

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS 114TH SESSION**

Madrid, Spain, 1 December 2021

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CE/DEC/1(CXIV)

DECISION

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1

(document CE/114/1 prov. and CE/114/1 prov.supp.)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the supplementary provisional agenda together with its provisional agenda,

1. *Adopts* the agenda of its 114th session as proposed; and
2. *Decides* to consider the supplementary question on “Empowering Women in Tourism” proposed by Spain as item 5 of its agenda.

DECISION

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

Agenda item 2(a)
(document A/24/5(a) rev.3)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Work and its different annexes,

1. *Takes note* of the activities implemented and progress achieved;
2. *Endorses* the UNWTO Recommendations on Tourism for Rural Development, as presented in Annex VIII;
3. *Takes note* of the report on work of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC) summarized in Annex X, the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS) in Annex XII and the Committee on Tourism Statistics in Annex XV, and encourages all committees to continue with their respective work plans;
4. *Reiterates* the crucial policy need for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (following UNWTO GA resolutions A/RES/714(XXIII) and A/RES/684(XXII)) and supports the efforts of the Committee on Statistics and the Working Group of Experts on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism towards the finalization of the much-needed Statistical Framework on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism;
5. *Endorses* the Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO Initiative launched in 2021 as a pilot project presented in Annex XI and encourages Member States to take an active role in the Initiative;
6. *Also endorses* the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (Annex XIV) launched in 2020 by UNWTO in partnership with the UN Environment Programme and in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and encourages Member States to take an active role in it;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to do everything in their power to approve all amendments to the Statutes and the Financing Rules, with particular regard to the amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes;
8. *Also calls upon* Member States to accede to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and to explicitly notify their intention to apply Annex XVIII to UNWTO;

9. *Endorses* the list of agreements, as set forth in Annex VI;
10. *Welcomes* the UNWTO Recommendations for the Transition to a Green Travel and Tourism Economy, which build on the One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery from COVID-19, as presented in Annex XIII;

Having heard the explanations of the Secretary-General regarding the implications for UNWTO of the United Nations Reform, and notably, of the UNWTO's membership in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG),

Recalling the General Assembly's position as expressed in resolution A/RES/714(XXIII),

Having read the report of the Committee for the Development of an International Code for the Protection of Tourists and the draft text of the Code as presented in Annex XVI,

11. *Thanks* the Member States, Observers and members of the Consultative Group of Experts who have participated in the Committee and have contributed to the drafting of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists;
12. *Endorses* the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, as presented in Annex XVI;
13. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee to maintain the International Code for the Protection of Tourists as a non-legally binding instrument;
14. *Recommends* the General Assembly to approve the International Code for the Protection of Tourists;
15. *Calls upon* Member States of the UNWTO and Member States of the United Nations to adhere to the Code, and invites them to submit a written notification to the Secretary-General of the UNWTO in respect of their intention to adhere thereto and subsequently of any specific activities in this respect;

Having examined the Draft Programme of Work for 2022-2023,

16. *Endorses* the objectives, priorities, outcomes and outputs of the draft;

Having heard the request made by Saudi Arabia at the present session to examine the agenda item on "Redesigning Tourism for the Future", as proposed by Saudi Arabia to the General Assembly,

17. *Decides* to defer the examination of such proposal to a future session, to enable the Secretary-General to provide the necessary report on its technical, administrative and financial implications, and so that the Executive Council may make a recommendation to the General Assembly;
18. *Requests* the Chair to report on this decision to the General Assembly; and

Having heard the request made by Brazil at the present session to examine the question of the establishment of a Regional Office in Brazil,

19. *Takes note* of Brazil's proposal to establish a Regional Office in Brazil.

DECISION

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

Agenda item 2(b)
(document A/24/5(b) rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report containing updated information as of 31 December 2020,

Takes note with appreciation of the comprehensive information contained in the documents and their annexes;

- I. Closing of the Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-second financial period (2018-2019)*
 1. *Recommends* the General Assembly to endorse the Executive Council decisions CE/DEC/4(CX) and CE/DEC/6(CXII) on the approval of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years 2018 and 2019 respectively and CE/DEC/3(CXIII) on recommendation of their endorsement;
 2. *Recommends* the General Assembly to approve the UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 2019 respectively and the approval of the closing of the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-second financial period (2018-2019), the budgetary cash balance of the Regular Budget and Working Capital Fund situation for the same period;
- II. UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020*
 3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the unqualified opinion of the External Auditor that the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2020 present a true image of the financial position of the UNWTO as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance, its cash flows and changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2020, in compliance with UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and recognizes with appreciation that the production of IPSAS compliance Financial Statements is a major achievement of an Organization of the size of UNWTO;
 4. *Approves* the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020;

5. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's financial report for the year ended 31 December 2020 including the net assets/equity analysis, the mitigating actions which may be undertaken to respond to a possible severe downside scenario, and other information presented in the document and its annexes and approves, as presented in the report:
 - (a) The Secretary-General's proposals to: i) allocate the 2020 RB budgetary cash surplus amounting to EUR 1,563,733, and, ii) retain in the WCF the amount of EUR 1,788,645 out of the 2019 RB budgetary cash surplus in view of the continued uncertainty in the financial outlook due to the pandemic,
 - (b) The assumptions update in the after-service employee benefits actuarial calculations as recommended by the UN Task Force on Accounting Standards (UNTFAS) via harmonization guidance,
 - (c) The Regular Budget appropriation transfers in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.3(a) and 5.3(b),
 - (d) The projects with UNWTO and donors contributions for the period 2014-2020;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present details of the required payroll charge percentage calculated by a professional firm of actuaries to an upcoming session of the Executive Council for approval and takes note that an annual separate allocation in the Regular Budget to cover, at a minimum, the ASEB on a pay-as-you-go basis will continue to apply pending the introduction of the payroll charge;
7. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue in 2021 and in 2022-2023 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment;
8. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programme and Budget Committee (Peru and Switzerland, respectively) and the External Auditor (Spain) for the work carried out;

III. UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2021

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Secretary-General's Financial Reports for the periods ended 31 March 2021, 30 June 2021, the comprehensive information contained in the document and its annexes and approves, as presented in this document:
 - (a) The revised appropriations of the Regular Budget at 31 March 2021 and 30 June 2021,
 - (b) The updated Plan of income and expenditure of the Regular Budget for the financial year 2021 presented by the Secretary-General at 31 March 2021 and 30 June 2021,
 - (c) The Secretary-General proposals on the Replacement Reserve, as already authorized by the EC Chair and subject to subsequent confirmation by the Programme and Budget Committee and the Executive Council, to: i) allocate the amount of EUR 200,000 to a new project on Headquarters (HQ) infrastructure improvement, ii) use EUR 144,000 out of the already established ICTC

infrastructure project to a cloud-based Human Resources digitalization solution, and iii) to continue with some enhancements of the tailor-made IT Financial management information system using an estimate amount of around EUR 200,000 out of the already established IPSAS/Athena project;

(d) The projects with UNWTO and donors contributions for the period ended 30 June 2021;

(e) The interim non-RB projects ASEB payroll charge of 10 per cent of regular staff costs charged to non-Regular Budget projects from 1 June 2021.

10. *Also takes note* with satisfaction of the submission of the interim provisional unaudited UNWTO Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2021 and 30 June 2021 and the UNWTO Statement Financial Performance for the period ended 31 March 2021 and 30 June 2021;
11. *Thanks* the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations, urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2021, and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;
12. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proactive approach for the settlement of current year and arrear contributions in order to contribute towards the Organization's programme of work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization to assist the tourism sector to recover from the challenges resulting from the impact of COVID-19 on the sector with its limited resources;

IV. *Draft Budget for the period 2022-2023*

13. *Endorses* the draft Regular Budget of the Organization for the period 2022-2023, for a total amount of EUR 30,438,000 and authorizes the Secretary-General to implement it in accordance with the amounts collected;
14. *Endorses* that the budgetary income approved for the next biennium should be provided by the contributions of the Full and Associate Members in the rounded amounts of EUR 13,317,000 for 2022 and EUR 13,323,000 for 2023, and that the balance to be financed should be covered by the contributions of the Affiliate Members, with the necessary adjustments deriving from any changes in the number of Affiliate Members, and the other sources of funding proposed in this document;
15. *Approves* the proposed scale of contributions for 2022-2023;
16. *Also approves* the Secretary-General's proposal on the assessed contributions of the Affiliate Members and the deductions for specific Members previously endorsed by the Executive Council;

V. *Election of the External Auditor for 2022-2023*

17. *Encourages* Members to present their candidatures as the External Auditor to carry out the external auditing of the Organization for the period 2022-2023 for the external audit of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2021 and 2022; and

VI. Amendment to the Detailed Financial Rule IV.2

18. *Decides* to consider the proposed amendment to the Detailed Financial Rule IV.2, falling within its competence at its 115th session.

DECISION

Human resources report

Agenda item 2(c)
(document A/24/5(c))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization;
2. *Expresses* its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in service of the Organization and their contribution to the Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources and the extraordinary circumstances deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. *Approves* the exceptions to Staff Rules 16(1)(d), 21(1)(a)(iii), 21(2)(a) and 31, in view of the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. *Endorses* the exception to Staff Regulation 28, on the mandatory age of retirement, in the interest of the Organization, for approval by the General Assembly at its 24th session;
5. *Takes note* of the decision of the Secretary-General to uphold the post adjustment rates resulting from the 2010 place-to-place survey conducted by the ICSC for the Organization's staff in Geneva, in view of the relevant ILOAT ruling and notes that the decision may have an impact on staff based at other duty stations;
6. *Encourages* Member States to send concrete proposals to the Organization for the financing of Junior Professional Officers at UNWTO;
7. *Encourages* Member States to send to the Organization, Officials on Loan, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources and to ensure additional human resources for the newly established UNWTO Regional Office for the Middle East in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and
8. *Thanks* the Ethics Officer for her report on the activities carried out from 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021.

DECISION

Progress Report on the Reform of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework

Agenda item 3
(document CE/114/3)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Working Group on the Reform of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework,

1. *Thanks* the Working Group for the work done to review and update the Rules applicable to Affiliate Membership, and the Board of the Affiliate Members for its collaboration;
2. *Decides* to approve the proposal of Reform of the Affiliate Membership Legal Framework made by the Working Group; and
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:
 - (a) To present the proposal of Reform of the Affiliate Membership Legal Framework to the 24th General Assembly for its ratification, and
 - (b) To support the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership during the transitional period

DECISION

Designation of the host countries for World Tourism Day 2022 and 2023

Agenda item 4
(document A/24/14 rev.1)

The Executive Council,

1. *Takes note* of the present report submitted by the Secretary-General on the observance of World Tourism Day 2020;
2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments of the MERCOSUR Member States (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, plus associate state Chile) and Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the official celebrations of World Tourism Day 2020 and 2021, respectively; and

Having taken cognizance of the proposed host countries by the Regional Commissions and themes proposed by the 113th session of the Executive Council for the next two World Tourism Day celebrations,

3. *Recommends* the General Assembly to designate the following countries to host the World Tourism Day celebrations in 2022 and 2023, with the respective themes:

2022: Bali, Indonesia, "Rethinking Tourism"

2023: Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, "Tourism and Green Investments"

DECISION

Proposal of Spain: Empowering Women in Tourism

Agenda item 5

(document CE/114/1 prov. supp.)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the question proposed by Spain on “Empowering Women in Tourism” and the corresponding draft declaration presented on this matter,

1. *Endorses* the “Madrid Declaration: Empowering Women in Tourism”, attached as an Annex to document A/114/1 prov. supp.;
2. *Thanks* Spain for bringing this important question for the consideration of the Council; and
3. *Decides* to endeavour to align the actions of the UNWTO with this Declaration.