

**UNWTO Commission for the Middle East**  
Forty-Ninth Meeting  
The Dead Sea, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
7 June 2023

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## **Nominations and Elections to Statutory Organs and their Subsidiary Bodies**

### **I. Introduction**

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1. In agreement with the Chairs of the Regional Commissions and subject to approval by the Regional Commissions themselves at their corresponding meetings in 2023, an agenda item on “Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies” has been included in the provisional agendas of the upcoming Regional Commission meetings.
2. According to Rule 43(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, all elections shall be held by secret ballot, and conducted in accordance with the Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot annexed to the said Rules of Procedure.
3. In 2023, the UNWTO Regional Commission meetings will take place in the following Member States:
  - 68th Meeting of the Commission for Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria, 31 May-2 June).
  - 49th Meeting of the Commission for the Middle East (The Dead Sea, Jordan, 7-8 June).
  - 35th Joint Meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Commission for South Asia; 55th Meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and 59th Meeting of the Commission for South Asia (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 19-21 June).
  - 68th Meeting of the Commission for the Americas (Quito, Ecuador, 27-28 June).
  - 66th Meeting of the Commission for Africa (Mauritius, 26-28 July).
4. For all elections to the Organization’s Statutory Organs and their Subsidiary Bodies carried out through traditional non-electronic means, Members that are entitled to vote shall be physically present during the secret ballot. To this effect, the delegations of voting Members of the Regional Commissions shall consist of at least one member who shall be physically present throughout the meeting and duly empowered to cast the ballot<sup>1</sup>.
5. Alternatively, a voting Member of the Regional Commission may be exceptionally and validly represented by a member of the delegation of another Member provided that the relevant rules are observed<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Only credentials issued and signed by the Head of State, or the Head of Government, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister responsible for Tourism or the Ambassador accredited to the Kingdom of Spain, will be regarded as valid pursuant to General Assembly resolution 591(XIX).

<sup>2</sup> Representation of a State by another Full Member of the Organization during the election of the nominee will comply with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly: resolution 591(XIX), resolution 633(XX) and resolution 649(XXI). Therefore, if a Full Member is unable to participate in the voting, it can be exceptionally represented by a member of another State’s delegation other than its Head, provided it submits a formal letter or fax signed by the competent authority, explaining the exceptional circumstances to do so, designating the individual that will represent it and, if applicable, giving him/her the power to vote on its behalf. It is recalled that credentials in breach of the principle of secrecy of the vote will be considered as invalid. It should be further noted that, unless the items for which the power to vote is given are clearly specified, it will be understood that the delegate has full powers to cast a vote on behalf of the Government he/she is representing by proxy on any agenda item. While only one mandate for representation may be given to a delegate, delegations are also requested to avoid having more than one delegate representing another State for an orderly conduct of business.

6. In sum, the representative of the voting Member of the Regional Commission physically present during the secret ballot, be it a member of its own delegation or a member of a different delegation (proxy), must be duly accredited and empowered to cast the ballot on its behalf.

7. Ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom of Spain and Permanent Representatives to UNWTO have sufficient authority to represent their States in meetings of the governing bodies of the Organization and to cast a ballot on their behalf.

## **II. General Assembly: Nomination of the Officers of the 25th session of the General Assembly**

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8. For the conduct of its business and in accordance with Rule 16(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents "on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President".

9. If the Assembly follows the tradition of nominating as President the head of delegation of the host country (Uzbekistan), there would only be one post of Vice-President for the region of Europe.

10. The Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly should therefore represent the UNWTO regions as the following: two for Africa, two for the Americas, one for East Asia and the Pacific, one for Europe, one for the Middle East and one for South Asia.

11. Bearing this in mind, the Regional Commissions are requested to nominate candidates to represent their regions as Vice-Presidents of the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly.

12. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from the Commission for the Middle East for the position of Vice-President have been received at the Secretariat.

## **III. Subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly**

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### **Credentials Committee: Appointment of members**

13. Rule 13(1) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure provides for the appointment by the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, of a Credentials Committee composed of nine delegates chosen from among the Full Members having regard to fair and equitable geographical distribution.

14. The Regional Commissions are called upon to suggest to the President of the General Assembly the same number of representatives for the Credentials Committee as they have Officers of the Assembly. The nine members of the Committee (two for Africa, two for the Americas, one for East Asia and the Pacific, two for Europe, one for the Middle East and one for South Asia) will then elect at its first meeting during the General Assembly session from among themselves a Chair and a Vice-Chair in accordance with Rule 13(2) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

15. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from the Commission for the Middle East for membership in the Credentials Committee have been received at the Secretariat.

### **Regional Commissions: Election of Officers**

16. In accordance with Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, as they apply mutatis mutandis to the Regional Commissions, and consistent with the practice followed so far, each Regional Commission should elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its Members for a term of two years, commencing from the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly and ending before the twenty-sixth session.

17. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from Member States for the chairmanship and/or vice-chairmanship of the Commission for the Middle East for the period 2023-2025 have been received at the Secretariat.

18. The Secretariat invites Member States from the Middle East that wish to submit their candidatures for the chairmanship/vice-chairmanship of the Commissions for the forthcoming biennium to do so in the period leading up to the meeting of their respective Commission. Any candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the meeting of the Commissions will be announced in an addendum to this document.

19. The Regional Commission is called upon to elect its respective Chair and Vice-Chairs accordingly.

### **World Committee on Tourism Ethics<sup>3</sup>**

20. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE), a subsidiary body of the General Assembly established by the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism<sup>4</sup>, is composed of nine members and three alternates who are appointed by the General Assembly in their personal capacity. The term of office of the members of the WCTE shall be four years.

21. With a view to ensuring the continuity of the work of the Committee, and in accordance with paragraph (c) of the Protocol, the membership of the WCTE is renewed by half every two years. In this regard, **four of the membership positions of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics will be elected** on the occasion of the 25th session of the General Assembly in 2023. The UNWTO Secretariat will issue the call for expressions of interest in spring 2023, with details on how to nominate candidates for the WCTE. Full, Associate and Affiliate Members are encouraged to nominate candidates to the membership of the WCTE.

## **IV. Executive Council: Election of Members**

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### **Full Members**

22. The General Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council, in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes of the Organization, which reads as the following:

“The Council shall consist of Full Members elected by the Assembly in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly, with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution.”

23. Article 15 of the Statutes also stipulates that:

“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...). Election for one-half of the membership of the Council shall be held every two years.”

24. This provision is enlarged upon in Rule 55(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, paragraph 4 of which reads:

“The term of office of the Members of the Council shall begin immediately following their election by the Assembly and shall end on the election of their successors.”

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<sup>3</sup> Only for informative purposes. No action is required in the framework of the Regional Commission meetings.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 607 (XIX).

25. Article 14(1) of the Statutes provides that the total number of the Organization's Full Members determines the number of seats on the Council. To achieve, so far as possible, fair and equitable geographical representation, the number of seats per region is calculated on the basis of one seat for every five Members out of the total number of Members in each region.

26. Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly reads as the following:

"The Assembly shall elect by secret ballot the Members of the Council in the proportion of one Member of the Council for every five Full Members of the Organization, having regard to fair and equitable geographical distribution. This proportion shall be applied to the number of Full Members by region in order to determine the number of seats on the Executive Council to be allocated to the corresponding region. In the event that the figure obtained after the calculation of the said ratio is not whole, it shall be rounded up to the nearest higher integer." (emphasis added).

27. Consequently, in accordance with the number of Full Members per region at the date of this document, the Council may be composed of 34 members in addition to Spain as a permanent member<sup>5</sup>, during the period between the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly.

28. 17 Full Members will have to be elected to the Council in the ratio of 1 member for every 5 Full Members per region, as the following:

<b>Africa</b>	6 seats
<b>Americas</b>	2 seats
<b>East Asia and the Pacific</b>	4 seats
<b>Europe</b>	4 seats
<b>Middle East</b>	1 seat
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> 17 seats

29. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had submitted their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2023-2027:

**AFRICA** (6 seats to be filled)

**United Republic of Tanzania**, 22 March 2022, new  
**Ghana**, 19 April 2022, new  
**Congo**, 21 July 2022, new  
**Namibia**, 26 July 2022, new  
**Seychelles**, 12 August 2022, new  
**Nigeria**, 18 October 2022, new  
**Côte d'Ivoire**, 28 July 2022, renewal  
**Tunisia**, 5 August 2022, renewal  
**Algeria**, 29 August 2022, renewal  
**Mauritius**, 30 August 2022, renewal  
**Senegal**, 19 December 2022, renewal

**AMERICAS** (2 seats to be filled)

**Jamaica**, 16 September 2022, new  
**Colombia**, 10 November 2022, new  
**Peru**, 30 November 2022, new  
**Ecuador**, 15 December 2022, new  
**Uruguay**, 10 February 2023, new

<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to Article 14(1) bis of the Statutes, the host State of the headquarters of the Organization shall have a permanent additional seat on the Executive Council which is unaffected by the geographical distribution of seats.

**Paraguay**, 11 August 2022, renewal  
**Guatemala**, 8 March 2023, renewal

**EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** (4 seats to be filled)

**Indonesia**, 20 December 2022, new  
**China**, 12 January 2023, renewal  
**Republic of Korea**, 25 January 2023, renewal  
**Japan**, 31 January 2023, renewal  
**Thailand**, 28 February 2023, renewal

**EUROPE** (4 seats to be filled for 2023-2027 and 1 seat<sup>6</sup> for 2023-2025)

**Ukraine**, 22 August 2022, new  
**Azerbaijan**, 9 September 2022, new  
**Albania**, 17 October 2022, new  
**Uzbekistan**, 7 November 2022, new  
**Slovakia**, 16 November 2022, new  
**Czechia**, 16 December 2022, new  
**Bulgaria**, 21 December 2022, new  
**Israel**, 8 January 2023, new  
**Lithuania**, 21 February 2023, new  
**Türkiye**, 31 August 2022, renewal  
**Italy**, 22 December 2022, renewal

**MIDDLE EAST** (1 seat to be filled)

**Egypt**, 14 June 2022, new  
**Saudi Arabia**, 3 October 2022, renewal  
**Lebanon**, 12 April, new

**SOUTH ASIA** (0 seats to be filled)

30. Any other candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the meetings of the Regional Commissions will be announced in an addendum to this document.

31. It should be recalled that Executive Council decision 4(XXXIV) recommends that "...only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph [13] of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council".

32. The Regional Commissions are called upon to recommend to the Assembly, on the basis of the regional distribution of new Council seats shown in paragraph 26 of this document, the 17 Council members to be elected for the period 2023-2027 in addition to the Full Member to replace the Russian Federation for the period 2023-2025.

### **Associate Members**

33. Associate Members, for their part, are requested to nominate their representative to the Executive Council.

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<sup>6</sup> This possible free seat is given due to special circumstance regarding the Russian Federation which was elected by the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly (A/RES/745(XXIV)) as member of the UNWTO Executive Council for 2021-2025. According to resolution A/RES/EXT-1/5, the first extraordinary session of the UNWTO General Assembly decided to suspend the Russian Federation, in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes, from exercising the rights and enjoying the privileges of membership, including the right to participate in the UNWTO meetings. The Russian Federation requested to withdraw from the Organization through a Note Verbale received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, Depositary of the Statutes of the Organization, on 27 April 2022. The withdrawal shall be effective as of 27 April 2023, pursuant to Article 35(1) of the Statutes. According to Rule 55(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, "If a Member ceases to belong to the Council before its term of office expires, a by-election shall be held at the following session of the Assembly to replace that Member until the end of its term of office". Therefore, the 68th Meeting of the Commission for Europe is requested to nominate a Full Member to replace the Russian Federation until the end of its term in 2025.

## **Affiliate Members**

34. The Board of Affiliate Members is requested to nominate its representative to serve on the Executive Council. This function is vested in the Chair of the Board in accordance with Article 6(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Affiliate Members.

## **V. Subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council: Election of Members**

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35. It should be recalled, at the outset, that the Executive Council decided by decision 4(XXXIII) that "...only Members of the Organization that are not in unjustified arrears (paragraph [13] of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) may be appointed to its subsidiary organs".

### **Programme and Budget Committee (PBC)**

36. In accordance with Rules 2(2) and 3 of its Rules of Procedure, the Programme and Budget Committee is composed of:

- 2 Full Members per region, as the following:
  - 6 members of the Executive Council, one per region, each designated by the Council itself for four years (members elected by the Executive Council have a mandate limited to their Executive Council mandate);
  - 6 members, one per region, designated by their respective regional commission for four years. (If a member elected by a Regional Commission were to become a member of the Executive Council, its term on the Committee would automatically come to an end, with the Regional Commission electing a replacement for the remaining part of the term);
- The representative of the Associate Members in the Executive Council;
- The representative of the Affiliate Members in the Executive Council and another representative of the Affiliate Members.

37. Consequently, each of the six Regional Commissions shall designate one Full Member to the Programme and Budget Committee for the period between the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, i.e., from 2023 to 2027.

38. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from Member States for the Programme and Budget Committee for the period 2023-2027 have been received at the Secretariat.

39. The Affiliate Members are requested to nominate one representative to serve on the Committee in addition to the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members.

### **Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)**

40. According to its Rules of Procedure<sup>7</sup>, the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability is composed of nine Full Members, appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions, in addition to one Associate Member and one Affiliate Member.

41. The Committee will elect its Chair and its Vice-Chair from among its Full Members.

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<sup>7</sup> CE/DEC/9(XCVI).

42. The four-year term of office of the members of this Committee for the period 2019-2023<sup>8</sup> will expire upon the commencement of the 120th session of the Executive Council. This session of the Council, held immediately after the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, will approve the new composition of the Committee elected for a period of four years (2023-2027).

43. The members of the Committee nominated by the Regional Commissions will be invited to participate as observers to the meeting of the Committee which will be convened immediately prior to the opening of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

44. The Regional Commissions are requested to nominate their candidates for the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability for the period 2023-2027 between the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the following distribution:

Africa:	2 members
Americas:	2 members
East Asia and the Pacific:	1 member
Europe:	2 members
Middle East:	1 member
South Asia:	1 member

45. The Committee will include one Associate Member, to be designated among them, and one Affiliate Member, a position held by the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members.

46. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, this technical committee, a subsidiary organ of the Executive Council, has an advisory and consultative role. It is meant to carry out the first step of validation processes and channel technical outputs to the Executive Council. It is therefore advisable for representatives of Member States participating in the work of this Committee to have technical expertise in the field and ensure active participation.

47. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from Member States for the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability for the period 2023-2027 have been received at the Secretariat.

### **Committee on Statistics**

48. The World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism (Nice, June 1999) set up this Committee, which is composed of nine members designated by the Regional Commissions,

49. The Committee contributes to the fulfilment of Article 13, paragraph 3 of the Agreement signed between the United Nations and UNWTO, which states:

*“The United Nations recognizes UNWTO as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.”*

50. Consequently, the Committee advises and collaborates in the following three key areas of the Department: (a) Development of international statistical standards, i.e., speak common language and worldwide consensus building; (b) Implementation and capacity building, i.e., assist countries in applying standards; (c) Data compilation and dissemination through UNWTO's comprehensive database on tourism statistics.

51. The term of office of these members expires in 2023 upon the conclusion of the twenty-fifth

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<sup>8</sup> CE/DEC/2(CXI).

52. The Regional Commissions are required to nominate their candidates for the Committee on Statistics for the period between the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, according to the following distribution among the Member States:

Africa	2 members
Americas	2 members
East Asia and the Pacific	1 member
Europe	2 members
Middle East	1 member
South Asia	1 member

53. At the time of preparation of this document, no Member State from the region had communicated to the Secretariat its intention of presenting its candidature for membership of this Committee for the period 2023-2027.

54. Moreover, France, Canada and Brazil, as Host States of World Conferences on Statistics, and Spain, which chaired the Steering Committee of the Ottawa Conference, serve on this Committee as ex officio Members.

55. Once formed, the Committee will have to elect its Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its members.

56. The Committee will include one Associate Member, designated from among them and one Affiliate Member designated according to Article 12(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Affiliate Members.

### **Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC)**

57. According to its Rules of Procedure<sup>9</sup>, the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness is composed of nine members, appointed by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions, in addition to one Associate Member and one Affiliate Member.

58. The Committee will elect its Chair and its Vice-Chair from among its Full Members.

59. The four-year term of office of the members of this Committee for the period 2019-2023<sup>10</sup> will expire upon the commencement of the 120th session of the Executive Council. This session, held immediately after the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, will approve the new composition of the Committee elected for a period of four years (2023-2027).

60. The members of the Committee nominated by the Regional Commissions will be invited to participate as observers to the meeting of the Committee, which will be convened immediately prior to the opening of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

61. The Regional Commissions are requested to nominate their candidates for the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness for the period 2023-2027 between the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the following distribution:

Africa	2 members
Americas	2 members
East Asia and the Pacific	1 member
Europe	2 members
Middle East	1 member

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<sup>9</sup> CE/DEC/9(XCVI).

<sup>10</sup> CE/DEC/2(CXI).



South Asia

1 member

62. The Committee will include one Associate Member, to be designated among them, and one Affiliate Member, a position held by the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members.

63. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, this technical committee, a subsidiary organ of the Executive Council, has an advisory and consultative role. It is meant to carry out the first step of validation processes and channel technical outputs to the Executive Council. It is therefore advisable for representatives of Member States participating in the work of this Committee to have technical expertise in the field and ensure active participation.

64. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from Member States for the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness for the period 2023-2027 have been received at the Secretariat.

### **Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership (CMAM)**

65. Through resolution 749(XXIV), the General Assembly approved the transformation of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership into a **specialized Committee dedicated to topics related to the Affiliate Members of the UNWTO**, denominated the **Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership (CMAM)**. It is worth mentioning that this Membership brings together more than 450 entities related to the tourism sector from all over the world (DMOs, leading private tourism companies, professional associations, educational institutions, etc.).

66. The CMAM, which started operating in 2022, is a subsidiary body of the Executive Council that **provides Affiliate Members with an effective and institutional channel for interaction with Member States** in accordance with Article 6 of the Charter of Affiliate Membership.

67. The CMAM, among its important functions, has the competencies to:

- (a) **Establish the strategy and main objectives** of the Affiliate Membership;
- (b) Examine and **make recommendations to the draft Programme of Work** for the Affiliate Members, prior to its submission to the General Assembly;
- (c) **Report to the Executive Council** on the status of affiliate membership, including recommendations regarding the **eligibility of the candidates for admission** as Affiliate Members (AMs);
- (d) Submit reports and recommendations to the Executive Council on any other topic regarding the Affiliate Membership; and
- (e) Convene **consultation sessions** with the **Board of the Affiliate Members**.

68. According to Article 7(1) of the Charter of Affiliate Membership, the Committee is composed of:

- (a) 9 (nine) Full Members recommended by the Regional Commissions and appointed by the Executive Council for a four-year period, as the following:
  - i. Six Full Members, one per region;
  - ii. Two Full Members from the region with the highest number of Affiliate Members; and
  - iii. One Full Member from the region with the second highest number of Affiliate Members.
- (b) the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members.
- (c) a representative of the Associate Members.

69. The full members of the Committee **elect one Chair and one Vice-Chair** for a term of two years.

70. The current composition of the Committee on Matters related to Affiliate Membership was approved for the transition period 2021-2023, in accordance with the Executive Council decision 4(CXV).
71. Since the mandate of the present members of the Committee expires at the 25th session of the General Assembly (Uzbekistan), the **Executive Council shall appoint the 9 (nine) Full Members of the CMAM for the four-year mandate 2023-2027** at its 120th session, which will take place right after the 25th session of the General Assembly.
72. In accordance with Article 7(1)(a) of the Charter of Affiliate Membership, and considering the current regional distribution of the UNWTO affiliate membership – with Europe being the region with the highest number of Affiliate Members and the Americas the region with the second highest number of Affiliate Members – the **Regional Commissions are called to recommend to the Executive Council**, at its 120th session, **the 9 (nine) Member States proposed to form part of the CMAM** for the term 2023-2027, according to the following distribution:
  - Africa: 1 member
  - Americas: 2 members<sup>11</sup>
  - East Asia and the Pacific: 1 Member
  - Europe: 3 Members<sup>12</sup>
  - Middle East: 1 Member
  - South Asia: 1 Member

#### **Committee on Tourism Online Education<sup>13</sup> (0 seats to be filled)**

73. Pursuant to Executive Council decision 4(CXII) and General Assembly resolution 714(XXIII), the Committee on Tourism Online Education was established as a Subsidiary Body to the Executive Council. The Committee is composed of nine full members, one Associate Member and One Affiliate Member, appointed on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions.
74. This Committee's mandate is to provide the Executive Council and the Secretary-General with advice and recommendations on education matters.
75. The technical committee should be able to tackle all aspects of the reality of tourism and of the relations between the sector and the global challenges of the world. Therefore, they ensure a diverse and representative participation of the public and private sectors, from national and international levels, as well as representation from the academic institutions that are part of the Tourism Online Academy.
76. Full Members of the Committee for a four-year period (2021-2025) were approved by the 115th session of the UNWTO Executive Council through decision 4(CXV) as the following:
  - Africa: 2 members
  - Americas: 2 members
  - East Asia and the Pacific: 1 member
  - Europe: 2 members
  - Middle East: 1 member
  - South Asia: 1 member

<sup>11</sup> As the region with the second highest number of AMs

<sup>12</sup> As the region with the highest number of AMs

<sup>13</sup> For informative purposes only. The current members of the Committee were elected until 2025

**Task Force on “Redesigning Tourism for the Future”**

77. During the 24th session of the General Assembly (Madrid, Spain, 1-3 December 2021), the Member States, taking note of the proposal submitted jointly by Saudi Arabia and Spain (A/24/11 rev.1), through resolution 741(XXIV), agreed on the creation of the task force, and urged the Executive Council to consider such proposal and to set the mandate, composition and modus operandi of the task force based on the guiding principles set forth in the agenda item.
78. The Executive Council examined the proposals at its 117th session (23-25 November 2022, Marrakesh, Morocco) and adopted in its [decision 7\(CXVII\)](#) that the Task Force be established as a subsidiary body of the Council to which its Rules of Procedure shall be applicable in accordance with Rule 32, and that its mandate, composition and modus operandi be set in accordance with the guiding principles set forth in the proposal by Saudi Arabia and Spain as adopted by [resolution 741\(XXIV\)](#) and aligned with the legal framework of the Organization.
79. The Executive Council at its 118th session (16-18 May 2023, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic), through its [decision 6\(CXVIII\)](#), approved the Rules of Procedure of the Task Force, including its aims, objectives and scope of work, as set forth in [document CE/118/4 rev.1](#), and urged the UNWTO Regional Commissions to make recommendations for membership in the Task Force at their meetings planned in June and July 2023.
- 80. The Task Force is composed of nine Full Members with the right to vote recommended by the Regional Commissions and appointed by the Executive Council as follows:**

Africa:	2 members
Americas:	2 members
East Asia and Pacific:	1 member
Europe:	2 members
Middle East:	1 member
South Asia:	1 member

81. The Task Force will also include one Associate Member designated among them and one Affiliate Member according to Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Affiliate Members.

**VI. Designation of the host countries for World Tourism Day 2024 and 2025**

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82. So far, World Tourism Day celebrations have been awarded to:
- WTD 2006: Portugal (Europe)
  - WTD 2007: Sri Lanka (South Asia)
  - WTD 2008: Peru (Americas)
  - WTD 2009: Ghana (Africa)
  - WTD 2010: China (East Asia and the Pacific)
  - WTD 2011: Yemen (Middle East)
  - WTD 2012: Spain (Europe)
  - WTD 2013: Maldives (South Asia)
  - WTD 2014: Mexico (Americas)
  - WTD 2015: Burkina Faso (Africa)
  - WTD 2016: Thailand (East Asia and the Pacific)
  - WTD 2017: Qatar (Middle East)
  - WTD 2018: Hungary (Europe)
  - WTD 2019: India (South Asia)

- WTD 2020           MERCOSUR (Americas)
- WTD 2021:       Côte d'Ivoire (Africa)
- WTD 2022:       Indonesia (East Asia and the Pacific)
- WTD 2023:       Saudi Arabia (Middle East)

83. By resolution 470(XV), the General Assembly (A/24/14 rev.1) endorsed the proposal of the Executive Council and decided that the following geographic order would apply to World Tourism Day celebrations beginning in 2006: Europe; South Asia; Americas; Africa; East Asia and the Pacific; and Middle East. In 2023, the Regional Commission Meeting for Europe and the Commission Meeting for South Asia are requested to recommend to the 25th session of the General Assembly host countries for the 2024 and 2025 editions of World Tourism Day.

84. **Important note on the election of the host countries of the next meetings of the Regional Commissions and other UNWTO events**

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85. By resolution 662(XXI), the General Assembly explicitly requests Member States wishing to host a UNWTO meeting to provide the conditions established in the template agreement annexed thereto. This model agreement developed by the Secretariat, on the basis of which host country agreements for the holding of UNWTO meetings are being concluded with the vast majority of Member States, sets out 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 (related to UNWTO), as well as relevant resolutions by the General Assembly, and is consistent with the policy of the United Nations on the matter.

86. In line with resolution 750(XXIV) on the procedure for the election of venue for the General Assembly, all Member States submitting their candidature to host the next session of the Regional Commission shall undertake in writing, through an official communication to the Secretariat / Regional Department for the Middle East, before the Regional Commission adopts its decision on the venue of its next session, to observe the legal framework for the holding of UNWTO meetings away from Headquarters and to provide the provisions established in the model agreement.

87. Should the host country not be in a position, at the time of concluding the agreement, to provide the necessary conditions for the holding of a UNWTO meeting away from Headquarters, the Secretary-General will then inform the Chair of the Regional Commission so that he or she adopts any measure as necessary to ensure the proper holding of the session, including that it be held at the Headquarters of the Organization in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

88. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from Member States for hosting the next meeting of the Regional Commission for the Middle East in 2024 have been received at the Secretariat.

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