Office for the Middle East in Riyadh,

Recalling the conditions and criteria for external entities adopted by the General Assembly at its 21st session through resolution 656(XXI),

1. *Endorses* the proposal of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the establishment of a UNWTO Regional Office in Riyadh; and
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conclude the necessary procedures and signature of the Host Country Agreement for the establishment of the Regional Office with a view to start its operations in 2020-2021 and to submit a progress report to the next session of the Executive Council.

DECISION

Agenda item 3(d)
Report of the financial situation of the Organization
(document CE/112/3(d) rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the different parts of the report containing updated information as of 30 June 2020,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive information contained in the documents and their annexes;
 1. *UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2020*
2. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2020 and approves, as presented in this document, the Plan of income and expenditure of the Regular Budget for the financial year 2020 presented by the Secretary-General at 30 June 2020, the revised appropriations of the Regular Budget and other information presented in the document and its annexes;
3. *Also takes note with satisfaction* of the submission of the interim provisional unaudited UNWTO Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2020 and the UNWTO Statement Financial Performance for the period ended 30 June 2020;
4. *Urges* Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2019 and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;
5. *Thanks* the Members shown in the table of Annex I.C.3 (Arrear contributions received from Members for the period ended 30 June 2020) that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations;
6. *Welcomes with gratitude* the initiative of Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Timor Leste and the United Republic of Tanzania to carry out the necessary procedures in order to fulfil their financial obligations whether partially or in full, to fall out of the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes;
7. *Notes* that Cambodia and Nicaragua have respected their agreed payment plan up to 2020 in full within the reporting period of this document;
8. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proactive approach for the settlement of current year and arrear contributions in order to contribute towards the Organization's programme of

work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization to assist the tourism sector to recover from the challenges resulting from the impact of COVID-19 on the sector with its limited resources;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its next session, about 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 that they were granted by the General Assembly or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments;
10. *Approves* the amendments to the Detailed Financial Rules VI.32 (c);
- II. *UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019*
 11. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the unqualified opinion of the External Auditor that the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2019 present a true image of the financial position of the UNWTO as at 31 December 2019 and of its performance, its cash flows and changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2019, in compliance with UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and thanks the Secretary-General for this major achievement for an organization of the size of UNWTO;
 12. *Approves and recommends* the General Assembly to approve the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2019;
 13. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's financial report for the year ended 31 December 2019 including the net assets/equity analysis, the list of agreements with UNWTO contribution above the threshold or the donor contribution and other information presented in the document and its annexes;
 14. *Approves*, as presented in the aforementioned financial report:
 - (a) The Secretary-General's proposal to utilize the 2019 RB budgetary cash surplus amounting to EUR 1,932,645, and
 - (b) The Regular Budget appropriation transfers recommended by the Programme and Budget Committee members through a written consultation in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.3(a) and 5.3(b);
 15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present details of the required payroll charge percentage calculated by a professional firm of actuaries to an upcoming session of the Executive Council for approval and takes note that an annual separate allocation in the Regular Budget to cover, at a minimum, the ASEB on a pay-as-you-go basis will continue to apply pending the introduction of the payroll charge;
 16. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue in 2020 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment; and
 17. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programme and Budget Committee (Peru and Switzerland, respectively) and the External Auditor (Spain) for the work carried out.

DECISION

Agenda item 3(e)
Human resources report
(document CE/112/3(e))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

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 their contribution to the Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources and the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
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. *Endorses* the reclassification of the post of Chief, Human Resources Department, from P.5 to P.4, as mentioned in paragraph 11(e) of document CE/112/3(e);
6. *Endorses* the clarification regarding Staff Rule 15(7) to ensure its correct implementation;
7. *Thanks* the Ethics Officer for her report on the activities carried out from 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2020; and
8. *Endorses* the exception to Staff Regulation 28, on mandatory age of retirement, as mentioned in paragraph 9 of document CE/112/3(e), for submission to and approval by the General Assembly.

DECISION**Agenda item 3(f)**
Reform of the Organization: Progress on JIU recommendations
(document CE/112/3(f))

The Executive Council,

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 2019 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 with regard to the JIU recommendations issued until end 2018;
4. *Considers closed* those recommendations that have been 100% implemented; and
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the upcoming sessions of the General Assembly.

CE/DEC/9(CXII)

DECISION

Agenda item 4(a)
Report of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness
(document CE/112/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

Takes note of the information on the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness summarized in document CE/112/4(a).

CE/DEC/10(CXII)

DECISION

Agenda item 4(b)
Report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability
(document CE/112/4(b))

The Executive Council

1. *Takes note* of the information and recommendations provided; and
2. *Encourages* the Members to actively participate and support through their representations to the United Nations in New York the negotiations of the resolution to the report on “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection” prepared by UNWTO for the United Nations General Assembly, which are expected to start as from September 2020

DECISION**Agenda item 4(c)
Report of the Committee on Statistics
(document CE/112/4(c))**

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Committee on Statistics,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue with the Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) initiative propelled by the Committee on Statistics in view of demands for better, and notably more comparable, data on the sustainability of tourism; and
2. *Invites* all Members, including States and Affiliate Members, to contribute to the MST initiative and its process of approval by the United Nations, in particular, by partnering with National Statistical Institutes to voice their country's support for MST at the United Nations Statistical Commission, in addition to contributing with pilot studies and feedback in the consultation on the MST framework.

DECISION

Agenda item 5(a)
Communication of the Chair of the Affiliate Members
(document CE/112/5(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the Communication of the Chair of the Affiliate Members,

1. *Takes note* of the activities implemented by the Affiliate Members;
2. *Thanks* the Chair of the Board, Board Members and Affiliate Members for their valuable contributions to mitigate the impact of the crisis COVID-19;
3. *Supports* the initiatives of the Board aiming to foster cooperation and joint work with the UNWTO Affiliate Members for the recovery of the tourism industry; and
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General
 - (a) To invite the institutional representatives of the Affiliate Members to actively participate in the statutory meetings of the Organization and other relevant events organized by the Member States, and
 - (b) To continue the efforts oriented to improve the cooperation between Members States and Affiliate Members.

DECISION

Agenda item 5(b)
Report of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership
(document CE/112/5(b))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of its Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership, which met in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 15 September 2020, under the chairmanship of Azerbaijan,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee;
2. *Decides* to admit provisionally to affiliate membership the candidates attached in the Annex I, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;
3. *Thanks* the Members of the Committee for their support on the proposal submitted by the Secretary-General to create a dedicated Working Group as established in Annex IV-C to document CE/112/3(b) rev. 3; and
4. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee to elect its Chair in its next meeting.

DECISION

Agenda item 6
Procedure and calendar for the election of the Secretary-General
of the Organization for the period 2022-2025
(document CE/112/6 rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

Having noted the request of Spain to host the 113th session of the Executive Council in January 2021 within the framework of FITUR,

1. *Decides* that the rules adopted by the Council for the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General at its twenty-third session in May 1984 (decision 17(XXIII)), supplemented by those adopted at its thirty-fourth session in November 1988 (decision 19(XXXIV)), and at its forty-fourth session in November 1992 (decision 19(XLIV)) shall also be observed at its 113th session;
2. *Confirms* that, for the interpretation of the statutory rules governing the election of the Secretary-General and the decisions mentioned in the paragraph above, reference shall be made to the contents of this document (CE/112/6 rev.1);
3. *Invites* the Member States to propose candidates for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025, ensuring that their nominations reach the Organization's Headquarters (calle Poeta Joan Maragall 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain) two months before the inauguration of the 113th session of the Executive Council, i.e., by 24:00 hours Madrid time, (date to be confirmed), at the latest;
4. *Requests* candidates to submit, together with the letter of endorsement from the Member State, biographical and career information, as well as a statement of policy and management intent, expressing their views on the manner in which they would perform the functions of Secretary-General;
5. *Confirms* that the 113th session of the Executive Council will select the nominee it should recommend to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly for the post of Secretary-General of the Organization for the period 2022-2025; and
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to communicate to all Member States through a Note Verbale the announcement of the vacancy.

DECISION**Agenda item 7****Place and dates of the 113th, 114th and 115th sessions of the Executive Council**
(document CE/112/7)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

Noting the request of Spain to host the 113th session of the Executive Council in January 2021 within the framework of FITUR,

1. *Decides* to hold its 113th session in Spain in January 2021, within the framework of FITUR, on dates to be confirmed by the host country; and
2. *Also decides* to hold its 114th and 115th sessions in Morocco in 2021, immediately before and after the 24th session of the General Assembly, with the place and dates of the 116th session of the Council to be decided at its 115th session.