Executive summary

Since the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Executive Council has held its 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th ordinary sessions. As the statutory provisions indicate, the Executive Council is required to report to the General Assembly on its activities, dealing both with the decisions it has taken in implementation of General Assembly resolutions and with the administrative and technical decisions taken between Assembly sessions.

During the mentioned sessions, the Council examined the reports on the General Programme of Work of the Organization and endorsed initiatives such as the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, the renewal of the mandate of UNWTO as Lead of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme until 2030, a new organizational branding and the Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines.

It also recommended to approve the draft of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism and endorsed the extension of the Committee on Tourism Online Education until 2031 and the establishment of a global working group on health, and travel & tourism.

The Council decided to establish the Task Force on Redesigning Tourism for the Future as a subsidiary body of the Executive Council and approved its Rules of Procedure in alignment with the legal framework of the Organization and to establish a working group for the Regional Offices to present a draft proposal of Terms of Reference of the Working Group to the next session of the Council and consideration of the General Assembly.

After examining the reports on the financial situation of the Organization for 2021-2022 the Council endorsed the proposal to increase the Members’ contributions for 2024 by 7.5% over their 2023 contributions and their 2025 contributions by 7.5% over 2024. The Council also requested the Organization to submit to the Executive Council the Organization’s Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 upon conclusion of the external audit together with the External Auditor’s opinion as well as the draft POW and Budget for 2024-2025 during its 119th session.

At its 115th session, the Council, following the recommendations of the General Assembly (A/RES/747(XXIV)) adopted the amendments to its Rules of Procedure, falling within its competence, in regards to holding virtual or hybrid meetings in exceptional circumstances as well as the use of electronic voting system when it is available and appropriate.

The Council also approved several amendments to the UNWTO Staff Rules.
Action by the General Assembly

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report,

1. Takes note of the information presented concerning the Council’s activities, and in particular the decisions of its 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th ordinary sessions;

2. Takes cognizance of the major matters considered by the Council such as the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2022-2023 and the draft Programme of Work for 2024-2025, and the financial situation and human resources of the Organization;

3. Pays tribute to the dedication and competence demonstrated by its Chairs, Côte d’Ivoire in 2022 and Saudi Arabia in 2023; and

4. Thanks the Vice-Chairs, Saudi Arabia and Mauritius in 2022, and Côte d’Ivoire and Mauritius in 2023, for the quality of the work they carried out in the exercise of their functions.

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1 This is a draft resolution. For the final resolution adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.
I. Introduction

1. As Article 19(a) and Article 20 of the Organization’s Statutes indicate, the Executive Council is required to report to the General Assembly on its activities, dealing both with the decisions it has taken in implementation of General Assembly resolutions and with the administrative and technical decisions it has taken between Assembly sessions.

2. This document reports on matters covered in decisions already taken by the Council in the fulfilment of the functions enumerated in the two aforementioned statutory provisions and Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council since the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly held in Madrid, Spain, on 30 November - 3 December 2021.

3. Since the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Executive Council has held four ordinary sessions, whose dates and venues were as follows:
   - 115th session, 3 December 2021 in Madrid, Spain
   - 116th session, 7-8 June 2022 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
   - 117th session, 23-25 November 2022 in Marrakesh, Morocco
   - 118th session, 16-18 May 2023 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

II. Functions entrusted by the General Assembly to the Executive Council

4. This section covers the follow-up actions carried out by the Executive Council with a view to the implementation of explicit mandates and recommendations issued by the General Assembly.

Establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices

5. At the 24th session of the General Assembly, the Members requested the Executive Council to improve “in a timely manner” the legal and operational framework in regards to the establishment of the UNWTO Regional Offices and inform periodically on any progress made in the negotiation of host country agreements for the establishment of UNWTO Offices (A/RES/740(XXIV)).

6. The 118th session of the Executive Council decided to establish a Working Group for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices, composed of Member States and supported by the Secretariat, to further discuss the input received and present a draft proposal of Terms of Reference of the Working Group to the 119th session of the Executive Council and for consideration by the 25th session of the General Assembly (CE/DEC/7(CXVIII)).

Establishment of the Task Force on Redesigning Tourism for the Future

7. At its 24th session, the Assembly also requested the Executive Council to consider the proposal of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Spain on the establishment of a Task Force on Redesigning Tourism for the Future (A/RES/741(XXIV)).

8. During its 118th session, the Council decided to establish the Task Force on Redesigning Tourism for the Future as a subsidiary body of the Executive Council and approved its Rules of Procedure in alignment with the legal framework of the Organization.

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

9. At its 115th session, the Council, following the recommendations of the General Assembly (A/RES/747(XXIV)), adopted the amendments to its Rules of Procedure, falling within its competence, regarding the holding of virtual or hybrid meetings in exceptional circumstances as well as the use of electronic voting system when it is available and appropriate.
World Tourism Day

10. The 118th Executive Council proposed to the General Assembly the following themes for the World Tourism Day: 2024: “Tourism and Peace”, and 2025: “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation” (CE/DEC/11(CXVIII)).

III. Regular functions of the Executive Council

Election of its Chair and Vice-Chairs

11. At its 115th and 116th sessions, respectively, the Council elected Côte d’Ivoire as Chair of the Council for 2022 and Saudi Arabia as Chair of the Council for 2023. The Council also elected Saudi Arabia as first Vice-Chair for 2022 and Côte d’Ivoire for 2023, and Mauritius as second Vice-Chair for 2022 and 2023.

Subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council

12. At its 115th session, the Executive Council elected new members of its subsidiary bodies.

(a) The Executive Council established the composition of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) as follows (CE/DEC/4(CXV)):

(i) Africa: Tanzania (2025)** and Morocco (2025)*
(ii) Americas: Argentina (2023)** and Peru (2023)*
(ii) East Asia and the Pacific: Japan (2023)* and Malaysia (2023)**
(iii) South Asia: Sri Lanka (2023)** and India (2025)*
(iv) Europe: Spain (2023)* and Switzerland (2023)**
(v) Middle East: Iraq (2023)** and Saudi Arabia (2023)*
(vi) Representative of the Associate Members: Puerto Rico (2023)
(vii) Representative of Affiliate Members: Asociación Empresarial Hotelera de Madrid (AEHM), Spain (2025)

* PBC Members elected by the Executive Council with a term limited to their EC term of office
** PBC Members elected upon recommendation of the respective Regional Commission, until 2023

(b) The Council elected the following Members to the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership for 2023: Côte d’Ivoire, Honduras, Mexico, China, Iran, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Spain and Saudi Arabia.

13. Until the 25th session of the General Assembly:

(a) For the Committee on Statistics, the Council elected Morocco and Seychelles (CAF), Jamaica and Paraguay (CAM), Philippines (CAP), Nepal (CSA), Austria and Republic of Moldova (CEU), Saudi Arabia (CME), and Puerto Rico, as representative of the Associate Members and Asociación Empresarial Hotelera de Madrid (AEHM), as representative of the Affiliate Members (CE/DEC/4(CXV)).

(b) For the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC), the Council elected Kenya and Senegal (CAF), Bahamas and Brazil (CAM), Fiji (CAP), India (CSA), Israel and Republic of Moldova (CEU), Bahrain (CME), and Puerto Rico as representative of the Associate Members and Asociación Empresarial Hotelera de Madrid (AEHM), as representative of the Affiliate Members (CE/DEC/4(CXV)).

(c) For the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS), the Council elected Algeria and Angola (CAF), Honduras and El Salvador (CAM), Philippines (CAP), Bhutan (CSA), Croatia and Serbia (CEU), Egypt (CME), Flanders as representative of the

2 Shared mandate with Flanders (2023-2025)
14. Since the 24th session of the General Assembly, the Council has decided to provisionally admit a total of 49 applicants to affiliate membership, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session:

- 116th session: 15 applicants
- 117th session: 18 applicants
- 118th session: 16 applicants

IV. Secretary-General’s reports on the activities of the Organization

Programme of work

15. With regard to the general programme of work, the Council took note of activities summarized in the Secretary-General’s reports (CE/DEC/3(CXVI), CE/DEC/3(CXVII) and CE/DEC/3(CXVIII)) and took the following decisions.

16. At its 118th session, the Council recommended the General Assembly to approve the finalized draft of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST), with a view to present it to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its endorsement as the next statistical standard for tourism (CE/DEC/3(CXVIII)).

17. In the same decision, the Council approved the terms of reference of the Working Group on Health and Travel & Tourism, within the spirit of the coalition of partners created by UNWTO and WHO.

18. During its 118th session, the Executive Council endorsed the new organizational branding of the Organization presented by the Secretary-General and its specific elements. The Council approved the active implementation of the rebranding and authorized the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to protect its intellectual property elements (CE/118/3(b) Add. 1).

19. In this regard, the Secretariat has taken the necessary steps before WIPO to duly protect the intellectual properties contained in the approved organizational rebranding under the worldwide and free registration mechanism available for the protection of signs of International Organizations.

20. Likewise, and with the spirit of making tourism a more professionalized sector through skills development and added-value jobs, the Council expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for the creation of brand-new services on education, such as: (i) the Bachelor of Science in International Sustainable Tourism in collaboration with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, (ii) the UNWTO Education Toolkit for High Schools; and (iii) the International Academies in collaboration with UNWTO.

21. At its 117th session, the Council supported the renewal of the mandate of UNWTO as Lead of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme until 2030 and the Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines (CE/DEC/3(CXVII)).

22. At its 116th session, the Executive Council endorsed the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism (CE/DEC/3(CXVI)) and the extension of the Committee on Tourism Online Education until 2031.
Administrative and statutory matters

23. The Council received the Secretary-General’s reports on administrative and statutory matters dealing with subjects such as the Organization’s financial situation and membership.

24. At its 117th session the Council examined the UNWTO financial report and audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021, containing updated information as of 30 June 2022 and 30 September 2022, respectively, requested the Secretariat for 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.

25. At its 118th session, the Council endorsed the draft Regular Budget of the Organization for the period 2024-2025 and approved the proposed scale of contributions for 2024-2025, increasing the Members’ contributions for 2024 by 7.5% over their 2023 contributions and their 2025 contributions by 7.5% over 2024.

26. In the same decision, the Council requested 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 as well as the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025 during its 119th session (CE/DEC/4(CXVIII)).

27. At its 116th session the Executive Council also approved the amendments to the Detailed Financial Rule DFR VI.33 (d) to update procurement thresholds as proposed by the Secretary-General.

28. It also encouraged 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 (CE/DEC/4(CXVIII)).

Human resources

29. At its 116th, 117th and 118th sessions, the Council took note of the reports on the human resources situation of the Organization (CE/DEC/5(CXVI), CE/DEC/5(CXVII) and CE/DEC/5(CXVIII)).

30. The Council approved the exception to Staff Rule 14(4) bis (a) in the interest of the Organization and considering United Nations policies on the matter (CE/DEC/5(CXVI); took note of the exception to Staff Rule 24(4) made by the Secretary-General and approved the proposed amendments to Staff Rules 13(2) and 13(9) (CE/DEC/5(CXVII)).

31. At its 117th session, the Council expressed its satisfaction on the management of the UNWTO workforce and the initiatives to foster the health and well-being of all personnel, and particularly welcomed the implementation of a Staff Counsellor function to offer psychosocial support to personnel.

32. At its 118th session, the Council approved the proposed amendments to Staff Rules 17 (1), 20 (1) and 20 (3), and decided that, on an exceptional basis, all of them be effective as of 1 January 2023; and further recommended that the General Assembly approve the amendment to Staff Regulation 20 at its next session.

33. In the same decision, the Council endorsed 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.

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