

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS 117TH SESSION
Marrakesh, Morocco, 24 November 2022**

Adoption of the agenda	2
Current trends of international tourism	4
General Programme of Work	5
Financial situation of the Organization	7
Human resources report	10
Election of the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Executive Council for 2023	11
Proposal to create a task force on “Redesigning Tourism for the Future”	12
Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices	14
Report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members	15
Report of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership	16

CE/DEC/1(CXVII)

Adoption of the agenda
(document CE/117/1 prov.)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the proposal of Portugal to include an item for a debate on legal questions pertaining to item 4,

1. *Adopts* the agenda of its 117th session as proposed with the addition of a debate agenda item as item 5(a);
2. Decides to conduct such debate prior to the consideration of the provisional item 4, which is renumbered as item 5(b) as reflected in the annex below; and

Having heard the proposal of Saudi Arabia,

3. *Decides* to consider item 7 immediately after item 3 as item 4.

ANNEX

Final Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chair
3. Report of the Secretary-General
 - (a) Current trends of international tourism
 - (b) General Programme of Work
 - (c) Financial situation of the Organization
 - (d) Human resources
4. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Executive Council for 2023
5. Proposal to create a task force on “Redesigning Tourism for the Future”
 - (a) Debate on legal questions regarding the proposal
 - (b) Consideration of “Redesigning Tourism for the Future” as proposed
6. Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices
7. Affiliate Members
 - (a) Report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members
 - (b) Report of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership

CE/DEC/2(CXVII)

Current trends of international tourism
(document CE/117/3(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

1. *Welcomes* the report and updated information provided by the Secretary-General as well as UNWTO continuous monitoring tools developed since the outbreak of COVID-19; and
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue monitoring trends and recovery and update Members accordingly.

CE/DEC/3(CXVII)

General Programme of Work
(documents CE/117/3(b) rev.1 and CE/117/PBC)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the general programme of work,

1. *Thanks the* Secretary-General for all the activities carried out;
2. *Takes note with satisfaction* that, as a result of the successful implementation of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme (STP), tourism has been identified as one of the high-impact sectors in the new Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption led by UNEP;
3. *Decides* therefore to support the renewal of the mandate of UNWTO as Lead of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme in view of the extension of the mandate of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production until 2030 by the UN General Assembly (resolution A/RES/76/202), and invites Member States to support the One Planet STP;
4. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (Annex III) and the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (Annex IV) and thanks their respective members for their work;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to urgently consider the establishment of a global working group on health, and travel & tourism within the spirit of the coalition of partners created by UNWTO and WHO, recognizing the need to draw the lessons from the COVID crisis to generate greater resilience within travel and tourism and to ensure preparedness in the face of future threats;
6. *Invites* the Members to support and adopt the set-up and operationalization of a sustainable and revolving tourism pan-African fund that will support the recovery of the tourism sector in Africa further to the heavy economic impact incurred by the continent during the COVID-19 pandemic;
7. *Invites* the Members to support the creation of an African Tourism training academy that will focus on the upskilling of the youth labour market in the tourism sector and respond to the issue of youth employment in Africa, which has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic;

Having considered in Annex V the Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines,

8. *Endorses* the guidelines;

Having examined the Annex VI regarding the progress on JIU recommendations,

9. *Takes note* of the latest reports issued by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) referenced in the document and thanks the JIU for its insight;

10. *Approves* the acceptance and implementation status for each one of them and requests the Secretary-General to report accordingly on them to the JIU;
11. *Considers closed* those recommendations that have been fully implemented; and
12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep reporting yearly on this issue.

CE/DEC/4(CXVII)

Agenda item 3(c)
Financial situation of the Organization
(documents CE/117/3(c) rev.1 and CE/117/PBC)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report,

- I. UNWTO Financial Report for the periods ended 30 June 2022 and 30 September 2022*
1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Secretary-General's Financial Reports for the periods ended 30 June 2022 and 30 September 2022, 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 30 June 2022 and at 30 September 2022,
 - (b) The updated Plan of income and expenditure of the Regular Budget for the financial year 2022 presented by the Secretary-General at 30 June 2022 and at 30 September 2022,
 - (c) The Secretary-General's proposal on the Replacement Reserve, as already authorized by the EC Chair, to allocate the amount of EUR 250,000 to the Headquarters (HQ) infrastructure improvement project, and
 - (d) The projects with UNWTO and donors' contributions for the period ended 30 June 2022 and 30 September 2022;
2. *Also takes note* with satisfaction of the submission of the interim provisional unaudited UNWTO Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2022 and 30 September 2022 and the UNWTO Statement of Financial Performance for the periods ended 30 June 2022 and 30 September 2022;
3. *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 2022, and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;
4. *Endorses* the request made by the Full Member Iraq and recommends a favourable resolution by the General Assembly at its forthcoming twenty-fifth session;
5. *Also endorses* the payment plan submitted by the Affiliate Member "International Institute for Research and Development of Special Interest Tourism SITI-1" and requests a favourable resolution from the General Assembly;
6. *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 with its limited resources;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present to the 118th session of the Executive Council an extensive overview of the approach of the Secretariat in collecting membership contributions and arrears as well as to formulate and submit to the Council an enhanced strategy to more effectively ensure the timely fulfilment of the Members' financial obligations to the Organization;
 8. *Takes note* of the current (unbudgeted) and expected continued inflation and of the negative impact of inflation on the execution of the Regular Budget in the biennium 2022-2023;
 9. *Agrees to consider* the Secretary-General's proposal to maintain the real resource levels available to carry out the Organization's activities through an increase of the budgetary estimates and assessed Members' contributions in 2024 and in 2025, in consultation with the Regional Commissions, to offset this inflationary component and requests the Secretary-General to present the draft Regular Budget for the biennium 2024-2025 to this effect to the Executive Council in 2023, and requests further clarifications from the Secretariat;
- II. UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021*
10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the unqualified opinion of the External Auditor that the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2021 present a true image of the financial position of the UNWTO as at 31 December 2021 and of its performance, its cash flows and changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2021, 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;
 11. *Approves* the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021;
 12. *Takes note* with appreciation of the Secretary-General's financial report for the year ended 31 December 2021 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 allocate the 2021 RB budgetary cash surplus to the General Fund to increase the RB programme of work operating activities in the forthcoming biennium 2024-2025,
 - (b) The Regular Budget appropriation transfers in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.3(a) and 5.3(b),
 - (c) The cofinancing projects with UNWTO and donors' contributions for the period 2021;
 13. *Appreciates* the detailed ASEB funding projections and payroll charge analysis as presented in this document and takes note that the Secretary-General will consider the outlined funding strategies and will present the most optimal proposal and proposed implementation date in a future session of the EC;
 14. *Also 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, ideally similar to the most updated

servicing costs calculated by a professional actuary at the time of preparing the budget, will continue to apply;

15. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue in 2022 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment; and
16. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programme and Budget Committee (Switzerland and Peru, respectively) and the External Auditor (Spain) for the work carried out.

CE/DEC/5(CXVII)

Human resources report
(documents CE/117/3(d) and CE/117/PBC)

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. *Expresses* its satisfaction on the management of the UNWTO workforce and the initiatives to foster the health and well-being of all personnel, and particularly welcomes the implementation of a Staff Counsellor function to offer psychosocial support to personnel;
4. *Expresses* its satisfaction on the various initiatives of the Organization in the area of gender, diversity and inclusion, and supports the development of policies in this regard;
5. *Takes note* of the results provided on the ICSC cost-of-living survey;
6. *Takes note* of the exception to Staff Rule 24(4) made by the Secretary-General;
7. *Approves* the proposed amendments to Staff Rules 13(2) and 13(9);
8. *Encourages* Member States to send concrete proposals to the Organization for the financing of Junior Professional Officers; and
9. *Encourages* Member States to send to the Organization, Officials on Loan, especially in view of the rising demands of the Organization with its limited resources and to ensure additional human resources for the Regional Office for the Middle East in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

CE/DEC/6(CXVII)

Election of the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Executive Council for 2023
(documents CE/117/7, CE/117/7 Add.1 and CE/117/7 Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the candidatures received for the chairmanship,

Having heard the consensus-building statement of Côte d'Ivoire, endorsing the candidature of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

1. *Decides* to elect the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chair of the Council for 2023;

Having taken note of the candidatures for the first and second vice-chairmanships,

2. *Decides* to elect Côte d'Ivoire as first Vice-Chair of the Council and to re-elect the Republic of Mauritius as second Vice-Chair of the Council for 2023;
3. *Requests* the Full Members elected to the chairmanship/vice-chairmanships to designate the persons to perform these duties in accordance with Rule 5(4) of its Rules of Procedure; and
4. *Thanks* the Officers of the Council who served during 2022, i.e., as Chair, Côte d'Ivoire, as first Vice-Chair, Saudi Arabia, and as second Vice-Chair, Mauritius, for the quality of the work they have accomplished for the benefit of the Organization in the performance of their functions.

CE/DEC/7(CXVII)

**Proposal to create a task force on
“Redesigning Tourism for the Future”
(a) Debate on legal questions regarding the proposal
(b) Consideration of “Redesigning Tourism for the Future” as proposed
(document CE/117/4)**

The Executive Council,

Having examined the proposal submitted by the UNWTO Secretary-General, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Spain on the mandate, composition and modus operandi of the Task Force on “Redesigning Tourism for the Future”,

Having heard the clarifications provided by the Secretariat during the discussion of item 5(a) of the agenda,

1. *Decides* that the Task Force be established as a subsidiary body of the Executive Council to which its Rules of Procedure shall be applicable in accordance with Rule 32;
2. *Recalls* that the mandate, composition and modus operandi of the Task Force be set in accordance with the guiding principles set forth in the proposal by Saudi Arabia and Spain as adopted by General Assembly resolution 741(XXIV) and aligned with the legal framework of the Organization;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, to circulate a final document, including all the documents, setting out the mandate, composition and modus operandi of the Task Force together with the report of the Office of the Legal Counsel, by end of February 2023;
4. *Requests* the Regional Commissions to recommend by March 2023 for approval by the Executive Council a list of Full Members to serve on the Task Force, to be revised as recommended by the 117th Executive Council to achieve a fair and equitable geographical distribution,
 - (a) Nine by the members of each of the Regional Commissions proportionally to the number of the member states affiliated to them:
 - i. two from the Commission for Africa (CAF)
 - ii. two from the Commission for the Americas (CAM)
 - iii. one from the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP)
 - iv. two from the Commission for Europe (CEU)
 - v. one from the Commission for the Middle East (CME)
 - vi. one from the Commission for South Asia (CSA)
 - (b) Plus two members who are co-chairs; and
 - (c) Plus additional member states at the joint invitation of both co-chairs that will take part in the work of the task force

5. *Invites* Members of the Organization to contribute to the work of the Task Force by sharing substantive proposals before the next session of the Executive Council.

CE/DEC/8(CXVII)

**Report on the status on the legal and operational framework
for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices**
(document CE/117/5)

The Executive Council,

Recalling that the legal and operational framework for Regional/Thematic Offices was adopted by the 24th session of the General Assembly through resolution 740(XXIV),

Having broadly discussed the report on the status of the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices at its 116th and 117th sessions,

1. *Takes note* of the substantial improvement of the document since the 116th session of the Executive Council and thanks the Secretariat for all the progress and clarifications made;
2. *Emphasizes* that the revised version of the document categorizes the legal, operational, financial, political and human resources aspects required for the establishment of the Regional and Thematic Offices as adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 740(XXIV) in a comprehensive and well-structured way;
3. *Proposes* that unlike Thematic Offices which may operate on a global level (while being fully managed and administered by UNWTO Secretariat Headquarters), Regional Offices may undertake their actions only on regional and sub-regional levels; and
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General:
 - (a) To ensure a further consultative process by including the subject for discussion in the agendas of the six UNWTO Commission meetings to be held in 2023 (with all the feedback received), and
 - (b) To submit the amended version of the document to the 118th session of the UNWTO Executive Council to be held in 2023 in Dominican Republic.

CE/DEC/9(CXVII)

Report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members
(document CE/117/6(a) rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the Report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members,

1. *Thanks* the Chair of the Board for her communication;
2. *Welcomes* the initiatives proposed by the Affiliate Members to be included in the 2023 Programme of Work, aimed at the recovery of the tourism industry;
3. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the institutional collaboration between the Board of the Affiliate Members and the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership; and
4. *Appreciates* the Affiliate Members' commitment to and readiness for a more sustainable and resilient tourism.

CE/DEC/10(CXVII)

Report of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership
(document CE/117/6(b) rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of its Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership (document CE/117/6(b) rev.1), which met in virtual format on 17 November 2022, under the chairmanship of Spain,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee;
2. *Appreciates* the objectives and activities included in the Programme of Work for the Affiliate Members for 2023;
3. *Welcomes and encourages* the implementation of the “Strategy for a quality-oriented and geographically balanced expansion of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership” proposed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Committee;
4. *Decides* to admit provisionally to the UNWTO affiliate membership the 18 (eighteen) candidates entities listed in Annex I of the report, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session; and
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present the candidates listed in Annex I to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session for ratification.