

CSA/44/DEC
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DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION
FOR SOUTH ASIA AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH MEETING

Beijing, China, 17 October 2003

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Agenda	2
2. Decisions taken by the Commission	3

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Regional activities
3. Nomination of the candidates for the various General Assembly offices:
 - **one** Vice-President of the General Assembly
 - **one** Member of the Credentials Committee
 - **one** Officer of the Assembly Committee of the Whole
4. Nomination of candidates to the subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council:
 - **one** Member and **one** Alternate to the Programme Committee
 - **one** candidate to the Committee of Budget and Finance (CBF)
 - **one** candidate to the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee (SDTC)
 - **one** candidate to the Quality Support and Trade Committee
 - **one** candidate to the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism
 - **one** member of the Sub-Committee for the review of application for affiliate membership
5. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
6. Other items
7. Place and date of the forty-fifth meeting of the Commission

PREAMBLE

1. The forty-fourth meeting of the WTO Commission for South Asia was held in Beijing, China on 17 October 2003 within the framework of the fifteenth session of the WTO General Assembly which was hosted by the Government of China.
 2. The meeting was chaired by **Bangladesh** and upon calling the meeting to order, the Chairman thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China for the excellent arrangements and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants and guests and welcomed the delegates present at the Meeting.
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DECISIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CSA/44/Prov.Ag.)

3. After reviewing the provisional agenda and upon the proposal of the Secretariat, the Commission agreed to add a new agenda item (6) entitled "Other items".
 4. The provisional agenda was **adopted** with these modifications and the final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 2 (document CSA/44/2)

5. The WTO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific presented to the Commission the report on the activities carried out and planned in the region since the last meeting of the Commission held in Kathmandu, Nepal in April 2003. According to this document, two technical assistance projects for **India** and **Sri Lanka** were completed or were ongoing and one technical assistance mission was carried out in the region; and, one technical assistance mission for **India** on Sustainable Rural Tourism Development Plan for Sikkim was expected to commence in the future. The WTO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific also reported to the Commission on the regional activities, including various meetings and visits, organized since the last meeting of the Commission, and informed about three technical meetings in China, Malaysia and Japan, to be held in the near future.
6. **Sri Lanka** thanked WTO for its prompt response to Sri Lanka's call for assistance and expressed its need for WTO's assistance on cultural heritage and Buddhism tourism development. **India** also mentioned its desire to hold a seminar on New Information Technologies. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific thanked the countries for their interest in tourism development, gladly accepted their requests and proposed to determine the dates for holding the requested seminars in 2004.

7. The Chairman expressed his 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. He also expressed a 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 and subsequent economic recession. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific replied that WTO had already organized three events on the subject of crisis management: in Nepal at the Commission meeting for South Asia in April 2003, in Manila during the WTO Tourism Week in June 2003, and in Hong Kong in July 2003.

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO
STATUTORY ORGANS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

Agenda items 2 to 5 (documents A/15/Com.Reg and A/15/Com.Reg. Add.1)

8. 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, the Commission decided as follows:

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

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

- Vice-President of the Assembly: Maldives
- Member of the Credentials Committee: Nepal
- Officer of the Assembly Committee of the Whole: Sri Lanka

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Member to the Programme Committee (CTPC): Pakistan (Mr. Aftab Hussain Syed)
Alternate to the Programme Committee (CTPC): India (Mr. Amitabh Kant)
- Candidate to the Committee on Budget and Finance: Pakistan
- Candidate to the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee:
Iran and Bangladesh
- Candidate to the Quality Support and Trade Committee: Nepal
- Candidate to the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism:
India

- Member of the Sub-Committee for the Review of application of Affiliate Membership: Maldives

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE REGION

10. At this meeting of the Commission, **Bangladesh** competed its two-year term of office as its Chairman and thanked WTO and the Commission for their continuous support to its Chairmanship. After thanking the outgoing Chairman Bangladesh for its successful leadership and representation of the region in WTO affairs, the Commission recalled the decision taken at its 41st meeting held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 23 September 2001, where it 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 **India** as Chairman of the Commission with **Sri Lanka** and **Pakistan** as Vice-Chairmen for a term of office of two years commencing from the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.

OTHER ITEMS

Agenda item 6

11. The Commission noted that **Sri Lanka** had been elected as a candidate for judging the Poster Competition regularly held in the framework of WTO General Assemblies.

12. The Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific informed the Commission about three technical meetings, to be held in the near future: Regional Seminar on Tourism Partnership in Destination Development and Management (Guilin, China, 2-4 December 2003); Asia-Pacific Conference on Sustainability Certification of Tourism Activities (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 11-13 December 2003); and, Technical Seminar on Tourism Resource Management of Regional Culture (Ishikawa, Japan, 25-27 February 2004).

PLACE AND DATE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Agenda item 7

13. The Commission gratefully accepted **Sri Lanka's** offer to host the forty-fifth meeting of the Commission in its territory in 2004 (the exact dates will be determined later).