

**FOR DECISION**

**Report of the Programme and Budget  
Committee**

CE/114/PBC19  
Madrid, 23 November 2021  
Original: Spanish

**Executive summary**

The Programme and Budget Committee met on 23 November 2021, under the chairmanship of Peru. As a subsidiary body of the Executive Council, the Committee considered, before they were submitted to the Council, all documents relating to the budget and programme of work of the Organization.

During its nineteenth meeting, held online, the Committee examined the following reports:

1. Implementation of the General Programme of Work
2. Financial situation of the Organization
3. Human resources

The Committee examined all the documents and recommended that the Executive Council approve them.

**The draft decisions of the Executive Council are not reflected in the present document, but in the above-mentioned documents.**

## I. Introduction

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1. The Programme and Budget Committee held its nineteenth meeting organized virtually, on 23 November 2021, under the chairmanship of Peru and the vice-chairmanship of Switzerland. The list of participants is annexed to the present report.
2. The members of the Programme and Budget Committee approved its agenda and proceeded to examine the following items and related documents, which are presented to the Executive Board at its 114th session, within the framework of the 24th session of the General Assembly (Madrid, Spain):

### Documents

Implementation of the General Programme of Work (2020-2021 and 2022-2023)

A/24/5(a) rev.3

Financial situation of the Organization (2020-2021 y 2022-2023)

A/24/5(b) rev.1

Human resources report (including the report of the Ethics Officer)

A/24/5(c)

3. In his communication, the Chair, Peru, mentioned that the spread of COVID-19 worldwide has caused unprecedented negative effects in almost all the economies of the planet, especially impacting the sectors related to travel and tourism. He also welcomed the leadership of the UNWTO Secretariat since the beginning of the pandemic, as well as its initiatives and recommendations to mitigate its effects.
4. He stressed that, by working together, we will be able to open new prospects for the development of tourism, taking into account that sustainable development post-pandemic is essential to achieve a comprehensive recovery of the sector.

## II. Implementation of the General Programme of Work - A/24/5(a) rev.3

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5. The Secretary-General provided an update on the activities carried out by the Secretariat, including actions to combat the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, underlining the key role of the various technical committees, and detailing the various initiatives for the Council's approval, including:
  - (a) The UNWTO Recommendations on Tourism and Rural Development,
  - (b) the Best Tourism Villages initiative,
  - (c) the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative,
  - (d) the Recommendations for the Transition to a Green Travel and Tourism Economy,
  - (e) the possibility of re-joining the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) by 2022-2023
  - (f) the proposed International Code for the Protection of Tourists.
6. He also summarized the main lines of the Programme of Work for the next biennium (2022-2023), based on three axes:
  - (a) the results of the survey on priorities conducted at the beginning of 2021,

- (b) continuity with the 2020-2021 Programme of Work, and
  - (c) maximizing the contribution of tourism to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
7. The Chair, the Vice-Chair of the Committee and Zimbabwe stressed the importance of coordinating efforts among all tourism actors around the Organization to enable a lasting and sustainable recovery of the sector.
  8. The Programme and Budget Committee took note of the activities implemented in 2020-2021, as well as the objectives, lines of work and deliverables for 2022-2023 and recommended the Executive Council to approve the report.

### **III. Report on the financial situation of the Organization - A/24/5(b) rev.1**

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9. The Chief of the Department of Budget and Finance presented information on the financial situation of the Organization, including:
  - (a) the closing of the audited financial statements for the twenty-second financial period (2018-2019),
  - (b) the audited financial statements of UNWTO for the year ended 31 December 2020, which received an unqualified (positive) audit opinion, as set out in the report of the External Auditor included in the reference document,
  - (c) the financial report of the UNWTO Secretary-General for the year ended 31 December 2020, including a special note on the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Secretary-General's proposal for the use of the 2019 and 2020 regular budget cash balance
  - (d) possible scenarios for the implementation of a strategy for financing UNWTO after service employee benefit liabilities, the importance of which was underlined by the Vice-Chair, Switzerland,
  - (e) the UNWTO financial report for the period ended 30 June 2021, underlining the importance of the contribution received from Saudi Arabia for the UNWTO Regional Office for the Middle East,
  - (f) the proposed regular budget for the period 2022-2023 based on a 0 per cent increase in Members' contributions in 2022 and 2023 over the previous year as well as the Secretary-General's proposal for the allocation of additional budget income,
  - (g) the matter of the election of the External Auditor for 2022-2023, encouraging all members to submit their candidacy as soon as possible, and
  - (h) an amendment to Detailed Financial Rule IV.2, with a view to reducing, as of 1 January 2022, the period of arrears resulting in the termination of Affiliate Membership ..
10. The Programme and Budget Committee congratulated the Secretariat for the important and professional work it has done, took note of the report and recommended to the Executive Council its approval.

### **IV. Human resources report - A/24/5(c)**

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1. The Chief of the Human Resources Department reported on the status of the Organization's human resources. He provided up-to-date information and data on staff matters, including:
  - (a) strategies on resource and personnel management during and after the COVID-19 pandemic,
  - (b) the induction programme for new personnel,
  - (c) improving staff selection tools,

- (d) the implementation of the health and wellness strategy for the benefit of personnel,
  - (e) automation of forms for more efficient use of resources and elimination of paper,
  - (f) collaboration with the United Nations common system,
  - (g) improving mechanisms for gender equity and women's empowerment,
  - (h) improving the conditions of service of staff not subject to the Staff Rules and
  - (i) the development of a Human Resources strategy focused on strategic issues.
2. The Secretary-General also referred to the efforts made in the area of competitive selection processes to strengthen human resources in the Regional Office for the Middle East in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
  3. The Programme and Budget Committee noted with appreciation the many activities presented and the efforts made by the staff of the Organization, taking into account limited resources.
  4. The Programme and Budget Committee recommended the Executive Council to approve the report.

#### **V. Place and dates of the nineteenth meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee**

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5. The Committee agreed that it would hold its twentieth meeting immediately after the 115th session of the Executive Council, within the framework of the 24th General Assembly, in Madrid, Spain, in person, on 3 December 2021.

**Annex I: List of participants – 19th meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee**

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**Chair**

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**Peru**

S.E. Sra Isabel Álvarez Novoa  
 Viceministra de Turismo  
 Ministerio de Comercio Exterior y Turismo

Sra Veralucia Abate Correa  
 Analista en Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales  
 Dirección de Facilitación y Cultura Turística  
 Ministerio de Comercio Exterior y Turismo

Sra Claudia Velit  
 Ministra consejera  
 Embajada de Perú en España

**Vicechair**

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**Switzerland**

Mr. Richard Kämpf  
 Head of Tourism Affairs  
 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO  
 Promotion Activities Directorate

Mr. Christoph Schlumpf  
 Scientific collaborator  
 Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
 Education and Research EAER  
 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO  
 Promotion Activities Directorate

**Members**

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**Argentina**

Lic. Ana Inés García Allievi  
 Directora de Relaciones Internacionales  
 Ministerio de Turismo y Deportes

**Iraq**

Mr. Ali Yassin Abudalreda  
 Director of International Relations  
 Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities

Ms. Redhab Fadel Razouqui  
 Director of the Translation Department  
 Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities

**Japan**

Ms. Helga Tabuchi  
 Counsellor  
 International Relations and Tourism Human Resources  
 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism  
 Japan Tourism Agency

Mr. Yuki Koinuma  
 Chief Officer  
 Japan Tourism Agency

## Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Mr. Masateru Nakamura  
Chief Officer  
Japan Tourism Agency  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Mr. Takafumi Ueda  
Officer  
Japan Tourism Agency  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

## Malaysia

Mr. Jayapragas Muthuveeroo  
Senior Principal Assistant Secretary  
Tourism Policy and International Affairs  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Malaysia

Ms. Meera Devi Daran  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
Tourism Policy and International Affairs  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Malaysia

## Morocco

Mme. Hasnae Zerrouq  
Directrice de la stratégie et de la coopération  
Point focal pour l'OMT  
Ministère du Tourisme, du Transport Aérien, de l'Artisanat et de l'Economie sociale

## Saudi Arabia

Mr. Firas Al Hammad  
Manager of Committee & Organization, International Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Tourism

Ms. Renad Amjad  
Multilateral Affairs Director  
Ministry of Tourism

## Spain

Mr. Javier FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ  
Deputy Director General of Cooperation and Tourism Competitiveness  
State Secretariat for Tourism  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism

Ms. Teresa GANCEDO NIETO  
Chief, International Relations Area  
State Secretariat for Tourism  
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism

## Sri Lanka

Ms. Rajeeeka Ranathunga  
Assistant Director  
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

## Zimbabwe

Mr. Munesushe Munodawafa  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry