

UNWTO Commission for Americas

Sixty-Sixth Meeting
Virtual, 24 June 2021
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

CAM/66/8
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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 Chairs of the Regional Commissions, in consultation with the Secretary-General recommend 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 procedure¹, setting out special rules governing the conduct of virtual and in-person (hybrid) sessions of the Council during the pandemic.
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, the present item on “Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies” has been included in the provisional agendas of each 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. Pursuant to extensive market research and to the conduct of a competitive procurement process, the Secretariat has procured an electronic voting system that permits holding a secret ballot both in presence and online providing legal certainty to electoral processes and guaranteeing secure secret voting in accordance with the rules of the Organization.
6. Consequently, all nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies of the Organization to be held at the upcoming Regional Commissions may be conducted with or without the physical presence of delegates of Full Members during the secret ballot.

¹ CE/DEC/2(CXII)



7. To this effect, voting Members are requested to provide the Secretariat, before the discussion of this item (e.g. when submitting the letter of credentials), with a personal and secure email address of the head of delegation or of other designated delegate duly accredited in order to receive a personal and non-transferable access to the electronic voting system.
8. Alternatively, a voting Member of the Regional Commission may be exceptionally and validly represented by a delegate of another Full Member physically present in the Meeting insofar as the relevant rules are observed².
9. In sum, the representative of the voting Member of the Regional Commission physically or virtually present during the secret ballot, be it a member of its own delegation or a physically present member of a different delegation (proxy), must be duly accredited and empowered to cast the ballot on its behalf.
10. An annex is attached explaining the functioning of the electronic system and more information will be provided during the Meeting to ensure the appropriate conduct of the elections.
11. All delegates, whether virtually or physically present, and provided they are duly accredited and empowered to cast a ballot on behalf of a voting Member, will be provided with access to the electronic voting. The Chair will conduct the elections during the Meeting in accordance with the rules assistance of the Secretariat and will provide any further indications as necessary for the conduct of the meeting and the electronic voting.

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Nomination of the Officers of the 24th session of the General Assembly

12. 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”.
13. 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.
14. 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.

² 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.



15. 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.
16. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from the Regional Commission for the position of Vice-President have been received at the Secretariat.

II. **SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

A. **Credentials Committee: Appointment of members**

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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**

20. 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.
21. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from Member States for the chairmanship and/or vice-chairmanship of the Commission for the period 2021-2023 have been received at the Secretariat.
22. 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 Commissions will be announced in an addendum to this document.
23. The Regional Commission is called upon to elect its respective Chair and Vice-Chairs accordingly.



III. **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

24. 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 follows³:

“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.”

25. 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.”

26. 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.”

27. 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.

28. 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.”

29. 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.

30. 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:

³ The same provision is repeated in Rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.



Africa	5 seats
Americas	3 seats
East Asia and the Pacific	0 seats
Europe	5 seats
Middle East	2 seats
South Asia	2 seats
TOTAL	17 seats

31. 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)

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

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)

UAE, 16 December 2020, new
Egypt, 15 November 2020, renewal
Bahrain, 15 December 2020, renewal

SOUTH ASIA (2 seats to be filled)

32. 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.



33. 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”.
34. 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.
35. Associate Members are, for their part, requested to nominate their representative to the Executive Council.
36. 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

37. 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.
38. 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 / Honduras⁴
 - (c) East Asia and the Pacific: China
 - (d) South Asia: Iran
 - (e) Europe: Azerbaijan
 - (f) Middle East: Saudi Arabia
39. 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 24th General Assembly a proposal for approval.

⁴ [Please note that the mandate is shared according to the Resolution A/RES/704(XXII)]



40. 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.
41. 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

42. 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.
43. This Committee on Tourism Online Education mandate is to provide the Executive Council and the Secretary-General with advice and recommendations on education matters.
44. 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.
45. The current composition of the Committee is on an interim basis approved by the 112th 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 115th session of the Executive Council which will take place immediately after the 24th 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.
46. The Committee will elect its Chair and its Vice-Chair from its members.
47. Full Members of the Committee for a four-year period 2021-2025 will be approved by the 115th 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



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

48. 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)

49. Following the geographic order as decided by the General Assembly and the endorsement of the 113th 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 24th 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.



GUIDELINES ON THE UNWTO ELECTRONIC VOTING PLATFORM

Electronic voting is widely used in UN agencies and international organizations to replace the roll call vote and the secret ballot since it represents important gains regarding efficiency, reliability, security and time management.

The UNWTO Electronic Voting Platform provides legal certainty to electoral processes through a technology with verifiable secure secret voting that also guarantees the secrecy, anonymity, verifiability and non-traceability of the results.

A. How can I access the UNWTO e-voting platform?

The day of the meeting you will receive an email with the link to enter the platform. You will need to open the email and click on “Enter the meeting” to access the online e-voting platform. A new webpage will be opened, and you just need to enter your email and click on “Enter the room” to access the online session.

You must check that the system correctly captures the audio and video from your computer and then press the "Accept" button.

B. Would it be possible to test the platform before the date of the meeting?

Prior to the meeting, you will receive an email that will allow you to access the platform. You will be able to test the access but without an option to vote until the voting is open.

C. What if I cannot get access to the UNWTO e-voting platform?

First of all, you need to check that you meet the technical requirements below (supported devices/OS and compatible browsers):

Platform / Operating System	Google Chrome	MS Edge	Safari iOS
Computer (including Microsoft Surface): Windows 10*, MacOS Catalina (or later) or Linux	✓	✓	
Android mobile phone or tablet (Android 9.0+)**	✓	✓	
iPad or iPhone (iOS14+)			✓

*Windows 10 is recommended because it is the only Windows version officially supported by Microsoft (Windows 7 is no longer supported as of 14 January 2020, so Microsoft is not committed to keeping it up to date in case of bugs or security issues).



****The screen sharing functionality is disabled on mobile devices.**

Then, you can do the compatibility test at the following link:

[Compatibility test](#) (open with Google Chrome browser).

It is recommended that a few days before the meeting, you perform a compatibility test from the computer/device that will be used to connect to the e-voting platform, in order to check and verify that it is compatible and/or has the appropriate settings.

In the compatibility test screen, you will see on the left side of the screen 4 items:

- Compatibility of your computer/device
- Compatibility of your audio
- Compatibility of your camera
- Compatibility of your microphone

If you do not have the 4 items with the green check, you have to adjust the settings on your current device, and if you do not know how please contact us for technical support.

If you need further assistance, a help desk will be available during the voting to assist you through the process in case you are connecting remotely.

D. What can I see and do on the e-voting platform during the meeting?

Within the room, you can view:

- The status of the meeting, and
- The agenda item(s) open for voting.

But you can also:

- Send a message to the room administrator: If you wish to send a private message to the administrator of your room, you can do so by clicking on the button at the bottom right of the "Message" screen. These messages are one-way and direct to the administrator. A text box will open where you can enter your message. Once you have entered your message, press the "send message" arrow.

- Ask to speak (rise your hand): If you want to speak during the meeting, you can ask for the floor by clicking on the "Floor" button on the bottom left side of the screen (Hand icon). A notice will appear for you to confirm your request to speak by clicking "OK". You will see that you have correctly requested the floor when the button changes its state and colour. The request for the floor is not immediate, it will be on hold until granted. Each time the floor is given, you must accept the camera and video permissions. When the floor is given to a participant, all attendees will see on screen the image of the participant speaking.

- View the meeting summary: At the end of the meeting, you will be able to see the summary of the meeting and your participation.



E. What type of participants can the system host?

This platform allows on-site and remote participants.

At the top left of the screen, you can see the participants who are in the meeting.

By selecting the respective buttons on the top left side of the screen, you can see the list of attendees: total, remote and on-site.

F. How can I vote?

Once the voting session starts, as it is held, you can vote in the "Agenda" section (right side of the screen).

During the voting, pop-up messages on top of the screen will appear informing you of the opening of items and the activation of voting. However, at the beginning of the meeting, you will be given precise instructions on the conduct of the meeting.

Once the voting has been opened by the administrator, you will be able to click on the right of the screen and the app will register your vote. Please note that once you have voted, a message at the bottom of the item to be voted will show you "vote registered (timestamp)".

At the end of the meeting, you will be able to see the summary of the meeting and your participation.

