Agenda item 17
Proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the recognition of Samarkand as the World Cultural Tourism Capital

Note by the Secretariat: This agenda item was proposed by the Full Member the Republic of Uzbekistan by virtue of Rule 5(1)(i) and has been included in the provisional agenda in accordance with Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. The present document consists of the requisite report submitted by the Republic of Uzbekistan in its proposal.
NOTA VERBAL

La Embajada de la República de Uzbekistán en el Reino de España saluda atentamente a la Organización Mundial de Turismo y tiene el honor de remitir copia de la carta del Ministro de Ecología, Medio Ambiente y Cambio Climático de la República de Uzbekistán, Excmo. Sr. Aziz Abdughakimov, dirigida al Secretario General de la Organización Mundial del Turismo, Excmo. Sr. Zurab Pololikashvili, relativa al proyecto de la Resolución sobre el reconocimiento de Samarcanda como capital del turismo cultural mundial.

La Embajada agradecería transmitir la carta a Su Excelencia.

La Embajada de la República de Uzbekistán en el Reino de España aprovecha la ocasión para reiterar a la Organización Mundial de Turismo el testimonio de su más alta consideración.

Madrid, 3 de agosto de 2023

A la Organización Mundial de Turismo
Madrid
Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with the agreements made during your visits to Uzbekistan in November 2022 and July 2023, we have prepared a draft UNWTO GA’s resolution on recognition of Samarkand as the World Cultural Tourism Capital. Your kind consideration of this proposal and inclusion of the item in the agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly are highly appreciated.

Samarkand, with its rich historical legacy and cultural heritage, has long been hailed as a prominent destination for tourists worldwide. Bestowing upon Samarkand the prestigious title of the World Cultural Tourism Capital will serve to further promote and safeguard its invaluable cultural treasures.

In view of this, I sincerely seek your support in bringing this matter to the attention of the General Assembly. Recognizing Samarkand as the World Cultural Tourism will mark a significant milestone for Uzbekistan and contribute to the promotion of cultural tourism worldwide.

Eagerly awaiting your valued guidance on the next steps for advancing this proposal, I avail myself of this opportunity to reassure my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Aziz Abdukhakimov
Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ACKNOWLEDGING SAMARKAND AS THE WORLD CULTURAL TOURISM CAPITAL

The General Assembly at its 25th session taking place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan,

Guided by the provisions of the UNWTO Statute, which encourages promotion and development of tourism with a view to contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity, and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Recalling resolution of the UN General Assembly A/RES/74/214 of 19 December 2019 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia,

Underscoring the significant dimension and role of tourism as a beneficial tool in enhancing the well-being of all individuals and its contribution to sustainable development, particularly in developing nations as well as its role in poverty eradication and environmental protection,

Emphasizing that tourism and culture are intricately interconnected, with each influencing and enriching the other in profound ways, as well as that the interplay between tourism and culture strengthens mutual understanding, promotes intercultural dialogue, and nurtures a shared sense of humanity, ultimately fostering sustainable and responsible tourism practices that celebrate and respect the world's cultural diversity,

Recalling that the definition adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly, at its 22nd session (2017), Cultural Tourism implies “A type of tourism activity in which the visitor’s essential motivation is to learn, discover, experience and consume the tangible and intangible cultural attractions/products in a tourism destination. These attractions/products relate to a set of distinctive material, intellectual, spiritual and emotional features of a society that encompasses arts and architecture, historical and cultural heritage, culinary heritage, literature, music, creative industries and the living cultures with their lifestyles, value systems, beliefs and traditions”,

Emphasizing that the historical significance of the Great Silk Road traversing through modern Uzbekistan combined with the concerted efforts of Government of Uzbekistan to promote tourism on the global stage, has significantly heightened the interest of foreign tourists in the country and region at large,

Recognizing the exceptional cultural heritage and historical significance of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, as one of the world’s oldest and most illustrious cities, which has served as a melting pot of civilizations and a crossroads of cultures,

Acknowledging the city's pivotal role in promoting cultural tourism and its invaluable contribution to fostering international understanding, tolerance, and dialogue among nations,

Emphasizing the importance of preserving and promoting Samarkand's unique cultural treasures for the benefit of present and future generations,
Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Uzbekistan in safeguarding and showcasing the cultural richness of Samarkand, as well as its dedication to sustainable tourism practices,

Recognizing the potential of Samarkand to become a global cultural tourism destination, attracting travelers from all corners of the world,

1. Declares Samarkand, Uzbekistan, as the World Cultural Tourism Capital, in recognition of its profound cultural significance, historical heritage, and outstanding contributions to cultural tourism;

2. Calls upon the international community, relevant organizations, and stakeholders to support and collaborate with the Government of Uzbekistan in preserving, promoting, and sustaining the cultural treasures of Samarkand, while ensuring their accessibility and appreciation by all;

3. Encourages UNWTO Member States to explore and foster cultural exchanges and partnerships with Uzbekistan, particularly in the context of cultural tourism development, to enhance international understanding and mutual appreciation of diverse cultures;

4. Urges the international community to support initiatives aimed at promoting cultural tourism in Samarkand, ensuring the preservation of its cultural heritage, and advancing sustainable tourism practices for the benefit of local communities and global visitors.