

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**AT ITS 118TH SESSION**

**Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 17 May 2023**

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CE/DEC/1(CXVIII)

**Adoption of the agenda**  
(document CE/118/1 prov.)

*The Executive Council*

*Adopts the agenda of its 118th session as proposed.*

CE/DEC/2(CXVIII)

**Current trends of international tourism**  
(document CE/118/3(a))

*The Executive Council*

1. *Welcomes* the report and updated information provided by the Secretary-General as well as UNWTO's continuous monitoring tools; and
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue monitoring trends and the recovery of international tourism and to update the Members accordingly.

**General Programme of Work**  
(documents CE/118/3(b) rev.2, CE/118/3(b) Add.1 and CE/118/PBC)

*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;*

*Having read* Annex III on the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST),

2. *Thanks* the members of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics, and the Expert Group on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism working under its auspices, for their pioneering vision and professionalism in leading the international effort towards the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism, a development that is vital for supporting tourism's transition towards a sector that better serves people, the planet and prosperity;
3. *Recommends* that the UNWTO General Assembly approve the nearly finalized draft of the SF-MST with a view to presenting it to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its endorsement as the next statistical standard for tourism;
4. *Encourages* all UNWTO Members to actively support the international consensus-building process towards endorsement by the United Nations Statistical Commission of the SF-MST, and calls upon Ministries in charge of Tourism to reach out to the respective National Statistical Institutes to coordinate a common country stance in advance of the United Nations Statistical Commission's fifty-fifth session to be held in New York from 27 February to 1 March 2024;

*Recalling* its decision requesting "the Secretariat to urgently consider the establishment of a global working group on health, travel and 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",

5. *Approves* the terms of reference of the Working Group on Health and Travel & Tourism, as presented in Annex V with the amendment proposed by Mauritius on paragraph 5;

*Having taken cognizance* of the preparation process of the Programme of Work 2024-2025, based on the survey held among the Member and non-member States, which provides insights on the sector's long-term vision, for both the sector and the Organization,

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the 119th session of the Executive Council the draft Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025 for endorsement, including an initial outline of the long-term vision for the sector and the required reforms for the Organization;

*Having taken cognizance* of the UNWTO rebranding presented by the Secretary-General and its specific elements,

7. *Endorses* the new organizational branding, whose core elements are annexed to the present decision;
8. *Approves* the implementation of the aforementioned rebranding; and
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps with WIPO to duly protect the intellectual properties contained in the rebranding proposal under the worldwide and free registration mechanism available for the protection of signs of International Organizations.

### **Annex: Core elements of the Organization's branding**



CE/DEC/4(CXVIII)

**Financial situation of the Organization**  
(documents CE/118/3(c) and CE/118/PBC)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined the report,*

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the comprehensive information contained in document CE/118/3(c), its different parts and its annexes;
  - I. Closing of the Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-third financial period (2020-2021)
2. *Requests* the General Assembly to endorse Executive Council decisions CE/DEC/3(CXIV) and CE/DEC/4(CXVII) on the approval of the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements for the years 2020 and 2021 respectively;
3. *Requests* the General Assembly to approve the UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2020 and 2021 respectively and to approve the closing of the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-third financial period (2020-2021), 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 2022

*Noting* that at the time of drafting this report the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 are still under the external audit process,

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the Organization's Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 to the Executive Council upon conclusion of the external audit together with the External Auditor's opinion and the Secretary-General's Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022;
5. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for the work done for the issuance of the UNWTO Financial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 in compliance with UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and in line with other UN organizations, and recognizes with appreciation that the production of IPSAS-compliant Financial Statements is a major achievement for an Organization of the size of UNWTO;
6. *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 being carried out;

## III. UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 31 March 2023

*Having examined* the information and proposals contained in Part III of document CE/118/3(c),

7. *Approves*, as presented:

- (a) the revised appropriations of the Regular Budget at 31 March 2023 (Annex III.A.I),
- (b) the Plan of income and expenditure of the Regular Budget for financial year 2023 presented by the Secretary-General at 31 March 2023 (Annex III.A.II), and
- (c) the co-financing projects with UNWTO and donors' contributions for the period ended 31 March 2023 (Annex III.C.7);

8. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the submission of the interim provisional unaudited UNWTO Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2023 and the UNWTO Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 31 March 2023;9. *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 2023, and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;10. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proactive approach for the settlement of current-year contributions and arrears in order to contribute towards the Organization's programme of work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization within the current inflationary situation.

## IV. Draft Budget for the period 2024-2025

11. *Endorses* the draft Regular Budget of the Organization for the period 2024-2025, for a total amount of EUR 31,677,000 and authorizes the Secretary-General to implement it in accordance with the amounts collected;12. *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 13,739,000 for 2024 and EUR 14,627,000 for 2025, 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;13. *Approves* the proposed scale of contributions for 2024-2025 (Annex IV.6 of document CE/118/3(c));14. *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 2024-2025

15. *Encourages* Members to present their candidatures as the External Auditor to carry out the external auditing of the Organization for the period 2024-2025 for the external audit of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2024;
- VI. Membership and Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules
16. *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 2023, and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;
17. *Endorses* the request made by the Full Member Kyrgyzstan and recommends a favourable resolution by the General Assembly at its forthcoming twenty-fifth session;
18. *Notes with appreciation* that Full Member Yemen is no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules and Article 34 of the Statutes since at the date of this document it has settled its contribution arrears in full;
19. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proactive approach for the settlement of current-year contributions and arrears 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;
- VII. Extensive overview of the approach of the Secretariat in collecting membership contributions and arrears

*Having examined* the extensive overview of the approach of the Secretariat in collecting membership contributions and arrears,

20. *Extends* its appreciation and gratitude to the Secretary-General and the representatives of the Secretariat for undertaking effective measures to maintain a stable financial situation through the collection of membership contributions and arrears in light of the worsened economic and political situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and other complications at the global, regional and national levels;
21. *Commends* the Secretariat's effective strategy and tactic for collecting membership contributions and arrears with ad hoc changes and decisions; and
22. *Requests* the Secretary-General:
  - (a) to continue proactively reaching out to Members for the mobilization of their annual contributions and arrears to the highest degree, and
  - (b) to consult with the appropriate subsidiary bodies of the governing organs and prepare the rationale for the possible amendment of the Organization's regulatory framework aiming at improving the overall process for the Members to fulfil their commitments.



**Human resources report**  
(documents CE/118/3(d) rev.1)

*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 with 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 with the management of the UNWTO workforce and the initiatives to foster the health and well-being of all personnel;
4. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the various initiatives of the Organization in the areas of gender equality, diversity and inclusion, and work-life balance, among others, and supports the development of policies in this regard;
5. *Endorses* the allocation of additional staff positions in view of the increased activities in the Programme of Work of the Organization and the permanent nature of the work;
6. *Takes note* of the acceptance of the proposed amendments to the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) conveyed by the Secretary-General;
7. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the improved electronic human resources tools, improving efficiency and delivery of human resources services as well as data-driven solutions;
8. *Approves* the proposed amendments to Staff Rules 17 (1), 20 (1) and 20 (3), decides that, on an exceptional basis, all of them be effective as of 1 January 2023; and further recommends that the General Assembly approve the amendment to Staff Regulation 20 at its next session;
9. *Encourages* Member States to send concrete proposals to the Organization for the financing of Junior Professional Officers;
10. *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; and
11. *Thanks* the Ethics Officer for her report on the activities carried out from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023.

**Status report on the establishment of the Task Force  
on “Redesigning Tourism for the Future”  
(document CE/118/4 rev.1)**

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report on the Rules of Procedure of the Redesigning Tourism for the Future Task Force, submitted by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Council, and the report of the Office of the Legal Counsel,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided;
2. *Approves* the Rules of Procedure of the Task Force set forth in Annex I of this document (CE/118/4);
3. *Urges* the Regional Commissions for Africa, the Americas, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and South Asia to make recommendations for membership in the Task Force, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, at their meetings scheduled in June and July 2023;
4. *Decides* that the Task Force, composed of nine members to be recommended by the Regional Commissions, shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from its Full Members to serve for an initial one-year term which may be renewed;
5. *Authorizes* its Chair to circulate, after consultation with the Secretary-General, a draft decision to all its Members concerning the composition of the Task Force as recommended by the Regional Commissions under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours in accordance with the practice adopted by the Executive Council through its decision 2(CXII);
6. *Decides* that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the Council shall take note of such decision at its next session;
7. *Proposes* to the 25th session of the General Assembly to extend the mandate of the Task Force until the 26th session of the General Assembly;
8. *Requests* the Task Force to develop a plan for deliverables, milestones and timetable, cost and funding requirements of the Task Force, and a budget, to be submitted to the Council for approval;
9. *Encourages* the Member States to support the fulfilment of the mandate of the Task Force, aiming at strengthening the UNWTO including its operational and institutional framework, by providing the Secretariat with voluntary contributions in accordance with the Statutes and the Financial Regulations and Rules; and
10. *Encourages* the Member States to contribute to the work of the Task Force by sharing substantive proposals with the Secretariat

**Status report on the establishment of  
UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices**  
(document CE/118/5)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report on the status of the establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices,

1. *Thanks* the Members that have provided their comments on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of the Regional and Thematic Offices;
2. *Decides* to establish a Working Group, composed of Member States and supported by the Secretariat, that will further discuss the input received and present a draft proposal of Terms of Reference of the Working Group to the next session of the Executive Council and for consideration by the 25th session of the General Assembly; and
3. *Welcomes* the progress on the establishment of Regional Offices in Argentina, Brazil and Morocco.

CE/DEC/8(CXVIII)

**Report on the preparations for the twenty-fifth session  
of the General Assembly**  
(document CE/118/6)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly,

*Takes note* of the information provided.

CE/DEC/9(CXVIII)

**Report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members**  
(document CE/118/7(a))

*The Executive Council,*

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

1. *Thanks* the Representative of the Board of the Affiliate Members for his communication;
2. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the institutional collaboration between the Board of the Affiliate Members and the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership to foster public-private partnership within the tourism sector;
3. *Welcomes* the readiness of the members of the Board to support and proactively contribute to the implementation of the Strategy for a quality-oriented and geographically balanced expansion of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership; and
4. *Appreciates* the Affiliate Members' commitment with the joint efforts towards a competitive, sustainable and accessible-for-all tourism sector.

**Report of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership**  
(document CE/118/7(b) rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of its Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership (document CE/118/7(b) rev.1), which met in virtual format on 11 May 2023, under the chairmanship of Spain,

1. *Endorses* the Report of the Committee;
2. *Decides* to provisionally admit as new UNWTO Affiliate Members the sixteen (16) entities listed in Annex I of this report, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its 25th session;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present the above-mentioned 16 new Affiliate Members provisionally admitted to the General Assembly, at its 25th session, for its ratification; and
4. *Encourages* the Committee to continue to monitor the progress of the strategy for a quality-oriented and geographically balanced expansion of the membership.

**Annex I: List of the entities to be admitted as UNWTO Affiliate Members**

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1. Arcadia Vineyards LTD. (*Türkiye*)
2. Blue Purple Vail LLC (*United States of America*)
3. Empresa Pública para la Gestión del Turismo y del Deporte de Andalucía, S.A. (*Spain*)
4. European Boating Industry (*Belgium*)
5. European Cultural Tourism Network – ECTN (*Belgium*)
6. EXPOURENSE - Fundación de Feiras e Exposicións de Ourense (*Spain*)
7. Guilin Tourism University (*China*)
8. International School Sport Federation (*Belgium*)
9. Mabrian Technologies S.L. (*Spain*)
10. Observatorio Turístico Sostenible del Estado de Querétaro (*Mexico*)
11. Trinusa Travelindo (*Indonesia*)
12. Responsible Borneo (*Malaysia*)
13. Sarawak Tourism Board (*Malaysia*)
14. Toposophy Limited GR (*Greece*)
15. Trakya Kalkınma Ajansı / Trakya Development Agency (*Türkiye*)
16. University of Skopje (*North Macedonia*)

CE/DEC/11(CXVIII)

**World Tourism Day: themes and host countries  
for 2024 and 2025**  
(document CE/118/8)

*The Executive Council*

1. *Invites* the Regional Commission for Europe and the Regional Commission for South Asia to recommend to the 25th session of the General Assembly host countries, respectively, for the 2024 and 2025 editions of World Tourism Day; and
2. *Proposes* to the General Assembly the following themes for the World Tourism Day celebrations:  
  
2024: "Tourism and Peace"  
2025: "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation"

CE/DEC/12(CXVIII)

**Place and dates of the 119th and 120th sessions  
of the Executive Council**  
(document CE/118/9)

*The Executive Council*

*Decides* to hold its 119th and 120th sessions on 17 and 20 October 2023, respectively, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in the context of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.