



Sixteenth session
Dakar, Senegal, 28 November - 2 December 2005
Provisional agenda item 26

PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

In the following document the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of the statutory and regulatory provisions governing the place and dates of its sessions and submits to it the candidatures received for hosting its seventeenth session in 2007.

**PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Sixteenth session

17th Session, 2-15, 1997, 14-15 September 1997

I. PROCEDURE FOR FIXING THE PLACE AND DATES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

1. The Articles of the Organization's Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly concerning the place and dates of General Assembly sessions are reproduced below for information:

(a) Article 8(2) of the Statutes:

"Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise."

(b) Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure:

- "1. The Secretary-General shall convene the Assembly in ordinary session every two years at the Organization's Headquarters.
- "2. The Assembly may meet at another place if it so decides, provided the host country reimburses the extra expenses involved in holding the session.
- "3. The date of the session shall be fixed by the Assembly or by the Council, if so empowered and notified to the Members of the Organization not less than seven months before it is due to be held."

(c) Resolution 351(XI) of the General Assembly

By this resolution, the General Assembly adopted the procedure for the submission of candidatures by interested States, with particular regard to the timetable for the presentation of candidatures and the signature of agreements between the host State and the Organization.

II. LIST OF VENUES OF THE PREVIOUS FOURTEEN SESSIONS

2. It is recalled that, since its inception, WTO has held its General Assembly at the following venues:

First session (1975)	Madrid (Spain)
Second session (1977)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Third session (1979)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Fourth session (1981)	Rome (Italy)
Fifth session (1983)	New Delhi (India)
Sixth session (1985)	Sofia (Bulgaria)
Seventh session (1987)	Madrid (Spain)
Eight session (1989)	Paris (France)
Ninth session (1991)	Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Tenth session (1993)	Bali (Indonesia)
Eleventh session (1995)	Cairo (Egypt)
Twelfth session (1997)	Istanbul (Turkey)
Thirteenth session (1999)	Santiago (Chile)
Fourteenth session (2001)	Seoul (Republic of Korea)/Osaka (Japan)
Fifteenth session (2003)	Beijing (China)

3. The General Assembly in resolution 443 (XIV), expressed its wish for an "equitable geographical distribution" to be ensured, and it can be observed that for the past twenty or so years, despite a few exceptions, a certain geographical balance among the different regions has in fact been maintained.

III. CANDIDATURES RECEIVED FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

4. On the dates indicated in brackets the Secretariat received official offers from the Governments of the following States to host the seventeenth session:

Colombia	(18 March 2005)
Czech Republic	(10 November 2004)
Malaysia	(12 April 2005)

These proposals were circulated to all Members by the Secretariat.

5. In accordance with the rules established for hosting a General Assembly session, the Secretary-General asked each of these countries to confirm their candidatures and to say whether they were prepared to accept the conditions laid down for holding an Assembly session in their territories.

6. Member countries are informed that, at this time, the three countries, i.e. Colombia, Czech Republic and Malaysia, have fulfilled this requirement and confirmed their invitations, on 9, 12 September and 21 October respectively.

