



Sixteenth session
Dakar, Senegal, 28 November -2 December 2005
Provisional agenda item 23

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General submits to the Assembly in the attached document the information on the composition of the Executive Council and the geographical distribution of its membership among the six regions, as well as on the number of new seats to be assigned to each region for the election of half the Council's Members, in accordance with the relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. 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 follows:

"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."

2. This provision is repeated in rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.

3. 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."

4. 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."

5. 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. In order 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.

6. At the time this document was prepared, Full Members of the Organization numbered 149 (see Annex 1), taking into account the admission of the Bahamas on 25 November 2005 and Papua New Guinea's and Timor-Leste's candidatures for full membership pending approval by the Assembly. Consequently, during the period between the sixteenth and the seventeenth sessions of the Assembly, the Council will be composed of twenty-nine Members, i.e. one more than the number of outgoing Members, in addition to Spain as a permanent Member.

7. The Members are also informed of the United Kingdom's intention to join the Organization shortly. The formalization of this membership could take place between now and the holding of the General Assembly. If so, the number of Member States would reach 150, which would bring the number of seats on the Executive Council to 30.

8. The current membership of the Executive Council is indicated in Annex 2. The Members are reminded that at the last session of the General Assembly the Commission for the Americas decided to split the term of office of two of its seats on the Executive Council, on the one hand, between Brazil for the first two years (2003-2005) and Peru for the following two years (2005-2007), and on the other, between Mexico for the first two years (2003-2005) and Canada for the following two years (2005-2007). Annex 3 sets out, in tabular form, the terms of office according to region since WTO's inception.

9. The table in Annex 4 illustrates the situation, subject to the submission of other possible candidatures for membership, or the possible renunciation of a candidate. Needless to say, the data given below would have to be changed to reflect such modifications.

10. This annex was prepared assuming the number of Members to be 149 (not including the United Kingdom). It would have to be modified if an official communication confirming its membership is received from this country, or if another candidate it admitted.

11. Column 5 of Annex 4 shows that the terms of office of thirteen Members expire at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. Column 6 shows that twelve Full Members will have to be elected to the Council in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, as follows:

Africa	3 seats
Americas	2 seats
East Asia and the Pacific	no seat
Europe	4 seats
Middle East	2 seats
South Asia	1 seat
<hr/>	
TOTAL	12 seats

12. It appears that due to historical reasons, in the case of three regions --Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and the Middle East - the number of seats to be assigned varies greatly from one General Assembly session to the next. In the case of Africa, 3 seats are to be assigned at this session, compared to six seats at the 2007 session. With respect to the two other regions, no seat is assigned at one Assembly session while two are assigned at the following one.

13. In order to remedy the situation, the Secretary-General suggests that the Commission for the Middle East give one of its candidates a four-year term of office, to expire in 2009, and the other two a two-year term expiring in 2007. For the Commission for South Asia, the proposal would be to assign a two-year term to one seat, especially if the region, as is probable, is allocated a so-called "floating" seat. This would make the number of seats to be assigned by these regions more balanced starting in 2007: one seat at each Assembly session. A proposal, aiming at the same purpose, could be made to the regions of Africa and East Asia and the Pacific at the seventeenth session of the Assembly.

14. Column 7 shows that to represent the fourteen remaining Members, two more Members should be elected to the Council. It may therefore be necessary to take a vote to assign the seats corresponding to the surplus Members (so-called "floating" seats), among all the regions.

15. The two additional Members to be elected by the General Assembly to arrive at the total of twenty-nine seats correspond not to sets of five Members in one or other of the six WTO regions but to the total of the fractions of five Members remaining in these regions, viz.:

Africa	3 Members
Americas	3 Members
East Asia and the Pacific	1 Member
Europe	1 Member
Middle East	2 Members
South Asia	4 Members
	<hr/>
TOTAL	14 Members

This gives entitlement to the assignment of two "floating" seats, as shown in Annex 4 (three, in the event of the presence of the United Kingdom).

16. Since its fourth session in 1981, the General Assembly has elected Members of the Executive Council on the basis of a procedure which provides for two ballots:

- the first ballot is held to assign the new seats on the Council when the total number of Members from each of the regions constitutes sets of five, on the basis of candidates presented by each of the regions,
- the second ballot is then held to assign the seats corresponding to the total number of the remaining Full Members arrived at by adding the remaining fractions from each region.

17. Nevertheless, on various occasions in the past, a prior consensus has been reached to allocate the seats of the various regions and those corresponding to the surplus Members on the basis of the proposals made by the Regional Commissions. It will therefore be necessary to decide whether the two "floating" seats should be allocated to the regions with the most surplus Members, beginning with South Asia (surplus Members after the initial allocation) and excluding the East Asia and the Pacific and the Europe regions (only one surplus Member after the initial allocation).

18. In the event that the total number of Members is 150, logic would dictate that the so-called "floating" seats should go to the regions of Africa, the Americas and South Asia.

19. At the time of the preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, on the date appearing between brackets, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2005-2009:

AFRICA

Benin (24 September 2004)
Eritrea (10 November 2004) (re-election)
Ethiopia (10 March 2005)
Guinea (29 November 2004)

AMERICAS

Argentina (1 June 2005)
Brazil (2 March 2005) (re-election)
Dominican Republic (3 June 2005) (re-election)
Ecuador (18 July 2005)

SOUTH ASIA

India (27 May 2005) (re-election)
Iran (6 May 2005)
Pakistan (15 June 2005) (re-election)

EUROPE

Andorra (15 April 2005) (re-election)
Cyprus (31 March 2005) (re-election)
Germany (1 December 2004)
Hungary (7 October 2004)
Kazakhstan (31 May 2004)
Portugal (19 July 2004)
Romania (13 October 2004)
Russian Federation (8 February 2005) (re-election)
San Marino (14 September 2004)

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt (18 July 2005)
Iraq (19 May 2005)
Jordan (18 May 2005) (re-election)
Lebanon (19 April 2005) (re-election)

20. Any other candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the Assembly will be announced in an addendum to this document.

21. It should be recalled that Executive Council decisions 4(XXXIII) and 4(XXXIV) recommend that *"... only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph 12 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council"*.

22. The General Assembly is invited to elect new Members to serve on the Executive Council for the period between the sixteenth and eighteenth or seventeenth sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the procedure set out above, that is to say, twelve Members in the first ballot and two in the second, if no prior consensus is reached.

ANNEX 1

STATES MEMBERS OF THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION 149

Argentina	Albania	Greece	Republic of Moldova		Australia
Bahamas	Andorra	Hungary	Russian Federation		Cambodia
Bolivia	Armenia	Israel	San Marino		China
Brazil	Austria	Italy	Serbia and Montenegro		DPR of Korea
Canada	Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Slovakia		Fiji
Chile	Belarus	Kyrgyzstan	Slovenia		Indonesia
Colombia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Latvia	Spain	Bahrain	Japan
Costa Rica	Bulgaria	Lithuania	Switzerland	Egypt	Lao PDR
Cuba	Croatia	Malta	The FYROM	Iraq	Malaysia
Dominican Rep	Cyprus	Monaco	Turkey	Jordan	Mongolia
Ecuador	Czech Republic	Netherlands	Turkmenistan	Kuwait	Papua New Guir
El Salvador	France	Poland	Ukraine	Lebanon	Philippines
Guatemala	Georgia	Portugal	Uzbekistan	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Rep. of Korea
Haiti	Germany	Romania		Oman	Thailand
Honduras	CEU 41			Qatar	Timor-Leste (*)
Jamaica	Algeria	Ethiopia	Niger	Saudi Arabia	Viet Nam
Mexico	Angola	Gabon	Nigeria	Syrian Arab Republic.	
Nicaragua	Benin	Gambia	Rwanda	Yemen	CME12
Panama	Botswana	Ghana	Sao Tome and-Principe		CSA 9
Paraguay	Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal		
Peru	Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles		CAP 16
Uruguay	Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone		
Venezuela	Cape Verde	Lesotho	South Africa		
	Central African Rep.	Madagascar	Sudan		
	Chad	Malawi	Swaziland		
	Congo	Mali	Togo		
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritania	Tunisia		
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Mauritius	Uganda		
	Djibouti	Morocco	United R. of Tanzania		
	Equatorial Guinea	Mozambique	Zambia		
	Eritrea	Namibia	Zimbabwe		

(*) Pending General Assembly approval

ANNEX 2

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

		TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES IN	
REGION	MEMBERS	2005	2007
AFRICA	Bostwana	-----→	-----→
	Cameroon	-----→	
	Eritrea	-----→	
	Mali	-----→	-----→
	Morocco	-----→	
	Nigeria	-----→	-----→
	Senegal	-----→	-----→
	Seychelles	-----→	-----→
	Tunisia	-----→	-----→
AMERICAS	Brazil/Peru	-----→	-----→
	Dominican Republic	-----→	
	Ecuador	-----→	
	México/Canada	-----→	-----→
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	Indonesia	-----→	-----→
	Philippines	-----→	-----→
	Republic of Korea	-----→	-----→
SOUTH ASIA	India	-----→	
	Pakistan	-----→	
EUROPE	Andorra	-----→	
	Bulgaria	-----→	-----→
	Cyprus	-----→	
	Croatia	-----→	-----→
	France	-----→	
	Italy	-----→	-----→
	Spain	<i>Permanent Member</i>	
	Russian Federation	-----→	
	Turkey	-----→	-----→
MIDDLE EAST	Jordan	-----→	
	Lebanon	-----→	



ANNEX 3

AFRICA

STATES MEMBERS OF THE WTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975 - 2007)

[illegible]

	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Malawi																																	
Mali																																	
Mauritania																																	
Mauritius																																	
Morocco																																	
Mozambique																																	
Namibia																																	
Niger																																	
Nigeria																																	
Rwanda																																	
S. Tome & P.																																	
Senegal																																	
Seychelles																																	
Sierra Leone																																	
South Africa																																	
Sudan																																	
Swaziland																																	
Togo																																	
Tunisia																																	
Uganda																																	
U.R. Tanzania																																	
Zambia																																	
Zimbabwe																																	

 Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly
 Chairmanship


ANNEX 3


AMERICAS

STATES MEMBERS OF THE WTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975 -2007)

	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
Argentina																																		
Bahamas																																		
Bolivia																																		
Brazil																																		
Canada																																		
Chile																																		
Colombia																																		
Costa Rica																																		
Cuba																																		
Dom. Rep.																																		
Ecuador																																		
El Salvador																																		
U.S.A.**																																		
Guatemala																																		
Haiti																																		
Honduras																																		
Jamaica																																		
Mexico																																		
Nicaragua																																		
Panama																																		
Paraguay																																		
Peru																																		
Uruguay																																		
Venezuela																																		

** Former Member

 Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly

 Chairmanship

ANNEX 3

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC STATES MEMBERS OF THE WTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975 -2007)

	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Australia																																	
Cambodia																																	
China																																	
DPR Korea																																	
Fiji																																	
Indonesia																																	
Japan																																	
Lao PDR																																	
Malaysia																																	
Mongolia																																	
Papua NG *																																	
Philippines																																	
R. of Korea																																	
Thailand																																	
Timor-Leste*																																	
Viet Nam																																	

* Pending General Assembly approval

Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly
 Chairmanship

ANNEX 3

SOUTH ASIA		STATES MEMBERS OF THE WTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975 -2007)																																			
	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07				
Afghanistan																																					
Bangladesh																																					
Bhutan																																					
India																																					
Iran																																					
Maldives																																					
Nepal																																					
Pakistan																																					
Sri Lanka																																					



Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly
 Chairmanship

ANNEX 3

MIDDLE EAST

STATES MEMBERS OF THE WTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975-2007)

	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Bahrain																																	
Egypt																																	
Iraq																																	
Jordan																																	
Kuwait																																	
Lebanon																																	
Libyan A.J.																																	
Oman																																	
Qatar																																	
Saudi Arabia																																	
Syrian A.R.																																	
Yemen																																	

 Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly
 Chairmanship

ANNEX 2

EUROPE


STATES MEMBERS OF THE WTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (1975 -2007)

[illegible]

	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Kyrgyzstan																																	
Latvia																																	
Lithuania																																	
Malta																																	
Monaco																																	
Netherlands																																	
Poland																																	
Portugal																																	
R. of Moldova																																	
Romania																																	
Russian Fed.																																	
San Marino																																	
Serbia Montenegro																																	
Slovakia																																	
Slovenia																																	
Spain																																	
Switzerland																																	
The FYROM																																	
Turkey																																	
Turkmenistan																																	
Ukraine																																	
Uzbekistan																																	
Yugoslavia ****																																	

----→ Privileged Member and Permanent Member since 1998
 **** refers to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

** Former Member *** no longer exists as a State

 Membership commencing upon election by the General Assembly

 Chairmanship

ANNEX 4

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

	<i>Column No 1</i>	<i>Column No 2</i>	<i>Column No 3</i>	<i>Column No 4</i>	<i>Column No 5</i>	<i>Column No 6</i>	<i>Column No 7</i>
REGION	MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION BY REGION	SEAT ENTITLEMENT ON THE COUNCIL	COUNCIL SEATS FOR THE PERIOD 2003-2005	TERMS OF OFFICE CONTINUING UNTIL 2007	TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRING in 2005	NEW SEATS CORRESPONDING TO SETS OF FIVE MEMBERS	FRACTIONS OF FIVE MEMBERS REMAINING
AFRICA	48	9	9	6	3	3	3
AMERICAS	23	4	4	2	2	2	3
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	16	3	3	3	0	0	1
SOUTH ASIA	9	1	2	0	2	1	4
EUROPE	41 or 42 **	8	8	4	4	4	1 or 2 **
MIDDLE EAST	12	2	2	0	2	2	2
TOTAL =====	149 or 150 ** =====	27 ==	28 ==	15 ==	13 ==	12 ==	14* or 15 ** =====

Figures taking into account the admission of the Bahamas on 25.11.05, as well as candidatures for full membership presented by Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste pending ratification by the General Assembly.

(*) which allow for two so-called "floating" seats on the Council

(**) assuming membership of the United Kingdom, which would allow for three so-called "floating" seats on the Council