

Agenda item 2
**Election of the President and Vice-
Presidents of the Assembly**

A/24/2
Madrid, 27 August 2021
Original: English

Executive summary

The General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session. The Vice-Presidents are recommended by the Regional Commissions. The guidelines for elections and the functions of the officers are also recalled in this document.

Action by the General Assembly

DRAFT RESOLUTION¹

The General Assembly

1. *Declares elected* Morocco as President of its twenty-fourth session, represented by H.E.; and
2. *Declares elected as Vice-Presidents* of its twenty-fourth session:
 - Africa:
 - (To be recommended by the Commission for Africa on 2-3 September 2021)
 - (Idem)
 - Americas:
 - Paraguay
 - Uruguay
 - Asia and the Pacific:
 - (To be recommended by the Commission for Asia and the Pacific in September 2021)
 - Europe:
 - Hungary
 - Uzbekistan
 - Middle East:
 - Iraq
 - South Asia:
 - (To be recommended by the Commission for South Asia in September 2021)

¹ 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

1. In accordance with Articles 12 and 13 of the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents at the beginning of its session.
2. The President and Vice-Presidents are considered as the Officers of the Assembly for the duration of the session and are elected from among the Full Members.
3. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly establish the guidelines for election of the President and Vice-Presidents and their functions:

“Rule 16 – Officers of the Assembly:

- (1) The session of the Assembly shall be opened by the President of the preceding session or by the head of the delegation to which he belonged.
- (2) The Assembly shall elect its President.
- (3) The Assembly shall elect its Vice-Presidents on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President.

Rule 17 – Functions of the President and Vice-Presidents:

- (1) The President shall ensure the observance of these Rules of Procedure. He/she shall declare the opening and close of each plenary meeting, direct the discussions at plenary meetings, grant the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce the decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and, subject to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, ensure the orderly conduct of business at each meeting. He/she may propose a limitation of the time allowed to each speaker or the closing of the list of speakers. He/she may also declare the suspension of the debates.
- (2) The President shall not participate in the discussions or votes.
- (3) He/she shall be responsible to the Assembly while it is in session.
- (4) The President may appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to replace him/her during a meeting or a part of a meeting. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.
- (5) If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected by the Assembly for the unexpired term.
- (6) The President shall represent the Organization during his/her term of office, on all occasions on which such representation is necessary.”

II. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

4. Rule 43 of the General Assembly’s Rules of Procedure provides for all elections to be carried out by secret ballot. It is nevertheless recalled that the Presidents of the previous twenty-three sessions of the Assembly were all elected by acclamation after consultations among delegations, the head of delegation of the host country being traditionally chosen for this office (Morocco).
5. The Regional Commissions held prior to the General Assembly nominate candidates to represent their regions as Vice-Presidents.

6. It is recalled that the 109th session of the Executive Council (30 October – 1 November, Manama, Bahrain) took the decision (CE/DEC/10(CVIX)) that there will only be one Regional Commission meeting for each region in 2019, which each Regional Commission will hold during the first semester of 2019, in the venues decided in their last respective sessions, and on dates prior to the 110th session of the Executive Council held in June 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
7. Further to this decision and due to the outbreak of the pandemic of COVID-19 and its negative impacts on overall mobility, the Regional Commissions' meetings took place virtually in 2020, and virtually or in a hybrid format in 2021. Three Regional Commission meetings have already taken place in 2021: the 47th UNWTO Commission for the Middle East (26-27 May 2021, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia), the 66th meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe (2-4 May 2021, Athens, Greece), and the 66th UNWTO Commission for the Americas (24-25 June 2021, Kingston, Jamaica). The 59th meeting of the Regional Commission for South Asia and 55th meeting of the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, as well as the 64th Regional Commission for Africa will take place in September 2021.
8. These Regional Commissions elected the following Member States as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly:

Americas:
 - Paraguay
 - Uruguay
Europe:
 - Hungary
 - Uzbekistan
Middle East:
 - Iraq
9. The Regional Commission for Africa scheduled to be held on 2-3 September 2021 in Cabo Verde will designate two Vice-Presidents from the region. The Regional Commissions for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia scheduled to be held virtually in September 2021 will designate one Vice-President from each region.

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