RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 18-19 October 2023

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A/RES/751(XXV)

Adoption of the agenda
Agenda item 1
(documents A/25/1 prov. rev.3 and A/25/1 prov. annot.)

The General Assembly

Adopts the agenda of its twenty-fifth session as proposed.

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Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
Agenda item 2
(document A/25/2)

The General Assembly

1. *Declares elected* Uzbekistan as President of its twenty-fifth session, represented by H.E. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change; and

2. *Declares elected* as Vice-Presidents of its twenty-fifth session:

   Africa:
   (a) Algeria
   (b) United Republic of Tanzania

   Americas:
   (c) Argentina
   (d) Paraguay

   East Asia and the Pacific:
   (e) Philippines

   Europe:
   (f) Hungary

   Middle East:
   (g) United Arab Emirates

   South Asia:
   (h) Maldives

***
Appointment of the Credentials Committee
Agenda item 3
(document A/25/3)

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the proposals of its President, made in accordance with Rule 13(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

Noting that the members of the Credentials Committee were selected by the Regional Commissions, at the request of the Assembly,

Takes note that the following countries have been appointed:

Africa:
   (a) Zambia
   (b) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Americas:
   (c) Ecuador
   (d) Paraguay

East Asia and the Pacific:
   (e) Cambodia

Europe:
   (f) Kazakhstan
   (g) Uzbekistan

Middle East:
   (h) Kuwait

South Asia:
   (i) Bhutan
The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

***
Current trends of international tourism
Agenda item 4(a)
document A/25/4(a))

The General Assembly,

1. Welcomes the report presented by the Secretary-General as well as UNWTO’s continuous monitoring of international tourism trends; and

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue monitoring trends and update Members accordingly.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the General Programme of Work 2022-2023 (document A/25/4(b) rev.1) and its different annexes,

1. Takes note of activities implemented and the main achievements during the period;

Having taken note of the agreements concluded by the Organization with public and private entities,

2. Approves all agreements as listed in Annex IV;

Having read the status of amendments to the Statutes and the Financing Rules and Annex XVIII to the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies as presented in Annex V,

3. Calls upon Member States to do everything in their power to approve all amendments to the Statutes and the Financing Rules, with particular regard to the amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes;

4. Also calls upon Member States to accede to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and to explicitly notify their intention to apply Annex XVIII to UNWTO;

Recalling decision 3(CXVIII) regarding the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST),

5. Adopts the nearly finalized Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) with a view to presenting it to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its endorsement as the new statistical standard for tourism;

6. Calls upon National Tourism Administrations to coordinate with their respective National Statistical Institute for a country position at the United Nations Statistical Commission’s fifty-fifth session to be held in New York from 27 February to 1 March 2024;

7. Expresses its deepest appreciation to the Expert Group on MST and the UNWTO Committee on Statistics composed of pioneering countries, international and regional organizations, private sector and academia, for the partnership and the resources and efforts deployed in leading the innovative multi-year process on MST; and

8. Encourages the UNWTO Member States to gradually implement the Statistical Framework for MST and thereby move towards more credible and comparable data on tourism’s environmental, social and economic aspects in order to guide the sustainable development of tourism.

***
Draft Programme of Work for 2024-2025

Agenda item 4(c)
(documents A/25/4(c) rev.1, A/25/4(c) Corr.1, A/25/4(c) RC-1, A/25/4(c) RC-2 rev.1, and A/25/4(c) RC-3)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the Draft Programme of Work 2024-2025,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for the comprehensive consultation process with Members for the preparation of this draft;

2. Approves the Draft Programme of Work 2024-2025;

3. Also approves the different flagship initiatives proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/24/5(c) RC-1, subject to extra-budgetary funding, and strongly encourages UNWTO Members to partner in them;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the strong commitment expressed by Uruguay to support and collaborate in the first Tourism Law Observatory of UNWTO for Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. Requests the Executive Council to oversee the implementation of the pilot phase of the Tourism for Rural Development Small Grants Programme (T4RD-SGP) and take any decisions as necessary in regard to this flagship initiative between sessions of the General Assembly;

Having read the "UNWTO Agenda for Europe 2030 – Tourism Leading the Change" (A/25/4(c) RC-2 rev.1),

Having taken note of the recommendation by the Executive Council,

6. Further approves the process of such Agenda;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to support the process, including through fundraising efforts with a view to implementing activities responding to the Agenda; and

Having read the document "The Journey to 2030 and Beyond: A Vision for a Tourism Transformed" (A/25/4(c) RC-3),

8. Thanks the Secretary-General.

***
Financial situation of the Organization (Financial report)

Agenda item 5
(document A/25/5 rev.1)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the financial report,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the comprehensive information contained in document A/25/5(a), its different parts and its annexes;

I. Closing of the Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-third financial period (2020-2021)

2. Endorses Executive Council decisions CE/DEC/3(CXIV) and CE/DEC/4(CXVII) on the approval of the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements for the years 2020 and 2021 respectively;

Noting Executive Council decisions CE/DEC/3(CXIV) and CE/DEC/4(CXVII),

3. Approves the UNWTO Financial Report for the years ended 31 December 2020 and 2021 respectively, as well as the closing of the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-third financial period (2020-2021), the budgetary cash balance of the Regular Budget and Working Capital Fund situation for the same period;

II. UNWTO Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

4. Takes note with satisfaction of the unqualified opinion of the External Auditor that the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2022 present a true image of the financial position of the UNWTO as at 31 December 2022 and of its performance, its cash flows and changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2022, in compliance with UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and recognizes with appreciation that the production of IPSAS compliance Financial Statements is a major achievement of an Organization of the size of UNWTO;

5. Approves the UNWTO Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the Secretary-General’s financial report for the year ended 31 December 2022 including the net assets/equity analysis, the after-service employee benefits (ASEB) analysis and other information presented in the document and its annexes, and approves, as presented in the report:

   (a) The Secretary-General’s proposals to allocate the 2022 RB budgetary cash surplus to the General Fund to increase the RB programme of work operating activities in the forthcoming biennium 2024-2025,

   (b) The Regular Budget appropriation transfers in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.3(a) and 5.3(b),
(c) The cofinancing projects with UNWTO and donors’ contributions for the period 2022, and

(d) In regard to after-service employee benefits (ASEB) liabilities funding strategy, that no payroll charge be implemented for the time being over those staff costs chargeable to the Regular Budget, and that an annual separate allocation in the Regular Budget will be charged to ideally cover to most updated annual service costs calculated by professional actuary and at a minimum, to cover the ASEB on a pay-as-you-go basis;

7. Recommends that the Secretary-General continue in 2023 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment;

8. Expresses its gratitude to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programme and Budget Committee (Switzerland and Peru, respectively) and the External Auditor (Spain) for the work carried out;

III. UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2023

9. Takes note with appreciation of the Secretary-General’s Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2023, the comprehensive information contained in the document and its annexes and approves, as presented in this document:

(a) The revised appropriations of the Regular Budget at 30 June 2023,

(b) The updated Plan of income and expenditure of the Regular Budget for the financial year 2023 presented by the Secretary-General at 30 June 2023, and

(c) The projects with UNWTO and donors’ contributions for the period ended 30 June 2023;

Following the Secretary-General’s proposal on the Replacement Reserve, as noted by the 118th session of the Executive Council (CE/DEC/4(CXVIII),

10. Takes note that after the 118th session of the EC, the EC chair has authorized: (1) the reallocation of the amount of EUR 27,000 to a digitalization solution for statistics out of the current replacement reserve project of ICTC infrastructure and cloud-based human resources and, (2) the allocation of the amount of EUR 380,000 to the enhancement of the financial management information system (Athena 4) out of the replacement reserve; as well as approves these projects as authorized by the EC chair;

11. Also takes note with satisfaction of the submission of the interim provisional unaudited UNWTO Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2023 and the UNWTO Statement Financial Performance for the period ended 30 June 2023;

12. Thanks the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations, urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2023, and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;

13. Supports the Secretary-General’s proactive approach for the settlement of current year and arrear contributions in order to contribute towards the Organization’s programme of work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;

IV. Draft Budget for the period 2024-2025

Having regard to the Executive Council decision CE/DEC/4(CXVIII),
14. Approves the draft Regular Budget of the Organization for the period 2024-2025, for a total amount of EUR31,677,000 and authorizes the Secretary-General to implement it in accordance with the amounts collected;

15. Approves that the budgetary income approved for the next biennium should be provided by the contributions of the Full and Associate Members in the rounded amounts of EUR 13,739,000 for 2024 and EUR 14,627,000 for 2025, and that the balance to be financed should be covered by the contributions of the Affiliate Members, with the necessary adjustments deriving from any changes in the number of Affiliate Members, and the other sources of funding proposed in this document;

16. Approves the proposed scale of contributions for 2024-2025 (Annex IV.6 of document CE/118/3(c));

17. Also approves the Secretary-General’s proposal on the assessed contributions of the Affiliate Members and the deductions for specific Members previously endorsed by the Executive Council;

V. Election of the External Auditor for 2024-2025

18. Takes note of resolution A/RES-PS/1(2022) on the election of a Spain as single External Auditor for the period 2022-2023 for the external audit of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2021 and 2022, placed under a no-objection procedure as communicated to all Members on 4 April 2022; and

19. Designates Egypt as the External Auditor to carry out the external auditing of the Organization for the period 2024-2025 for the external audit of the UNWTO Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2024.

***
Overview of human resources policies (Human resources report)
Agenda item 6
(document A/25/6)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the human resources report A/25/6,

1. Takes note of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in service of the Organization and their contribution to the Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;

3. Expresses its satisfaction with the management of the UNWTO workforce and the initiatives to foster the health and well-being of all personnel;

4. Expresses its satisfaction with the various initiatives of the Organization in the areas of gender, diversity and inclusion, and work-life balance, among others;

5. Approves the allocation of additional staff positions under the regular budget in view of the increased activities in the Programme of Work of the Organization and the permanent nature of the work;

6. Takes note of the acceptance of the proposed amendments to the Statutes of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) conveyed by the Secretary-General;

7. Expresses its satisfaction regarding the improved electronic human resources tools;

Having taken note of the amendments to Staff Rules 13 (2), 13 (9), 17 (1), 20 (1) and 20 (3) approved by the Executive Council at its 117th and 118th sessions,

8. Approves the amendment to Staff Regulation 20 as recommended by the Executive Council decision 5(CXVIII);

9. Encourages Member States to send concrete proposals to the Organization for the financing of Junior Professional Officers; and

10. Encourages Member States to send to the Organization, Officials on Loan, especially in view of the rising demands of the Organization with its limited resources.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the membership status of the Organization (Full Members),

1. Appreciates the comprehensive vision of the Organization in attracting non-member States and thanks the Secretary-General and other senior officials of UNWTO for undertaking tailored and effective actions;

2. Welcomes the fact that non-member States are actively engaged in core initiatives and activities of UNWTO and commends the Secretariat’s strategic view of integrating non-member States into the Organization’s Programme of Work;

3. Celebrates the decision of Belize to join the Organization and approves the country’s candidature as a Full Member with its membership obligations taking effect on 1 January 2024 following the Secretary-General’s recommendation, bringing the total number of UNWTO Member States to 160;

4. Calls upon the member countries of the United Nations that are non-member States of the UNWTO to join the Organization and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

Having examined the report on the membership status of the Organization (Affiliate Members),

5. Approves the applications for affiliate membership of the entities provisionally admitted by the Executive Council as listed in Annex I of document A/25/7(a) rev.1;

6. Thanks the Members of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership for their work;

7. Takes note of the withdrawals from affiliate membership as listed in Annex II of document A/25/7(a) rev.1;

8. Decides that the entities listed in Annex III of document A/25/7(a) rev.1 have ceased to be Affiliate Members of the Organization as of the dates indicated therein; and

9. Acknowledges the changes of the modified business names of entities as listed in Annex IV of document A/25/7(a) rev.1.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report in document A/25/7(b) transmitted by the Secretary-General containing updated information on the Members falling under the above-mentioned provisions,

1. Decides to continue applying the measure of suspension of rights and privileges provided for in Article 34 of the Statutes as per A/RES/217(VII) paragraph 1(a) and (b) and/or Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes to the Members listed in Annex II.A, if they have not reached an agreement with the Secretary-General on a plan for the payment of their arrears;

2. Decides, in view of their compliance with the agreed payment plans during the period of reference of this document, to renew the temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and/or Article 34 of the Statutes to the Full Members Cambodia, Gambia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Uruguay;

3. Ratifies and grants temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and Article 34 of the Statutes to the Full Members Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Uganda as endorsed by the Executive Council at its 116th, 117th and 118th sessions, respectively, as well as to the Affiliate Members Adventure Travel and Trade Association (ATTA) and International Institute for Research and Development of Special Interest (SITI-1) whose payment plans were endorsed by the 116th and 118th sessions of the Executive Council, respectively;

4. Further approves the payment plans submitted by the Full Members Malawi, Turkmenistan and Venezuela as well as to the Affiliate Member Pardis Iranian Mana Seir International Tourism Institute submitted to the present session of the General Assembly;

5. Also decides to maintain the temporary exemption to the Full Members Sierra Leone and Sudan, as well as to the Affiliate Member Instituto Medio de Gestao Hotelaria e Turismo Francisco do Santos (IMGHT-FS), albeit making it clear that these provisions will be reapplied to these Members if they are not up to date with their payment plans by 1 April 2024;

6. Notes with satisfaction that Burkina Faso, Congo, Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Palau, and Yemen are no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules and/or Article 34 of the Statutes, since they have reduced their contribution arrears partially or in full;

7. Establishes the following conditions for the Members requesting temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and which propose payment plans to settle their arrears in instalments: (i) to discharge the contribution corresponding to the present year before the General Assembly session at which their case is reviewed, and (ii) strict observance of the plan agreed for the settlement of arrears;
Having regard to Libya’s and Syrian Arab Republic’s special circumstances,

8. *Notes with appreciation* their communications regarding their willingness to meet their financial obligations to the Organization and renews the temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, making it clear that these provisions will be reapplied to these Members if they have not settled their contributions or submitted a payment plan for the settlement of their arrears by 1 April 2024; and

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Governing Bodies about the application of this resolution and the Members’ compliance with the agreements made with a view, as the case may be, to maintaining the temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the Task Force on Redesigning Tourism for the Future,

1. Takes note of all the progress achieved after the 24th session of the General Assembly, thanks the Secretary-General and officials of the Secretariat for conducting a long consultative process with the sponsors of the initiative and other Member States for their comments;

2. Takes note of the decision adopted by the Executive Council to appoint the recommended Member States by the Regional Commission meetings held in June and July 2023;

3. Welcomes the composition of the Task Force composed of nine members in the following geographical order of regions:
   (a) Africa: Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal
   (b) Americas: Peru and Uruguay
   (c) East Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia
   (d) Europe: Israel and Spain
   (e) Middle East: Saudi Arabia, and
   (f) South Asia: Maldives;

4. Decides to extend the mandate of the Task Force until the 26th session of the General Assembly;

5. Encourages the Task Force to present for approval at the 121st session of the Executive Council a plan for deliverables, milestones and timetable, cost and funding requirements of the body and a budget as requested by the Council at its 118th session; and

6. Encourages the Task Force to consult with the Secretariat to ensure full consistency with the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025 and the outline of the long-term vision for the sector and the required reforms for the Organization prepared by the Secretariat based on the Survey Findings on Members' Priorities for the UNWTO Programme of Work 2024-2025 and the long-term vision (conducted among the Members and non-member States).
Progress report on the establishment of the UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices

Agenda item 9
(document A/25/9 rev.1 and A/25/9 Add.1)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the progress report on the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices,

1. Takes note of all the progress achieved after the 24th session of the General Assembly and thanks the Secretary-General for all the contributions;

2. Commends the Secretariat’s active role in improving legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices on the basis of the indications provided by the Assembly and elaborating precise distinctions between the functional models of regional and thematic offices as well as all the required proceedings for the consultative and approval process;

3. Appreciates the timely actions undertaken by the Secretariat in finalizing the establishment of the Working Group composed of Member States aiming at supporting the Executive Council in the improvement of the legal and operational framework on the selection and establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices on the basis of the indications provided by the Assembly;

4. Takes note of the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices;

5. Encourages the Working Group to actively work towards the improvement of the legal and operational framework and to report to the Executive Council so that a final report may be examined by the 26th session of the General Assembly;

6. Welcomes all efforts done by the Secretariat in holding discussions and consultations with Member States interested in hosting Regional and Thematic Offices and urges the Secretary-General to continue the ongoing negotiation processes;

7. Reiterates the utmost importance that all applicants to host UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices comply with the legal and operational framework adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 740(XXIV) and with the requirements of the host country agreement, while extensively considering the policies and practices of the United Nations system in case of challenges during the discussion phase between the Secretariat and the Member States related to the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices;

8. Ratifies the decision of the Executive Council on the approval of the Host Country Agreement between UNWTO and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning the legal framework for the Regional Office for Africa in Marrakech;

9. Endorses the decision of the Executive Council that the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement between UNWTO and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning the legal framework for the Regional Office for Africa in Marrakech shall be subject to the conclusion of the supplementary agreement between UNWTO and the Kingdom of Morocco on the financial
and administrative arrangements of the Office, and completion by Morocco of the internal procedures necessary for the establishment of the Office in accordance with the legal and operational framework adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 740(XXIV);

10. **Authorizes** the Secretary-General to sign the Host Country Agreement between UNWTO and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning the legal framework for the Regional Office for Africa in Marrakech subject to the abovementioned conditions;

11. **Urges** the Government of Morocco and the Secretariat to continue negotiations to finalize the supplementary agreement concerning the financial and administrative arrangements of the Office and to complete all other procedures required to allow for the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement;

12. **Takes note** of the status of the negotiation process with the Government of Brazil on the Host Country Agreement for the establishment of Regional Offices in Rio de Janeiro;

13. **Encourages** the Secretariat to continue to pursue the consultative and negotiation processes with Argentina and Brazil on the establishment of UNWTO Regional Offices and to periodically report any progress made to the Executive Council;

14. **Welcomes** the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan to establish a UNWTO Thematic Office on “Tourism on the Silk Road” in Samarkand in accordance with the legal and operational framework on the selection and establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 740(XXIV);

15. **Recalls** that the approval of the establishment of a UNWTO Thematic Office on “Tourism on the Silk Road” in Samarkand is subject to endorsement by the Executive Council;

**Having examined** the Addendum A/25/9 Add.1,

16. **Ratifies** the decision of the Executive Council on the approval of the Host Country Agreement between UNWTO and the Federative Republic of Brazil concerning the legal framework for the Regional Office for the Americas in Rio de Janeiro;

17. **Endorses** the decision of the Executive Council that the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement between UNWTO and the Federative Republic of Brazil concerning the legal framework for the Regional Office for the Americas in Rio de Janeiro shall be subject to the conclusion of the supplementary agreement between UNWTO and the Federative Republic of Brazil on the financial and administrative arrangements of the Office, and completion by Brazil of the internal procedures necessary for the establishment of the Office in accordance with the legal and operational framework adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 740(XXIV);

18. **Authorizes** the Secretary-General to sign the Host Country Agreement between UNWTO and the Federative Republic of Brazil concerning the legal framework for the Regional Office for the Americas in Rio de Janeiro subject to the abovementioned conditions; and

19. **Urges** the Government of Brazil and the Secretariat to continue negotiations to finalize the supplementary agreement concerning the financial and administrative arrangements of the Office and to complete all other procedures required to allow for the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement.

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Reform of the Organization: Progress on JIU and OIOS recommendations
Agenda item 10
(document A/25/10)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report on the Reform of the Organization: Progress on JIU recommendations,

1. Welcomes the reforms of the Secretariat in order to reinforce compliance with UN standards;

2. Takes note of the reports issued by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) referenced in the document and thanks both bodies for their insights;

3. Approves the acceptance and implementation status for each one of them, as proposed in Part I of the document and requests the Secretary-General to report accordingly on them to the JIU;

Having specifically noted the recommendation 1 of the report JIU/REP/2023/3: Review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to assess the Organization’s accountability framework against the updated JIU reference accountability framework and adjust it as necessary, by the end of 2024;

5. Notes with appreciation the progress reported in Part II;

6. Considers closed those recommendations that have been fully implemented; and

7. Requests the Secretary-General to keep reporting yearly on this issue.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report,

1. Takes note of the information presented concerning the Council’s activities, and in particular the decisions of its 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th ordinary sessions;

2. Takes cognizance of the major matters considered by the Council such as the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2022-2023 and the draft Programme of Work for 2024-2025, and the financial situation and human resources of the Organization;

3. Welcomes the new organizational branding presented by the Secretary-General and approved by the Executive Council in decision 3 (CXVIII);

4. Takes note with satisfaction that the Secretary-General is taking the necessary steps before the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to protect the signs of UNWTO as presented in Annex I of the present report, as well as the domain names of the Organization as appropriate, and requests him to report to the Executive Council on the measures taken on this matter;

5. Decides that the request, assessment and approval of authorizations to use the UNWTO signs under Annex I of the report be made in accordance with the “Guidelines on the use of the UNWTO signs by bodies other that the UNWTO Secretariat” adopted in General Assembly resolution 601(XIX);

6. Pays tribute to the dedication and competence demonstrated by its Chairs, Côte d’Ivoire in 2022 and Saudi Arabia in 2023; and

7. Thanks the Vice-Chairs, Saudi Arabia and Mauritius in 2022, and Côte d’Ivoire and Mauritius in 2023, for the quality of the work they carried out in the exercise of their functions.

***
The General Assembly,

Having before it Articles 12(c) and 22 of the Statutes and Rules 38(e), 43 and 53 of its Rules of Procedure,

Having noted the recommendation put forward by the Executive Council in its decision CE/DEC/8(CXIX) to the General Assembly that Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili be appointed Secretary-General of the Organization to serve for the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029,

Having carried out a vote by secret ballot in accordance with the rules in force,

Noting that the balloting gave 65 out of 103 votes cast by the Members present and voting to the candidate recommended by the Executive Council,

1. Decides not to appoint Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili as Secretary-General for the period 2026-2029; and

Having considered the proposal from Chile,

Having carried out a vote,

2. Also decides that, pending the entry into force of the amendment to Article 22 of the Statutes adopted by resolution 512(XIV), and in accordance with the Statutes of the Organization, the Executive Council will consider as eligible a candidature of the current Secretary-General to serve for the period 2026-2029, subject to complying with the other criteria that the Executive Council customarily adopts.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the Report of the Chair of the Affiliate Members,

1. Thanks the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members for her report and congratulates the Members of the Board and the Affiliate Members for their activities;

2. Takes note of the information presented concerning the outcomes of the 44th Plenary Session of the Affiliate Members;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the close cooperation between the Board of the Affiliate Members and the Committee on Matters related to Affiliate Membership (CMAM);

4. Thanks the Affiliate Members for their active participation to the elaboration of the UNWTO Programme of Work 2024-2025 and encourages the Affiliate Members to contribute on the achievement of PoW’s objectives and programmatic priorities;

5. Welcomes the initiatives of Affiliate Members aimed to contribute to the transformation of the tourism industry; and

6. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the cooperation of Affiliate Members with Member States.

***
The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership,

1. Takes note of the Report of the Committee;

2. Thanks the Chair of the Committee and the members of the CMAM for the successful fulfilment of their mandate;

3. Appreciates the efforts made by the members of the CMAM to enhance the cooperation between the Affiliate Members and the Members States; and

4. Invites the Committee to continue to work together with the Board of the Affiliate Members on initiatives to strengthen the Affiliate Membership.

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The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Chair and members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the efforts deployed in streamlining the promotion and the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;

2. Takes note of the updated version of the Committee’s Rules of Procedure as presented in Annex I of document A/25/14;

3. Encourages Member States to consider ratifying, accepting and/or acceding to the Convention and its Optional Protocol adopted at the twenty-third General Assembly and to place it as a matter of significance in their policymaking so as to guide the sustainable development of tourism;

4. Acknowledges the activities undertaken by the Committee, to encourage safe and responsible tourism recovery, inter alia, the promotion of the right to tourism and its contribution to mutual understanding and respect among cultures and societies;

5. Congratulates the 460 companies and trade associations from 69 countries, which have adhered to the Code as of July 2023 and expresses its appreciation to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the Report summarizing the implementation efforts of the adhered signatories to the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;

Having considered the proposal of the Selection Board (composed of the President of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Executive Council and the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members, the Secretary-General, and the Legal Counsel of the UNWTO) with regard to the four members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the period from the 25th session of the General Assembly in 2023 until the 27th session of the General Assembly in 2027,

6. Takes note that, in accordance with resolution 743(XXIV), the members Mayada BELAL, José Ignacio BESGA ZUAZOLA, Susan LONGLEY, Daniela OTERO, will continue their respective mandates as full members while Gunnur DIKER, Shahid Hamid FIH and Marina NOVELLI will serve as alternate members until the 26th session of the General Assembly in 2025;

7. Endorses the proposal of the Selection Board;

8. Appoints the following individuals as members of the Committee for the period from October 2023 until the 27th session of the General Assembly in 2027:

   1. Ms. Martina BIENENFELD, Chief Executive Officer, Zagreb Tourist Board
   2. Dr. Julio FACAL, Partner, Yelpo & Facal Law Firm and Tourism Law Teacher, Universidad de la República Carrera Abogacía
3. Mr. Gemunu GOONEWARDENE, Chairman, Win-Store Group, Former Chairman, the Sri Lanka Tourism Hotel Classification Committee and Non-Executive Board Director, Aitken Spence Hotel Holding Limited

4. Dr. Joseph Ngonde NZOMOI, Dean, School of Business and Economics, the South-Eastern University of Kenya; and

9. *Decides* that, consequently, the composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics is as follows:

*Chair:* Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (2021 – 2025)
Former Executive Director of UN WOMEN and
former Deputy President of South Africa

*Members:* (listed in alphabetical order of their SURNAMES)

Ms. Mayada BELAL (2021-2025)
Undersecretary for the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research for Cultural Cooperation

Mr. José Ignacio BESGA ZUAZOLA (2021-2025)
President, Basque Country Ethics Cluster

Ms. Martina BIENENFLEd (2023-2027)
Chief Executive Officer
Zagreb Tourist Board

Dr. Julio FACAL (2023-2027)
Partner, Yelpo & Facal Law Firm and Tourism Law Teacher
Universidad de la República Carrera Abogacía

Mr. Gemunu GOONEWARDENE (2023-2027)
Chairman, Win-Store Group
Former Chairman, the Sri Lanka Tourism Hotel Classification Committee
Non-Executive Board Director, Aitken Spence Hotel Holding Limited

Ms. Susan LONGLEY (2021-2025)
General Secretary, International Union of Food, Agriculture, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF)

Dr. Joseph Ngonde NZOMOI (2023-2027)
Dean, School of Business and Economics
South-Eastern University of Kenya

Ms. Daniela OTERO (2021-2025)
Former Chief Executive Officer, Skal International

*Alternate Members:*

Ms. Günnur DIKER (2021-2025)
Partner and General Manager, Eurasia Tourism LTD

Mr. Shahid Hamid FIH (2021-2025)
Chairman & Founder,
SH'otel Hospitality Management & Consultancy Ltd

Prof. Marina NOVELLI (2021-2025)
Professor of Tourism and International Development
University of Brighton

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The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the observance of World Tourism Day 2022;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Indonesia and Saudi Arabia for hosting the official celebrations of World Tourism Day 2022 and 2023, respectively;

3. Adopts the “Tourism Opens Minds” initiative pledge, as introduced by UNWTO during World Tourism Day 2023 in Riyadh, and strongly recommends, subject to the receipt of adequate funding, that the Secretariat take proactive measures to develop a comprehensive set of programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting and advancing this initiative; and

Having taken cognizance of the host countries proposed by the Regional Commission for Europe and the Regional Commission for South Asia and the themes proposed by the 118th session of the Executive Council in its decision 11(CXVIII) for the next two World Tourism Day celebrations,

4. Designates the following countries to host the official World Tourism Day celebrations in 2024 and 2025, with the respective themes:

   2024: Georgia, “Tourism and Peace”

   2025: Malaysia, “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation”

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Election of the Executive Council Members

Agenda item 16
(document A/25/16 and A/25/16 Corr.)

The General Assembly,

Having received the proposals of the Regional Commissions and the Board of Affiliate Members,

1. Declares the following Full Members elected as members of the Executive Council for the period 2023-2027, for the 17 seats to be filled:

   Africa:
   1. Democratic Republic of the Congo
   2. Ghana
   3. Namibia
   4. Nigeria
   5. Rwanda
   6. United Republic of Tanzania

   Americas:
   1. Colombia
   2. Jamaica

   East Asia and the Pacific:
   1. China
   2. Indonesia
   3. Japan
   4. Republic of Korea

   Europe:
   1. Azerbaijan (2025)
   2. Bulgaria
   3. Czechia
   4. Italy
   5. Lithuania

   Middle East:
   1. Saudi Arabia

2. Recalls that the Associate Members will be represented by Flanders on the Executive Council until the 26th session of the General Assembly; and

3. Takes note that the Affiliate Members will be represented on the Executive Council by Asociación Empresarial Hotelera de Madrid (AEHM).

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Place and dates of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly
Agenda item 17
(document A/25/18)

The General Assembly,

Having regard to Article 10 of the Statutes and Article 1 of its Rules of Procedure,

Having taking cognizance of the candidature submitted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has received the sponsorship of at least 10% of the Member States,

Recalling that acceptance of the standard conditions laid out in the model agreement set out in the Annex to document A/20/5(II)(i) adopted through resolution 631(XX) is a preliminary requirement for the submission of a valid candidacy to host a General Assembly session,

Noting that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undertaken in writing to observe the legal framework for the holding of UNWTO meetings away from headquarters and provide the conditions established in the above-mentioned model agreement for the hosting of the General Assembly,

1. Thanks the Saudi Arabian Government warmly for its invitation; and

2. Decides that its twenty-sixth session will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2025.

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