

## Information note

CE/118/Note Inf.  
Madrid, 17 March 2023  
Original: Spanish

### 1. Place and dates of the session

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In accordance with decision CE/DEC/15(CXVI) adopted at its 116th session held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Executive Council will hold its 118th session in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The session of the Executive Council will take place at the [Paradisus Palma Real Golf & Spa Resort](#) on 17 May, while the Thematic Session will be held at the [Meliá Caribe Beach Resort](#) on 18 May.

### 2. Contact information of the organizing committee

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UNWTO coordinator	Host country coordinator
<p><b>Ms. Yolanda Sansegundo</b> Conference Services Tel.: +34 91 567 8188 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ysansegundo@unwto.org">ysansegundo@unwto.org</a> <a href="mailto:council@unwto.org">council@unwto.org</a></p>	<p><b>Mr. Carlos Peguero</b> Vice-Minister for International Cooperation Tel.: +1 (809) 390-5142 E-mail: <a href="mailto:carlos.peguero@mitur.gob.do">carlos.peguero@mitur.gob.do</a></p>

### 3. Thematic session “New Narratives in Tourism”

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On Thursday, 18 May, the thematic session "New Narratives in Tourism" will take place within the framework of the Executive Council. The session will serve as a platform for the exchange of experiences and ideas on how communication can convey the message of a more innovative, sustainable and people-centred tourism sector through the integration of novel tools and concepts.

“New Narratives in Tourism” aims to offer useful tools that can assist tourism authorities and professionals in the development of communication strategies by addressing the keys to redesigning a destination’s image, messages and communication channels, and adapting them to the demands of an increasingly technological, demanding and committed audience.

During the thematic session, leading experts from the field of communication will present participants with the keys to redesigning their brands and adapting their image to ensure their relevance in the world of digital communication, which in turn impacts everything from consumer perception, the private sector and international governance.

For any questions about the thematic session, please contact Ms. Marina Tejerina at: [mtejerina@unwto.org](mailto:mtejerina@unwto.org)

### 4. Registration

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Registration for the Council session will be carried out online until 30 April 2023. The registration form is available on the UNWTO website at: [www.unwto.org/events/118-executive-council](http://www.unwto.org/events/118-executive-council)

The online registration platform should be completed with all the necessary information regarding participation in the conference, airport pick-up, visa information and technical visits.

Accreditation badges are issued to specific individuals and are not transferable. Participants should always keep their badge and ID with them during their stay in Punta Cana. The badge is the only document that confirms the accreditation of participants of the Executive Council session and provides access to the venues of the different events.

The registration desk will be open from 16 to 18 May at the following locations:

At Paradisus Palma Real Golf & Spa Resort:

- Tuesday, 16 May: 12:00-18:00
- Wednesday, 17 May: 08:30-11:00

At Meliá Caribe Beach Resort:

- Thursday, 18 May: 08:30-10:00

## 5. Transfers

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Members of delegations will be provided with transportation upon arrival and departure between the airport Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ) and the main hotels and the venue. To avail of this service, arrival and departure information must be provided when completing the online registration form.

To enable the authorities to properly organize the welcome and shuttle services, participants must complete and submit the online registration form indicating their arrival and departure flight information and their accommodation details before 30 April 2023.

## 6. Accommodation

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The hotels listed below offer special rates for participants on an all-inclusive basis.

Rooms at special rates will be blocked for participants at the main hotels until 30 April 2023. After that date, availability cannot be guaranteed.

Room reservations can be carried out at the [following link](#).

Any inquiries about reservations should be made by writing to the e-mail address [PUJClusterReservaciones@melia.com](mailto:PUJClusterReservaciones@melia.com) or by calling the following telephone number: +1 (809) 688-5000, ext. 8425, 8424

Hotel	Room Type	Rate / night (All-inclusive)	Distance from the meeting venue
<a href="#">Paradisus Palma Real Golf &amp; Spa Resort</a> 5*	Double room	USD \$375	Venue of the Executive Council
	Single room	USD \$299	
<a href="#">Meliá Caribe Beach Resort</a> 5*	Double room	USD \$209	750 metres
	Single room	USD \$189	
<a href="#">Meliá Punta Cana Beach</a> 5*	Double room	USD \$250	250 metres
	Single room	USD \$225	
<a href="#">Garden Suites by Meliá</a> 5*	Double room	USD \$263	600 metres
	Single room	USD \$210	
<a href="#">Falcon's Resort by Meliá - All Suites Punta Cana</a> 5*	Double room	USD \$350	400 metres
	Single room	USD \$280	

It should be noted that all the hotels mentioned above belong to the same Meliá complex and are connected to each other.



## **7. Submission of credentials and identification papers**

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With a view to ensuring a smooth verification process, the Member States of the Executive Council are kindly requested to submit their credentials electronically to the Secretariat no later than **ten days before** the opening of the session.

A scanned copy of the credentials should be sent to Ms. Ilenia García-Riano, UNWTO Protocol Section, at [igarcia@unwto.org](mailto:igarcia@unwto.org). The originals must be submitted to the Secretary-General at least one day before the opening of the Council session.

Only credentials from Heads of State or Heads of Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Ministers responsible for tourism of the respective State or his/her equivalent will be regarded as valid credentials. Only formal letters or faxes bearing the signature of the competent authority are considered valid. A model credentials letter and the format for proxy letters are available at the web page of the Executive Council session.

Only duly accredited delegates shall be authorized to exercise the right to vote and to take the floor at the meetings of the Executive Council.

## **8. Status of participants**

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The Government of the Dominican Republic shall make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the arrival, stay and departure of all participants invited by the Organization. During their stay, participants shall enjoy the privileges and immunities conferred to delegates at UNWTO events in the Dominican Republic, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

## **9. Entry formalities**

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The legislation of the Dominican Republic concerning the entry and stay of foreigners in the country provides that any foreigner wishing to visit the Dominican Republic must be in possession of a passport or other valid document issued by the State of which he/she is a citizen and recognized by the Dominican Republic as a travel document.

For more information on visas and the list of diplomatic and consular missions of the Dominican Republic with the countries under its jurisdiction, as well as the countries whose nationals require a visa or are exempt from that obligation, please visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the following links:

<https://mirex.gob.do/condiciones-para-extranjeros-ingresar/> (entry requirements)

<https://mirex.gob.do/directorio/> (general information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

### **Participants who do not require a visa**

Participants from countries whose nationals do not require a visa to enter the Dominican Republic must present their valid passports and the letter of invitation from UNWTO.

### **Participants requiring a visa**

For participants who require a visa to enter the Dominican Republic, the Government will offer, free of charge, the issuance of a laissez-passer valid for 30 days, which must be presented together with their valid passports and the UNWTO letter of invitation.

Delegates from countries for which this laissez-passer is required are kindly requested to send their application to the **UNWTO Protocol Section** ([ngogiberidze@unwto.org](mailto:ngogiberidze@unwto.org)), with copy to [cose@unwto.org](mailto:cose@unwto.org), indicating the following information:

- **Names and surnames**
- **Copy of passport**
- **Travel itinerary (date, time and flight number).**

In order to enable the authorities to process the laissez-passer in time, participants are requested to send the required information to the contacts below **one month prior** to their flight arrival in the Dominican Republic.

In addition, all foreign passengers entering or leaving the Dominican Republic must complete the following free **electronic form** at the following link: <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do>. To complete the form, enter the page and complete the fields or, if you already have an application, sign in and enter your application number.

Save the generated code to be able to access the form at any time and fill in the required data correctly. Once the form has been completed, a ticket will be generated with a QR code or, if preferred, downloaded in PDF format.

For any specific inquiries regarding visas, the following contacts may be consulted:

### **Dominican Republic**

Mr. Cándido Omar Mercedes, Director of Consular Services, Tel.: +1 (829) 546-2665, e-mail: [comercedes@mirex.gob.do](mailto:comercedes@mirex.gob.do)

### **UNWTO**

Ms. Nino Gogiberidze, Office of the Secretary-General, e-mail: [ngogiberidze@unwto.org](mailto:ngogiberidze@unwto.org)

## 10. Working languages

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The documents for the Council session will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation of the Council discussions will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

## 11. Working documents

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In light of the United Nations mandate to promote sustainability, UNWTO is strengthening its efforts towards environmental sustainability by implementing paperless events and conferences.

Delegates are kindly requested to take note that the working documents will not be distributed on paper at the venue of the event. Participants are encouraged to bring their own electronic devices to access the working documents during the session.

All the documents will be posted online at the [UNWTO website](#). Delegates will be notified by e-mail of the posting of the documents.

## 12. List of participants

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A provisional list of participants will be available in advance for consultation on the UNWTO website.

The final list of participants will be completed on the basis of the data entered in the registration forms and it will be posted on the UNWTO website shortly after the closure of the Council session.

## 13. General information

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**Official language:** Spanish

**Local time:** The time zone used in the Dominican Republic is GMT -4.

**Weather:** The Dominican Republic has a humid tropical climate, with warm temperatures throughout the year. The average temperature ranges between 21° and 28°C. The period between the months of May and November is the rainy season.

**Local currency and exchange rates:** The local currency is the Dominican Peso (RD\$). The exchange rate fluctuates depending on the day and the location of the exchange point.

US dollars and euros can be easily exchanged at banks or authorized exchange offices throughout the country. Some exchange offices also accept the following currencies: Canadian dollar, Swiss franc, Danish krone, British pound, Japanese yen, Scottish pound, Swedish krona and Norwegian krone.

Money can be withdrawn directly from ATMs at a variety of banks in the country. They are safe to use and allow withdrawals in the local currency. They will also offer the best exchange rates. ATMs can also be found at airports, supermarkets, major tourism centres and shopping malls.

**Electricity:** Electricity in the Dominican Republic operates at 110 volts.

**Shopping and tipping:**

Most businesses open from 8:30-9:00 a.m. until 5:00-6:00 p.m. on weekdays and until 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, remaining closed on Sundays. In cities, large shopping malls and supermarkets are an exception as they close at 21:00 on weekdays and are open on Sundays.

Restaurants generally stay open and serve food until 22:00-24:00 from Sunday to Thursday, and until 02:00 on Fridays and Saturdays. Holidays have special hours.

Restaurant bills include a 10% service charge, in addition to the 18% sales tax that will be listed as ITBIS. It is customary and good practice to leave an additional 10% to ensure that the waiter receives a tip, but it is voluntary based on customer satisfaction.

**Emergency number: 911**

**UNWTO Safety & Security Coordinator**

Name: Mr. Antonio Garcia

Cell: +34 699976040

#### **14. Tourism visits**

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The Ministry of Tourism will offer the following visits to tourism attractions in the afternoon of 18 May 2023.

Delegates are encouraged to participate in these visits, which represent an opportunity to learn about the diversity of tourism in this area. To do so, they should indicate their preferred option in the registration form.

**Option 1 – Punta Cana Resort & Club, Tortuga Bay Boutique Hotel, Grupo Puntacana Foundation and Indigenous Eyes Ecological Park & Reserve**

The tour begins with a visit to the **Punta Cana Resort & Club** hotel, an exclusive resort and residential community established in 1969 by Frank Rainieri, a pioneer in Punta Cana tourism development, and continues with the **Tortuga Bay Boutique Hotel**, which was designed by Oscar de La Renta and is the only hotel in the Dominican Republic with an AAA Five Diamond rating.



It also includes a visit to the **Grupo Puntacana Foundation**, a non-profit organization through which Grupo Puntacana creates opportunities to improve the well-being of the inhabitants of the Punta Cana area and promotes innovative solutions for the preservation of the ecosystem of the region.

The tour continues with a visit to the **Indigenous Eyes Ecological Park & Reserve**, followed by a dip in one of its beautiful lagoons. The reserve is a protected area of 1,500 acres dedicated to the preservation of the environment, with educational, scientific and recreational purposes. Within the reserve there are more than 500 species of plants, 36% of which are endemic to the Dominican Republic.

Lastly, the participants will have some shopping time at the **Blue Mall / Puntacana Village**.

**Option 2- Visit to Cap Cana: Caletón and Juanillo beaches, Punta Espada golf course, Marina Cap Cana and Scape Park**

This visit includes a tour of the **Cap Cana** area, a destination city and an exclusive enclave recognized as being among the best in the Caribbean. The tour will go through the **beaches of Caletón and Juanillo**, the **Punta Espada** golf course designed by the American golfer Jack Nicklaus, and Los Farallones.



Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the **Cap Cana Marina** and enjoy the Hoyo Azul cenote, a natural spring located next to **Scape Park**, an area for the promotion and preservation of endemic and endangered species.

Lastly, the participants will have some shopping time at the **Blue Mall / Puntacana Village**.



## **15. Tourism information**

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Dominican Republic websites:

Ministry of Tourism  
[www.mitur.gob.do/](http://www.mitur.gob.do/)

Dominican Republic - Has it all  
<https://www.godominicanrepublic.com/>