

## UNWTO Commission for the Middle East

Fourty-Seventh Meeting  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 27 May 2021

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### **Nominations and Elections to Statutory Organs and their Subsidiary Bodies**

1. In light of the evolving situation regarding COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General is recommending to all Chairs of the Regional Commissions that their respective Members be allowed to join the meetings in person or virtually, using video conference technology so as not to defer them, and that they apply *mutatis mutandis* to each of them the “Special Procedures Governing the Conduct of Virtual and In-Person Sessions of the Executive Council during the COVID-19 pandemic”, exceptionally adopted by the Members of the Council through silence procedure<sup>1</sup>, setting out special rules governing the conduct of virtual and in-person (hybrid) sessions of the Council during the pandemic. Members of the Regional Commissions will be informed of the decisions of the Chair before the meeting.
2. Considering that the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly apply *mutatis mutandis* to Regional Commissions pursuant to Rule 57, it is important to note that these Special Procedures are not intended to deviate from, replace or otherwise amend said Rules of Procedure in any definite manner but only temporarily and limited in scope for the specific needs to facilitate the conduct of meetings of the Regional Commissions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. In agreement with the Chairs of the Regional Commissions and subject to approval by the Regional Commissions themselves at their corresponding Meetings in 2021, an agenda item on “Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies” has been included in the provisional agendas of the upcoming Regional Commission meetings.
4. According to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, all elections shall be held by secret ballot, and conducted in accordance with the Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot annexed to the said Rules of Procedure.
5. The technological means currently available to the Secretariat do not allow, however, for holding a secret ballot online but rather only in person. In fact, no governing body of any other organization of the United Nations system has held a secret ballot online.
6. Consequently, even in case of a hybrid (online and in-person) session of the Regional Commissions, for all elections to statutory and governing organs of the Organization Members that are entitled to vote shall be physically present during the secret ballot. To this effect, the delegations of voting Members of the Regional Commissions shall consist of at least one member who shall be physically present throughout the meeting and duly empowered to cast

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<sup>1</sup> CE/DEC/2 (CXII)

the ballot<sup>2</sup> (For example: your country's Ambassador in Riyadh).

7. Alternatively, a voting Member of the Regional Commission may be exceptionally and validly represented by a member of the delegation of another Member insofar as the relevant rules are observed<sup>3</sup>.

In sum, the representative of the voting Member of the Regional Commission physically present during the secret ballot, be it a member of its own delegation or a member of a different delegation (proxy), must be duly accredited and empowered to cast the ballot on its behalf.

8. In case that no decision can be taken by consensus and that the representative of the voting Member of the Regional Commission is not physically present during the secret ballot, the process of elections and nominations to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies will take place in the Headquarters of the Organization in Madrid, Spain, in accordance with the practice of other organizations of the United Nations system, and before the next session of the General Assembly.

Ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom of Spain and Permanent Representatives to UNWTO have sufficient authority to represent their States in meetings of the governing bodies of the Organization and to cast a ballot on their behalf.

## **I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Nomination of the Officers of the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly**

9. For the conduct of its business and in accordance with Rule 16(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents "on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President".
10. If the Assembly follows the tradition of nominating as President the head of delegation of the host country (Morocco), there would only be one post of Vice-President for the region of Africa.
11. The Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly should therefore represent the UNWTO regions as follows: one for Africa, two for the Americas, two for Europe, one for East Asia and the Pacific, one for South Asia and one for the Middle East.

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<sup>2</sup> Only credentials issued and signed by the Head of State, or the Head of Government, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister responsible for Tourism or the Ambassador accredited to the Kingdom of Spain, will be regarded as valid pursuant to resolution 591(XIX).

<sup>3</sup> Representation of a State by another Full Member of the Organization during the election of the nominee will comply with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly: resolution 591(XIX), resolution 633(XX) and resolution 649(XXI). Therefore, if a Full Member is unable to participate in the voting, it can be exceptionally represented by a member of another State's delegation other than its Head, provided it submits a formal letter or fax signed by the competent authority, explaining the exceptional circumstances to do so, designating the individual that will represent it and, if applicable, giving him/her the power to vote on its behalf. It is recalled that credentials in breach of the principle of secrecy of the vote will be considered as invalid. It should be further noted that, unless the items for which the power to vote is given are clearly specified, it will be understood that the delegate has full powers to cast a vote on behalf of the Government he/she is representing by proxy on any agenda item. While only one mandate for representation may be given to a delegate, delegations are also requested to avoid having more than one delegate representing another State for an orderly conduct of business.

12. Bearing this in mind, the Regional Commissions are requested to nominate candidates to represent their regions as Vice-Presidents of the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly.

13. On 19 May 2021 Iraq presented to the Secretariat its candidature for the position of Vice-President of the Assembly.

## II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### A. Credentials Committee: Appointment of members

14. Rule 13(1) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure provides for the appointment by the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, of a Credentials Committee composed of nine delegates chosen from among the Full Members.

15. The Regional Commissions are called upon to suggest to the President of the General Assembly the same number of representatives for the Credentials Committee as they have Officers of the Assembly. The nine Members of the Committee (two for Africa, two for the Americas, two for Europe, one for East Asia and the Pacific, one for South Asia and one for the Middle East) thus nominated will then elect from among themselves a Chair and a Vice-Chair in accordance with Rule 13(2) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

16. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from the Regional Commission for membership in the Credentials Committee have been received at the Secretariat.

### B. Regional Commissions: Election of Officers

17. In accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, as they apply mutatis mutandis to the Regional Commissions, and consistent with the practice followed so far, each Regional Commission should elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its Members for a term of two years, commencing from the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly and ending before the twenty-fifth session.

18. On 19 May 2021 Iraq presented to the Secretariat its candidature for the chairmanship and/or vice-chairmanship of the Commission for the period 2021-2023.

19. The Secretariat invites Member States from the Region that wish to submit their candidatures for the chairmanship/vice-chairmanship of the Commissions for the forthcoming biennium to do so in the period leading up to the meeting of their respective Commission. Any candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the meeting of the Commission will be announced in an addendum to this document.

20. The Regional Commission is called upon to elect its respective Chair and Vice-Chairs accordingly.

## III. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: ELECTION OF MEMBERS

21. The General Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council, in accordance with Article 14 (1) of the Statutes of the Organization, which reads as follows<sup>4</sup>:

<sup>4</sup> The same provision is repeated in Rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.

“The Council shall consist of Full Members elected by the Assembly in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly, with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution.”

22. Article 15 of the Statutes also stipulates that:

“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...). Election for one-half of the membership of the Council shall be held every two years.”

23. This provision is enlarged upon in Rule 55(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, paragraph 4 of which reads:

“The term of office of the Members of the Council shall begin immediately following their election by the Assembly and shall end on the election of their successors.”

24. Article 14(1) of the Statutes provides that the total number of the Organization’s Full Members determines the number of seats on the Council. In order to achieve, so far as possible, fair and equitable geographical representation, the number of seats per region is calculated on the basis of one seat for every five Members out of the total number of Members in each region.

25. At its 22nd session in Chengdu, China, the General Assembly decided (resolution 697(XXII)) to amend Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly as follows:

“The Assembly shall elect by secret ballot the Members of the Council in the proportion of one Member of the Council for every five Full Members of the Organization, having regard to fair and equitable geographical distribution. This proportion shall be applied to the number of Full Members by region in order to determine the number of seats on the Executive Council to be allocated to the corresponding region. In the event that the figure obtained after the calculation of the said ratio is not whole, it shall be rounded up to the nearest higher integer.”

26. Consequently, in accordance with the number of Full Members per region at the date of this document, the Council may be composed of 34 members in addition to Spain as a permanent member, during the period between the twenty-fourth and twenty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly.

27. 17 Full Members will have to be elected to the Council in the ratio of 1 member for every 5 Full Members per region, as follows:

<b>Africa</b>	5 seats
<b>Americas</b>	3 seats
<b>East Asia and the Pacific</b>	0 seats
<b>Europe</b>	5 seats
<b>Middle East</b>	2 seats
<b>South Asia</b>	2 seats
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> 17 seats

28. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, on the date appearing between brackets, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2021-2025:

**AFRICA** (5 seats to be filled)

**Nigeria**, 24 June 2020, new  
**Zambia**, 24 November 2020, new  
**South Africa**, 7 December 2020, new  
**Morocco**, 15 February 2021, new  
**Ghana**, 12 March 2021, new  
**Mozambique**, 26 March 2021, new

**AMERICAS** (3 seats to be filled)

**Brazil**, 7 January 2021, renewal  
**Argentina**, 4 May 2021, new  
**Jamaica**, 5 May 2021, new

**EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** (0 seats to be filled)

**EUROPE** (5 seats to be filled)

**Armenia**, 1 July 2020, new  
**Uzbekistan**, 15 September 2020, new  
**Croatia**, 15 January 2021, new  
**Bulgaria**, 18 March 2021, new  
**Ukraine**, 23 March 2021, new  
**Georgia**, 6 April 2021, new  
**Greece**, 24 June 2020, renewal  
**Russian Federation**, 3 December 2020, renewal

**MIDDLE EAST** (2 seats to be filled)

**Egypt**, 15 November 2020, renewal  
**Bahrain**, 15 December 2020, renewal  
**UAE**, 16 December 2020, new  
**Iraq**, 19 May 2020, new

**SOUTH ASIA** (2 seats to be filled)

29. Any other candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the Meetings of the Regional Commissions will be announced in an addendum to this document.
30. It should be recalled that Executive Council decisions 4(XXXIII) and 4(XXXIV) recommend that "...only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council".
31. The Regional Commissions are called upon to recommend to the Assembly, on the basis of the regional distribution of new Council seats shown in paragraph 27 of this document, the 17 Council members to be elected for the period 2021-2025.
32. Associate Members are, for their part, requested to nominate their representative to the Executive Council.
33. The Board of Affiliate Members is requested to nominate its representative to serve on the Executive Council. This function is traditionally assumed by the Chair of the Board.

#### **IV. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

##### **A. Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership**

34. Pursuant to Executive Council decisions 8(XXV), 5(XXVI), 2(XXVII), 16(XXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 172(VI), and by virtue of Article 19(g) of the Organization's Statutes, a Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership was established within the framework of the Executive Council. This Committee is composed of six members of the Council, appointed on a regional basis by the Council itself. The Committee elects its own Chair and authorizes the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members to participate in its business without the right to vote.
35. According to the Executive Council Decision CE/DEC/2(CXI) (September 2019) the composition of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership for the period 2019 - 2023 is as follows:
- (a) **Africa:** Côte d'Ivoire
  - (b) **Americas:** Jamaica / Honduras<sup>5</sup>
  - (c) **East Asia and the Pacific:** China
  - (d) **South Asia:** Iran
  - (e) **Europe:** Azerbaijan
  - (f) **Middle East:** Saudi Arabia
36. Following the Decision CE/DEC/4(CXII), a Working Group for the Reform of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework (WG-AMLR) was established. The WG-AMLR is formed by 14 Member States (including the 6 current Members of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership) and the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members, having the mandate to develop a proposal for an integral reform of the existing Rules of Procedures of the Affiliate Members, as well as to elaborate the legal basis for the creation and operation of a new Committee specialized in Affiliate Membership, which will replace the current Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership and to present to the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly a proposal for approval.
37. Pursuant to the Executive Council decision CE/DEC/2(CXI), the Secretariat recommends that the current composition of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership be maintained until 2023.
38. The UNWTO Secretariat will keep the Regional Commissions informed on the progress of the Reform of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework.

##### **B. Committee on Tourism Online Education**

39. Pursuant to Executive Council decision CE/DEC/4(CXII) and General Assembly resolution 714(XXIII), the Committee on Tourism Online Education was established as a Subsidiary Body to the Executive Council. The Committee composed of nine full members, one Associate Member and One Affiliate Member is appointed on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions.
40. This Committee on Tourism Online Education mandate is to provide the Executive Council and the Secretary-General with advice and recommendations on education matters.

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<sup>5</sup> [Please note that the mandate is shared according to the Resolution A/RES/704(XXII)]

41. The technical committee should be able to tackle all aspects of the reality of tourism and of the relations between the sector and the global challenges of the world. Therefore, they ensure a diverse and representative participation of the public and private sectors, from national and international levels, as well as representation from the academic institutions that are part of the Tourism Online Academy.
42. The current composition of the Committee is on an interim basis approved by the 112<sup>th</sup> session of the UNWTO Executive Council for the period of one year. The Regional Commissions to be held in 2021 are requested to nominate their candidates for the approval of the 115<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council which will take place immediately after the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. An official communication addressed to the Organization by the current Members expressing their interest of having continuity in the Committee will be sufficient for the Regional Commissions to recommend their candidatures.
43. The Committee will elect its Chair and its Vice-Chair from its members.
44. Full Members of the Committee for a four-year period 2021-2025 will be approved by the 115<sup>th</sup> session of the UNWTO Executive Council distributed as follows:
- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Africa:                    | 2 members |
| Americas:                  | 2 members |
| East Asia and the Pacific: | 1 member  |
| Europe:                    | 2 members |
| Middle East:               | 1 member  |
| South Asia:                | 1 member  |
45. On 6 April 2021 Saudi Arabia presented to the Secretariat its candidature for the Committee on Tourism Online Education.

## **V. DESIGNATION OF THE HOST COUNTRIES FOR WORLD TOURISM DAY 2022 AND 2023**

46. So far World Tourism Day celebrations have been awarded to:

- WTD 2006: Portugal (Europe)
- WTD 2007: Sri Lanka (South Asia)
- WTD 2008: Peru (Americas)
- WTD 2009: Ghana (Africa)
- WTD 2010: China (East Asia and the Pacific)
- WTD 2011: Yemen (Middle East),
- WTD 2012: Spain (Europe)
- WTD 2013: Maldives (South Asia)
- WTD 2014: Mexico (Americas)
- WTD 2015: Burkina Faso (Africa)
- WTD 2016: Thailand (East Asia and the Pacific)
- WTD 2017: Qatar (Middle East)
- WTD 2018: Hungary (Europe)
- WTD 2019: India (South Asia)
- WTD 2020: MERCOSUR (Americas)
- WTD 2021: Côte d'Ivoire (Africa)

47. Following the geographic order as decided by the General Assembly and the endorsement of the 113<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council CE/113/6, the Executive Council invites the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Commission for the Middle East to recommend to the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly host countries for the 2022 and 2023 editions of World Tourism Day.

As of the date of this document, Saudi Arabia expressed its interest of hosting the World Tourism Day 2023.

**VI. Important Note on the election of the host countries of the next Meetings of the Regional Commissions and other UNWTO events**

48. By resolution 662(XXI), the General Assembly explicitly requests Member States wishing to host a UNWTO meeting to provide the conditions established in the template agreement annexed thereto. This model agreement developed by the Secretariat, on the basis of which host country agreements for the holding of UNWTO meetings are being concluded with the vast majority of Member States, sets out the legal framework governing the holding of UNWTO meetings away from Headquarters, which is primarily determined by Article 32 of the Statutes, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and its Annex XVIII (related to UNWTO), as well as relevant resolutions by the General Assembly, and is consistent with the policy of the holding United Nations on the matter.
49. In line with the practice of the election of venue for the General Assembly and the Executive Council, all Member States submitting their candidature to host the next session of the Regional Commission shall undertake in writing, before the Regional Commission adopts its decision on the venue of its next session, to observe the legal framework for the holding of UNWTO meetings away from Headquarters and to provide the provisions established in the model agreement.
49. Should the host country not be in a position, at the time of concluding the agreement, to provide the necessary conditions for the holding of a UNWTO meeting away from Headquarters, the Secretary-General will then inform the Chair of the Regional Commission so that he or she adopts any measure as necessary to ensure the proper holding of the session, including that it be held at the Headquarters of the Organization in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.





