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Sixteenth session  
Dakar, Senegal, 28 November – 2 December 2005  
Provisional agenda item 7

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

In the following document the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly, in accordance with Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Organization's Statutes, the draft report of the Executive Council to the Assembly, which he prepared at the Council's request. It will be submitted to the Executive Council for information at its seventy-sixth session on 26 November 2005, immediately preceding the sixteenth session of the General Assembly.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. According to Article 19(a) of the Organization's Statutes, "The functions of the Council, other than those which are elsewhere assigned to it in these Statutes, shall be:

*"(a) to take all necessary measures, in consultation with the Secretary-General, for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Assembly and to report thereon to the Assembly".*

Moreover, Article 20 of the Statutes provides that:

*"Between sessions of the Assembly and in the absence of any contrary provisions in these Statutes, the Council shall take such administrative and technical decisions as may be necessary, within the functions and financial resources of the Organization, and shall report the decisions which have been taken to the Assembly at its following session, for approval".*

2. As the two aforementioned 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 it has taken between Assembly sessions.

3. At its thirty-fifth session, held at Cancun, Mexico, in May 1989, the Executive Council decided on the form and content of its report to the Assembly and adopted decision 21(XXXV) on this subject, which reads as follows:

*"The Executive Council,*

*Noting that it is obliged, pursuant to Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Statutes of the Organization, to present a report on its activities to the General Assembly:*

- 1. Thanks the Secretary-General for the draft of such a report with whose general plan and content it agrees;*
- 2. Requests the Secretary-General to complete this report in the light of the decisions taken by the present Council session and to submit it for approval to its thirty-sixth session."*

4. Since this document reports on matters covered in decisions already taken by the Council, it is being transmitted for information at the Council's seventy-sixth session, to be held at Dakar on 28 November 2005, immediately before the General Assembly session.



### **Sessions of the Council**

5. Since the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, held at Beijing, China in 2003, the Executive Council has held four ordinary sessions and its first emergency session, whose dates and venues were as follows:

- Seventy-second session, 24 October 2003 at Beijing, China
- Seventy-third session, 8-9 July 2004 at Hyderabad, India
- Seventy-fourth session, 2-3 October 2004 at Salvador de Bahia, Brazil
- First emergency session, 1 February 2005 at Phuket, Thailand
- Seventy-fifth session, 13-14 June 2005 at Nessebar, Bulgaria

The Executive Council will hold its seventy-sixth session at Dakar on 26 November 2005.

6. At these four ordinary sessions already held, the Executive Council adopted a total of 85 decisions, viz.:

- Seventy-second session: 6 decisions
- Seventy-third session: 29 decisions
- Seventy-fourth session: 23 decisions
- Seventy-fifth session: 27 decisions

### **Analysis of decisions taken by the Council**

7. The decisions taken by the Council may be divided under the following headings: organization of Council sessions, statutory matters and elections, administration and finance, the general programme of work, and affiliate membership. Such decisions include both those necessary for the implementation of recommendations of the Assembly, pursuant to Article 19(a) and those of an administrative and technical nature which the Council is empowered to take between sessions of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes.

8. As classified, the decisions taken by the Council at its seventy-second, seventy-third, seventy-fourth, and seventy-fifth sessions are divided under the five above-mentioned headings as follows:

**(a) Organization of Council sessions (agenda, dates of future meetings, votes of thanks)**

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXII)   | - CE/DEC/1(LXXIV)  |
| - CE/DEC/6(LXXII)   | - CE/DEC/22(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/23(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/24(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/1(LXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/28(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/26(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/29(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/27(LXXV)  |

**(b) Statutory matters and elections (reports of the Chairman and the Secretary-General, election of officers, future of the Organization)**

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| - CE/DEC/2(LXXII)   | - CE/DEC/7(LXXIV)  |
| - CE/DEC/3(LXXII)   | - CE/DEC/8(LXXIV)  |
| - CE/DEC/4(LXXII)   | - CE/DEC/9(LXXIV)  |
| - CE/DEC/5(LXXII)   | - CE/DEC/10(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/2(LXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/20(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/3(LXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/21(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/9(LXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/22(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/10(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/2(LXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/11(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/3(LXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/12(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/10(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/13(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/11(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/14(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/12(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/15(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/13(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/23(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/14(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/27(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/15(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/2(LXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/23(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/3(LXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/24(LXXV)  |
|                     | - CE/DEC/25(LXXV)  |

**(c) Administration and finance (financial situation, accounts, contributions and administrative matters)**

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/4(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/5(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/5(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/6(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/6(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/6(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/7(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/7(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/8(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/8(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/4(LXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/9(LXXV)  |

**(d) General programme of work (programme of work, Programme Committee, World Tourism Day)**

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| - CE/DEC/16(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/15(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/17(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/16(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/18(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/17(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/19(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/4(LXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/20(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/5(LXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/21(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/16(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/22(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/17(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/11(LXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/18(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/12(LXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/19(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/13(LXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/20(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/14(LXXIV)  |                    |



**(e) Affiliate membership**

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| - CE/DEC/25(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/19(LXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/26(LXXIII) | - CE/DEC/21(LXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/18(LXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/22(LXXV)  |

9. The emergency session of the Executive Council that was held in Phuket took 4 decisions: those corresponding to the adoption of its agenda and to respects and acknowledgements (CE/DEC/1(URG) and CE/DEC/4(URG), which fall under the first heading, and those regarding the assessment of the situation following the tsunami and the adoption of the Phuket Action Plan falling under the fourth heading.

10. In the following paragraphs, the Executive Council draws the attention of the Assembly to the salient decisions it took among the 85 enumerated above.

**Work and reports of the Committee on Budget and Finance**

11. By decision CE/DEC/3(LXXII), the Council appointed Mr. Pedro Neiff (Argentina) as Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance for the period 2003-2007. He was succeeded by Mr. Alejandro Varela (Argentina). The Committee has held two meetings in 2004-2005 and has transmitted its recommendations regarding the Organization's accounts relative to fiscal years 2003 and 2004 to the Council, which has approved them.

12. Finally, the Council approved the closing of the Organization's audited administrative accounts for the fourteenth financial period (2002-2003) with a surplus balance of 653,520.89 euros, which the Assembly is to decide how to use, in accordance with the established practice (decision CE/DEC/8(LXXV)).

**Work and reports of the Programme Committee**

13. With its new composition of members appointed in a personal capacity and its external evaluation function, the Programme Committee has continued its work, under the chairmanship of Dr. Angelika Liedler (Austria). The Programme Committee has held three meetings over this period. The Council has successively adopted the principles of planning, the general orientations of the programme, as well as the draft programme itself (decisions CE/DEC/17(LXXIII), CE/DEC/12(LXXIV) and CE/DEC/16(LXXV)) and has regularly reviewed the implementation of the programme in progress (decisions CE/DEC/16(LXXIII), CE/DEC/11(LXXIV) and CE/DEC/4(LXXV)).

**World Committee on Tourism Ethics**

14. The Council, at its seventy-third and seventy-fourth meetings, welcomed the work carried out by the Committee and decided to adopt the Procedures for consultation and conciliation for the settlement of disputes concerning the application of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (CE/DEC/18(LXXIII) and CE/DEC/14(LXXIV)).

**ST-EP initiative**

15. At its seventy-fourth session, the Council approved the provisional agreement between the WTO and the Republic of Korea concerning the start-up financing of the ST-EP Foundation (decision CE/DEC/20(LXXIII)). At the following session, it took note of the draft constitution of the Foundation and established a Working Group for the preparation of programmes of this initiative (decision CE/DEC/16(LXXIV)). Lastly, at its seventy-fifth session, the Council decided to submit to the Assembly the revised text of the constitution of the Foundation (decision CE/DEC/17(LXXV)).

**Actions in favour of the tsunami-affected countries**

16. As indicated in paragraph 9 of this document, the Council held the first emergency session in its history in Phuket, Thailand, in February 2005 in order to analyse and evaluate the situation in the affected countries following the tsunami and its consequences for the region and the world tourism industry. This Council also adopted the Phuket Action Plan (decisions CE/DEC/2(URG) and CE/DEC/3(URG)).

**Affiliate Members**

17. During the period considered, the Sub-Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership convened at each of the sessions of the Council to transmit to it its recommendations. The Council thus approved 15, 4, and 23 applications respectively for affiliate membership. The Chairman of the Affiliate Members reported to the Council's seventy-third, seventy-fourth, and seventy-fifth sessions on activities implemented.

**Officers of the Executive Council**

18. In 2004, the chairmanship of the Council was entrusted for a second year to the Russian Federation. Jordan and Nigeria occupied the posts of Vice-Chairmen.

19. For 2005, the Republic of Korea has been elected as Chairman of the Council, with Ecuador and France occupying the posts of First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman, respectively.



### **Chairman's communication to the Executive Council**

20. Following the initiative of Portugal, which was elected Chairman of the Council for 1998 (decision 5(LVII)), a new agenda item was introduced with effect from the fifty-eighth session held in Lisbon. This was the Chairman's communication, whose aim is to involve the Council Chairman more closely in the Organization's affairs. Communications to sessions were delivered by the representatives of the Russian Federation in 2004: Mr. Vyacheslav Fetisov, Head of the Federal Agency for Physical Education, Sport and Tourism (seventy-third session, July) and H.E. Mr. Vladimir Tyurdenov, Ambassador to Brazil (seventy-fourth session, December). For the seventy-fifth session (June 2005), it was the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Chung Dong-chea, who addressed the Council as its Chairman.

### **Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations**

21. At its last three regular sessions, the Executive Council adopted a series of decisions to see through the consequences following from the new status of the WTO as a specialized agency of the United Nations system.

22. These decisions include, notably, that regarding the new acronym of the Institution, which will contain a reference to the United Nations and the creation of a Joint headquarters Committee between the WTO and the Host State, following the example of other specialized agencies.

23. At its seventy-third session, in decision CE/DEC/13(LXXIII), the Executive Council considered that it would be in the interest of the WTO for it to be covered by the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, whose acceptance will be submitted to the Assembly.

### **Recommendation by the Executive Council to the General Assembly of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2006-2009**

24. At its seventy-fifth session, the Council voted by secret ballot to recommend a candidate for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2006-2009.

25. With Mr. Francesco Frangialli (France) obtaining 20 votes in the first round of voting, the Council decided to recommend him to the General Assembly for appointment to this post (decision CE/DEC/14(LXXV)).

**Working Group for the preparation of amendments to Articles 6 and 7 of the Statutes**

26. The Working Group created at the seventy-second session (CE/DEC/4(LXXII)) submitted its report, to which the Secretary-General gave his agreement at the seventy-fourth session of the Council (CE/DEC/10(LXXIV)). This proposed amendment of Articles 6 and 7, subsequently modified at the request of Spain, will be submitted to the Assembly in accordance with decision CE/DEC/3(LXXV).

**Proposal of amendment to Article 22 of the Statutes**

27. In accordance with the request of the Spanish authorities, their proposal of amendment to Article 22 of the Statutes was included in the agenda of the seventy-fifth session of the Council, which decided to transmit it to the General Assembly (decision CE/DEC/25(LXXV)).

**Preparations for the sixteenth session of the General Assembly**

26. At its seventy-fifth session, the Executive Council heard the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for this session and the statement of H.E. Mr. Abas Ndiour, Ambassador of Senegal in Spain. The Council took note of the signature of the agreement between Senegal and the WTO on this matter, and entrusted the Secretary-General with ensuring that all the arrangements for the holding of the Assembly are made (CE/DEC/24(LXXV)).