

UNWTO Commission for South Asia

Fifty-eighth Meeting
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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 the 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.
7. To this effect, voting Members are requested to provide the Secretariat, before the discussion of

¹ CE/DEC/2(CXII)

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 and 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.
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.

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.

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:

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	<hr/> 17 seats

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

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)

Brazil, 7 January 2021, renewal
Argentina, 4 May 2021, new
Jamaica, 5 May 2021, new
Dominican Rep., 9 June 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)

UAE, 16 December 2020, new
Egypt, 15 November 2020, renewal
Bahrain, 15 December 2020, renewal
Iraq, 19 May 2021, new

SOUTH ASIA (2 seats to be filled)

Iran, 17 June 2021, renewal
India, 9 July 2021, renewal

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.
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.

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

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 a 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 from 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 has expressed its interest in 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

50. 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.
51. 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.
52. 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.