

Agenda item 7

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

CE/113/7
Madrid, 18 December 2020
Original: English

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Executive summary

The General Assembly decided that the twenty-fourth session will be held in Morocco in 2021 (resolution A/RES/727(XXIII)).

The Programme and Budget Committee meeting will take place on the first day of the session and the 114th session of the Council will be held on the eve of the first plenary session of the General Assembly, for transmission to the Assembly of items on which an Executive Council recommendation is required.

The 115th session of the Council will be held immediately after the last plenary session of the Assembly for the election of Council Officers for 2022 and the filling of vacant seats on certain subsidiary organs of the Executive Council for the period 2022-2025.

DRAFT DECISION¹

Agenda item 7

**Report on the preparations for the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly
(document CE/113/7)**

The Executive Council,

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

Takes note of the information provided.

¹This 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 carried out a vote by secret ballot between the three offers submitted by the Governments of Kenya, Morocco and the Philippines to host its twenty-fourth session.
2. After the secret ballot and in accordance with Rule 1(2) of its Rules of Procedures, the Assembly decided that the twenty-fourth session will be held in Morocco in 2021 and accepted the generous invitation of the Government of Morocco to host the next session (resolution A/RES/727(XXIII)).
3. The UNWTO Secretariat is working in close cooperation with the Government of Morocco on the organization of the General Assembly in the city of Marrakesh, the Kingdom of Morocco, in accordance with Rule 1(2) of its Rules of Procedure.

II. Programme of meetings

4. The tentative draft provisional programme outline (see Annex) includes the organization of the 114th and 115th sessions of the Executive Council, the plenary sessions of the Assembly and the meetings of the committees indicated in this document.
5. The Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) meeting will take place on the first day of the session and the 114th session of the Executive Council will be held on the eve of the first plenary session of the General Assembly, for transmission to the Assembly of items on which an Executive Council recommendation is required.
6. The 115th session of the Council will be held immediately after the last plenary session of the Assembly for the election of the Council Officers for 2022 and the filling of vacant seats on certain subsidiary organs of the Executive Council for the period 2022-2025. A second meeting of the PBC will be held immediately after the Executive Council session for the election of its Chair and Vice-Chair.
7. The organization of other statutory meetings will be communicated to the Member States at a later stage.

General Assembly session

8. The provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth 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.
9. The Assembly will be called upon to elect the President of its twenty-fourth session, in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure.
10. An official ceremony followed by the high-level/ministerial segment will be organized in the framework of the Assembly.

III. Facilities provided to the Organization by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco

11. The authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco have already taken all necessary measures to host this session in Marrakesh 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.
12. The Agreement between the Organization and the host Government to be concluded by the parties establishes in particular the obligations and commitments that the Government has generously agreed to meet in convening and conducting the proceedings of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly and the other related meetings, in accordance with the Statutes, rules and practices of the Organization.

13. 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.
14. In order to provide legal certainty to this mechanism and to align with other organizations of the UN system, the Secretary-General will propose to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly so that they foresee the possibility to vote by electronic means.

IV. Invitations and working documents

15. 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, will be 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.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. 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.

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Annex I: Preliminary structure for the 24th session of the General Assembly

Preliminary structure

A/24/prog.
Madrid, 18 December 2020
Original: English

**24th session of the General Assembly
October 2021, Marrakesh (Morocco)****Day 1, ... October 2021**

Programme and Budget Committee (PBC)

114th session of the Executive Council

Day 2, ... October 2021

Official opening

First plenary session

Second plenary session

Day 3 ... October 2021

Third plenary session

Fourth plenary session

Day 4, ... October 2021

115th session of the Executive Council

Programme and Budget Committee