

Agenda item 6

**Place and dates of the 117th and 118th
sessions of the Executive Council**

CE/116/6
Madrid, 30 May 2022
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Executive summary

During the present session, the Council is called upon to decide on the places of its meetings up to the next General Assembly taking into consideration the guidelines adopted for the selection of venues of its sessions (CE/94/3(III)(d) rev.1).

The UNWTO Secretariat did not receive any candidatures to host the 117th and 118th sessions of the Executive Council.

DRAFT DECISION¹

Agenda item 7

Place and dates of the 117th and 118th sessions of the Executive Council
(document CE/116/6)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

1. *Decides* to hold its 117th session during the second semester of 2022, on dates to be agreed upon between the Secretariat and the host country, taking into consideration the guidelines adopted for the selection of venues of its sessions (CE/94/3(III)(d) rev.1); and
2. *Invites* Member States to send their candidatures to host the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council.

¹This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.

I. Introduction

1. The statutory framework concerning the place and dates of Executive Council ordinary sessions is established in the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, under the provisions reproduced below:

Article 8 (2) of the Statutes:

"Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise."

Article 16 of the Statutes:

"The Council shall meet at least twice a year."

Rule 3 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council:

"The Council shall meet at least twice a year. It shall fix at each session the date of the next session. The letters of convocation for ordinary sessions shall be sent to the Members of the Council by the Secretary-General at least forty days before the opening of the session."

2. Despite the wording of Article 8 (2) of the Statutes, in the practice the Assembly and the Council do not meet at the Headquarters of the Organization. Through decision [11 \(XCIV\)](#), adopted at its 94th session held in October 2012, the Council recognized that the practice of geographical rotation of the Governing Bodies has greatly contributed to promote the role of tourism and of the Organization around the world, and adopted the guidelines for the selection of venues of sessions of the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Guidelines")².

II. Procedure for fixing the place and dates of Executive Council sessions

3. Pursuant to the Guidelines, and in line with the practice for the selection of venues for the General Assembly, for a candidature to be eligible the State concerned must fulfil the following requirements before the Executive Council adopts the resolution concerning the place of its next session:
 - (a) Inform the Secretary-General ninety days before the session that is required to decide on the venue, indicating the ordinal number of the Executive Council meeting that the State wishes to host,
 - (b) Receive the sponsorship of at least 25% of the Full Members of the Council, and
 - (c) Undertake in writing to observe the standard conditions laid out in the model agreement³.
4. The standard requirements and conditions laid out in the model agreement shall be the subject of an agreement between the government of the host State and the Organization.
5. Just like the model agreement for General Assembly sessions⁴, adopted by the General Assembly resolution [631 \(XX\)](#), the model agreement for Executive Council sessions is based on 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, as well as relevant resolutions by the General Assembly⁵, and is aligned with the policy of the United Nations in this regard.
6. Failure to apply any of the standards and principles included in the template agreement may expose delegates of Members of the Council and other participants to, *inter alia*, difficulties issuing visas or refusal to enter into the host country, documentation and media materials destined for

² [CE/94/3\(III\)\(d\)](#)

³ [CE/94/3\(III\)\(d\) Annex 2](#)

⁴ [A/20/5\(II\)\(i\)](#)

⁵ Resolutions 136 (V), 489 (XVI) and 662 (XXI).

the meeting being refused free entry or being searched, customs duties being requested, and non-respect by national authorities of official immunity from legal process (e.g. arrest and detention, commencement of lawsuits). It may also expose the Organization to legal and financial liability.

7. Any State willing to host a session of the Executive Council should, before submitting its candidature, become familiar with the standard requirements set out in the model agreement.
8. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report on the selection of venue for the 25th session of the General Assembly⁶, the Secretariat often encounters some reluctance to apply the conditions required by the Governing Bodies for the host of their sessions as well as pressure to deviate from the policy established and from the consistent policy of the United Nations in this regard. As a result, lengthy negotiations are undertaken to ensure that the Governing Bodies' instructions are respected by States having been elected to host their sessions.
9. Should the host country not be in a position to provide the necessary conditions for the hosting of the Executive Council, the Secretary-General, in line with his delegated authority pursuant to paragraph (k) of the Guidelines, will adopt any measure as necessary to ensure the proper holding of the session.

III. Candidatures to host the 117th and 118th sessions of the Executive Council

10. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from States have been received by the Secretariat for the hosting of the 117th and 118th sessions to be held in the second semester of 2022 and first semester of 2023, accordingly.
11. Consequently, in the absence of any candidatures, the Council may decide to meet for its 117th session at the Headquarters of the Organization, pursuant to Article 8 (2) of the Statutes and Rule 3 (1) of its Rules of Procedure.
12. The place and dates for the 118th session may be decided during the 117th session of the Council.

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⁶ [A/24/19](#)