

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION

(a) New membership

Addendum 2

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General transmits to the Assembly the matter of the request for suspension of membership submitted by Burundi.

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Addendum 2

1. The Members will recall that this matter was already raised at the fourteenth session of the Assembly.
2. Burundi, which at the time was experiencing a tragic internal situation, communicated to the WTO its intention to temporarily suspend its membership in order not to accumulate contribution arrears and to be able to subsequently rejoin the Institution once circumstances so allowed.
3. In the absence of explicit provisions in the Statutes of WTO, the Legal Adviser consulted other specialized agencies in order to determine the practice observed regarding this matter in the United Nations system and was unable to find any precedent concerning the temporary suspension of membership in these organizations.
4. In the same regard, the Secretary-General wishes to recall to the Members that a similar suspension request was submitted by the United Arab Emirates in 1987, and that the Assembly at its 1997 session, in the absence of statutory provisions on the matter, decided to take note of the retroactive withdrawal of the Emirates effective 1987.
5. Taking into account the recent favourable developments that have occurred in the country under the auspices of the international community, the Secretary-General intends to once again call upon Burundi to submit a proposal of a plan for the payment of its arrears and thus maintain its membership.
6. The Secretary-General will therefore take the necessary steps to approach the administration of Burundi with a view to finding a solution within the next six months, and inform the Council in this regard at its seventy-eighth session.
7. In the event that these steps prove unsuccessful, the Assembly could then empower the Council to establish on its behalf the cessation of Burundi's membership in the WTO. If, on the other hand, such steps prove successful, the Council will have to give its approval to the payment plan proposed.