

Agenda item 9

**Appointment of the Secretary-General  
for the period 2022-2025 on the  
recommendation of the Executive  
Council**

A/24/9

Madrid, 28 August 2021  
Original: English

**Executive summary**

At the 113th Executive Council held in Madrid, Spain, on 18-19 January 2021, 25 out of 33 Council members present and voting cast their ballots to recommend Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili as Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025.

The General Assembly, having before it Articles 12(c) and 22 of the Statutes and Rules 38(e), 43 and 53 of its Rules of Procedure, and having noted the recommendation put forward by the Executive Council in its decision CE/DEC/4(CXIII), is invited to decide on the recommendation made to it by the Council and to appoint the Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025 in accordance with Article 22 of the Statutes.

**Action by the General Assembly**

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**DRAFT RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having before it* Articles 12(c) and 22 of the Statutes and Rules 38(e), 43 and 53 of its Rules of Procedure,

*Having noted* the recommendation put forward by the Executive Council in its decision CE/DEC/4(CXIII),

*Decides* to appoint Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili as Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a draft resolution. For the final decision adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.

## I. Introduction

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1. At the 113th session of the Executive Council held in Madrid, Spain, on 18-19 January 2021, and on the basis of decision 14(CXII) laying down the rules of procedure for the appointment of a nominee to the post of Secretary-General, 25 out of 33 Council members present and voting cast their ballots to recommend Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili<sup>2</sup> as nominee for the post of a Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025. Council decision CE/DEC/4(CXIII) reads as follows:

*“The Executive Council,*

*Having examined the report,*

*Recalling Articles 12(c) and 22 of the Statutes and Rule 29 of its Rules of Procedure,*

*Having carried out the process to recommend a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025 in accordance with the rules and procedure as adopted by its decision 14(CXII),*

*Having heard the designation by the Chair of members of the delegations of Brazil and Tunisia as tellers to count the votes,*

*Having held a secret ballot,*

*Noting that H.E. Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa (Kingdom of Bahrain) received 8 votes, and that Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili (Georgia) received 25 votes,*

*Recommends to the General Assembly that Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili be appointed Secretary-General of the Organization for a term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025.”*

## II. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

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2. The General Assembly, having before it Articles 12(c) and 22 of the Statutes and Rules 38(e), 43 and 53 of its Rules of Procedure, and having noted the recommendation put forward by the Executive Council in its decision CE/DEC/4(CXIII), is invited to decide on the recommendation made to it by the Council and to appoint the Secretary-General for the period 2022-2025 in accordance with Article 22 of the Statutes.

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<sup>2</sup> The curriculum vitae of Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili is contained in the Annex to this document.

**CANDIDATE TO THE POST OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION  
(UNWTO)**

**MR. ZURAB POLOLIKASHVILI**

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

- Mr. Pololikashvili has broad experience of working both in private and public sectors at high-profile positions.
- He has extensive diplomatic experience, serving as Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), as well as having served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Spain. He also held a position of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2006.



**CURRENT POSITION**

**Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2018-2021)**

**2012 - 2017**

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia** to the Kingdom of Spain, the Principality of Andorra, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and the Kingdom of Morocco  
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the World Tourism Organization

**2009 - 2010**

**Minister of Economic Development of Georgia**

- As Minister of Economic Development of Georgia, Mr. Pololikashvili was responsible for overseeing the country's long-term fiscal growth strategies, for advancing foreign trade and investment policy initiatives, as well as promoting the development of tourism, infrastructure and transportation sectors. He was instrumental in launching an innovative policy for the development of tourism of Georgia, prioritizing the sphere on both the governmental and private sector agendas.
- During Mr. Pololikashvili's tenure as the Minister of Economic Development, through key policy reforms, marketing activities, improvement of infrastructure and visa liberalization initiatives, Georgia managed to nearly double the annual number of international arrivals, from 1,5 million in 2009 to exceeding the 2,8 million mark by 2011. These reforms paved the way for sustainable tourism practices in Georgia and poverty alleviation

initiatives, placing Georgia among top tourism destinations in the region.

- Mr. Pololikashvili successfully led the economic liberalization processes, introducing more supportive policies for SMEs, and incentive programs to attract foreign investment for the development of hard and soft infrastructure.

**2006 - 2009**                      **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia** to the Kingdom of Spain, the Principality of Andorra, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco

**2005 - 2006**                      **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia**

- In his capacity as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, he supervised the departments for administrative, budgetary, financial and consular affairs, as well as the Department for Human Resources Management. Mr. Pololikashvili was responsible for ushering in a new phase of more liberal and secure visa regimes, facilitation of processes to ease border crossing procedures, and deepening relations with various international organizations, including UNWTO.

## EXPERIENCE IN PRIVATE SECTOR

Mr. Pololikashvili 's private sector experience includes several years in the financial and banking sectors, serving as the Manager of international Operations for TBC Bank (one of the most successful banks in Georgia), Director of TBC Bank 's Central Branch Office (2001-2005) and the Vice President of TBC Group (2010-2011).

In 2011-2012, Mr. Pololikashvili was CEO of FC Dinamo Tbilisi, the leading professional football team in Georgia.

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

**2008 - 2009**                      Global Senior Management Program (GSMP), IE Business School, Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, Spain

**1994 - 1998**                      Bachelor's Degree in Banking, Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia

## PERSONAL DATA

**Date of birth**                      12 January 1977, Tbilisi, Georgia

**Marital status**                      Married, has three children

**Languages**                      Georgian (native)  
English, Russian, Spanish (fluent)  
French, Japanese, Polish (spoken)