

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION
FOR SOUTH ASIA AT ITS FORTY-FIRST MEETING

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23 September 2001

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AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Nomination of **one** candidate to represent the region on the Executive Council
3. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
4. Nomination of the candidates for the various General Assembly offices:
 - **one** Vice-President of the General Assembly
 - **one** Member of the Credential Committee
 - **one** Officer of the Assembly Committee of the whole
5. Nomination of candidates to the subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council:
 - **one** candidate and **one** alternate at the Programme Committee (CTPC)
 - **one** candidate of the Committee of Market Intelligence and Promotion
 - **one** member of the Sub-Committee for the review of application for affiliate membership
6. Regional activities
7. Report on the proposal to improve technical assistance in the development of tourism satellite accounts
8. Report on the South Asian Tourism Ministerial Summit on Joint Tourism Marketing and Promotion
9. Statement by China on its candidature for hosting the 15th session of the WTO General Assembly in 2003
10. Place and date of the forty-second meeting of the Commission

PREAMBLE

1. The forty-first meeting of the WTO Commission for South Asia was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 23 September 2001 within the framework of the fourteenth session of the WTO General Assembly which was co-hosted by the Governments of the Republic of Korea and Japan.
 2. The meeting was chaired by **Pakistan** and upon calling the meeting to order, the Chairman proposed that the Commission observe a **minute of silence** in honour of the victims of the terrorist attacks on the USA on 11 September 2001 – a recommendation that was unanimously endorsed by the Members – and the Commission observed a minute of silence.
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DECISIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CSA/41/Prov.Ag.)

3. After reviewing the provisional agenda and upon the proposal of the Secretariat, the Commission agreed to move agenda items (3) and (5) of the provisional agenda to agenda item (2).
 4. The Commission also accepted **China's** request to make a statement regarding its candidature for hosting the 15th session of the WTO General Assembly in 2003 and placed it agenda item (9).
 5. The provisional agenda was **adopted** with these modifications and the final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.
 6. Before moving on to other items, the Commission heard, with interest, the **statement** made by its **Chairman** who thanked the Republic of Korea and Japan for their gracious hosting of the General Assembly, emphasised the need to further collaboration and cooperation between the members of the Commission to further stimulate international tourism to the region; and, thanked the WTO for its technical assistance to the region in general, and to Pakistan, in particular, over the past year.
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NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO STATUTORY ORGANS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Agenda items 2 to 5 (documents A/14/Com.Reg and A/14/Com.Reg. Add.1)

7. After reviewing the working documents submitted by the Secretary-General on the nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies and after being apprised of the members' expression of interest to various organs, as follows:

***NOMINATION OF ONE CANDIDATE TO REPRESENT THE REGION
ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL***

8. Given the interest manifested by several members to represent the South Asian region on the Executive Council for the period 2001– 2005; the Commission reached a consensus to split the four-term term into two terms of two years.

9. Based on this decision, the Commission proposed the **Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan** to the General Assembly as their candidates to the vacant post on the Executive Council corresponding to one full set of five members within the region of South Asia for the period 2001-2003 and 2003-2005, respectively;

10. The Commission also supported **India** as a candidate for one of the floating seats on the Executive council to be filled by election at the plenary session of the General Assembly.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE REGION

11. After thanking the outgoing Chairman **Pakistan** for its successful leadership and representation of the region in WTO affairs, the Commission decided that the chairmanship of the Commission should be on a rotational basis using the alphabetic order of the countries as the basis for rotation; and therefore elected **Bangladesh** as Chairman of the Commission with **Maldives** and **Nepal** as Vice-Chairmen for a term of office of two years commencing from the fourteenth session of the General Assembly.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

12. The Commission decided to nominate the following Members as its candidates to the offices of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly:

- Vice-President of the General Assembly: **Nepal**
- Member of the Credentials Committee: **Nepal**
- Officer of the Assembly Committee of the whole: **Bangladesh**

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

13. The Commission decided to nominate the following Members as its candidates to the subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council:

- Candidate for the Programme Committee (CTPC): **Mr. Amitabh Kant, India – Joint Secretary for Tourism**
- Alternate for the Programme Committee (CTPC): **Mr. Renton de Alwis, Sri Lanka – Chairman of the Ceylon Tourist Board**

14. The Commission noted with great interest the establishment of the Committee of Market Intelligence and Promotion. Since several members expressed their eagerness interest in the membership of the Committee, the Commission decided to nominate two candidates rather than one be nominated to the Committee of Market Intelligence and Promotion:

- Candidates to the Committee of Market Intelligence and Promotion: India and Maldives

15. Having taken note of the Secretariat's recommendation that the review of applications for affiliate membership is best carried out by the members representing the region on the Executive Council, the Commission decided as follows:

- Candidate to the Sub-Committee for the review of application for affiliate membership: Islamic Republic of Iran for the period 2001-2003 and Pakistan for the period 2003-2005

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 6 (document CSA/41/2)

16. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific for their efforts in implementing the general programme of work of the Organization in the region through a diverse range of sectoral support missions and long-term projects. It also expressed the Commission's desire that the Secretariat launch more sectoral support missions to the region to assist the members on issues of contemporary concern particularly in the light of the impacts of the terrorist attacks, improved marketing, product development, and development of tourism satellite accounts.

REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNTS

Agenda item 7 (document CSA/41/7)

17. The Commission was apprised of the Secretariat's planned activities with regard to the development of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) as follows:

- the organization of a two-week TSA practicum in 2002 at the WTO headquarters to assist members in the actual establishment of TSA in their respective countries;
- a train-the-trainers seminar to be organized in January 2002 for WTO consulting firms and experts so as to increase WTO's technical capacity for meeting membership needs; and

- the preparation of more instruments for TSA implementation in the forms of CD-roms and textbooks.

**REPORT ON THE SOUTH ASIAN TOURISM MINISTERIAL SUMMIT
ON JOINT TOURISM MARKETING AND PROMOTION**

Agenda item 8

18. The Commission heard a detailed report on the South Asian Tourism Ministerial Summit on Joint Tourism Marketing and Promotion which was organized by the Secretariat jointly with the South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE) in New Delhi in April 2001. The Commission appreciated the Secretariat's initiative and decided that the approach to joint marketing and promotion of South Asia must continue in collaboration with SATTE. The Commission called upon all the Members to participate in full strength in SATTE 2002. The Commission also requested the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of the joint participation of South Asian countries in major international trade fairs such as ITB, Berlin and WTM, London.

19. The Commission further decided that the South Asian countries must produce an effective marketing tool for projection of the region's tourism resources and tourist services and facilities. The Commission asked the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of producing an interactive CD-Rom on South Asia using the funds available in the South Asia Fund-in-Trust and the expertise of SATTE. On a specific suggestion by the Maldives, the Commission also asked the Secretariat to create a website on South Asia which should provide as much motivational and factual information as possible. The Commission was of the view that in order to counter the negative impact created by the 11 September incidents, it would be advisable to prepare the interactive CD-Rom as early as possible and, in any case, efforts should be made to launch it at ITB Berlin 2002.

**STATEMENT BY CHINA ON HOSTING THE
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE WTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Agenda item 9

20. The Commission, heard with great interest, the intention of the Government of the People's Republic of China to bid for the hosting of the fifteenth session of the WTO General Assembly and requested the Secretariat to communicate the **Commission's official and unanimous support** to the fourteenth session of the WTO General Assembly.

**PLACE AND DATE OF THE
FORTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

Agenda item 10

21. The Commission gratefully accepted Pakistan's offer to host the forty-second meeting of the Commission in its territory during the first half of 2002.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The forty-first meeting of the WTO Commission for South Asia was attended by:

BANGLADESH

1. Mr. M. Shafayat Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
2. Mr. M. Abdul Latif Mondal, Chairman, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

INDIA

3. Mr. Amitabh Kant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
4. Mr. Anil Garg, Undersecretary, Ministry of Tourism

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

5. Mr. Nasrollah Mostofi, Deputy Vice-Minister – Research, Training and Planning Affairs, Iran Touring and Tourism Organization (ITTO)

MALDIVES

6. Ms. Aishath Ali, Deputy Director – Coordination, Ministry of Tourism
7. Ms. Agisa Abdulla, Deputy Director – Marketing, Ministry of Tourism

NEPAL

8. Mr. Subarna Lal Shrestha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
9. Mr. Tek Bahadur Dangi, Director – Marketing and Promotion, Nepal Tourism Board

PAKISTAN

10. Mr. Samin Jan Babar, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Minorities, Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs
11. Mr. Tariq Osman Hyder, Embassy of Pakistan in the Republic of Korea
12. Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Embassy of Pakistan in the Republic of Korea
13. Mr. Mir Badshah, Embassy of Pakistan in the Republic of Korea

SRI LANKA

14. Mr. K.C. Logeswaran, Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Republic of Korea
15. Mr. Malraj Bharatha Kiriella, Director – International Affairs, Sri Lanka Tourist Board

OBSERVER - CHINA

16. Ms. Zhang Xinhong, Deputy Division Director, China National Tourism Administration

WTO SECRETARIAT

17. Mr. Francesco Frangialli, Secretary-General
18. Mr. Dawid J. De Villiers, Deputy Secretary-General
19. Dr. H. Varma, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
20. Mr. Masazumi Nagamitsu, Chief, WTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
21. Mr. Xu Jing, Officer, Asia and the Pacific Section
22. Ms. Vanessa Satur, Asia and the Pacific Section