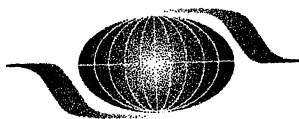




**WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION  
EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL**



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Provisional agenda item 12

**PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL**

**Addendum 3**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

In the present addendum, the Secretary-General submits for the consideration of the Members of the Executive Council a note verbale from the Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, host country of the Organization, as well as the full text of Article 8(2) of the Statutes and of Rule 3(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, in accordance with the request made in the aforementioned communication.

**PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL**

**Addendum 3**

1. On 22 June 2006, the Secretariat received a note verbale from the Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, host country of the Organization, whose text is reproduced below:

“The Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the World Tourism Organization and has the honour to refer to the working document CE/78/12 of the 78th session of the Executive Council, which was transmitted by Note Verbale no. CONF/2084/2006 dated 7 June 2006, and received by this Ministry on 16 June 2006.

“With regard to item 12 of the agenda of the 78th session of the Executive Council (Place and dates of the seventy-ninth session), the Secretary-General has presented a report, included as document CE/78/12, with the aim of indicating to the Executive Council the statutory and regulatory provisions that apply to the selection of the place and dates of its sessions, and submitting to it the candidature received for the holding of its 79th session.

“The report of the Secretary-General has been included as a working document as a result of the deliberations of the First Meeting of the Joint Headquarters Committee between Spain and the UNWTO, which took up this matter at the proposal of Spain. At the above-mentioned meeting it was agreed that the Secretary-General would submit to the Executive Council a report that would reflect the rules applicable in this respect and that would indicate how the exception (sessions away from the headquarters) has come to be the general rule.

“With respect to the procedure relative to the selection of the place of the sessions of the Executive Council, the report of the Secretary-General reads: *“Article 8(2) of the Organization’s Statutes and rule 3(3) of the Council’s Rules of Procedure provide that the Council sessions may be held away from Headquarters if that organ so decides.”*

“The Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation considers that, given that the report refers to the applicable rules, its should accurately cite the provision of Article 8(2) of the Statutes which reads: *“Meetings of the Assembly and of the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise”* and that of rule 3(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, whose text is as follows: *“Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Rule, the sessions of the Council shall be held at the Organization’s Headquarters unless the Council decides otherwise.”*

“Partially mentioning the aforementioned stipulation not only distorts the meaning of the provision, but also fails to reflect the tenor of the discussion of this matter that took place at the 1st Meeting of the Joint Headquarters Committee.

“The motives that prompted Spain to include the matter of the place of the holding of the meetings of the governing organs of the UNWTO in the agenda of the meeting of the Joint Headquarters Committee are mentioned in the minutes of the said meeting. Such motives therefore have to do not just with the observance of the statutory and regulatory provisions, but also with considerations of effectiveness in management and economizing expenditures. Holding meetings of the governing organs away from the Headquarters is costly for the Organization as well as for the host countries, and generates problems in the organization and functioning of the governing organs.

“The point is therefore not to provide greater “visibility” to the headquarters of the Organization, but rather to apply at the UNWTO the practices of good governance and transparency that are becoming generalized in the Organizations, Programmes and Funds of the United Nations System, which the UNWTO joined in 2003, and thus to follow the usual practice of almost all the specialized agencies of the United Nations, which hold the ordinary meetings of their principal governing organs at their respective headquarters.

“In light of all the above, the Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation requests the General Secretariat that both the full text of the mentioned articles as well as a better explanation of the reasons that prompted Spain to request the intervention of the Secretary-General be included in the documents circulated prior to the holding of the 78th session of the Executive Council.

“The Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the World Tourism Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.”

2. In accordance with the request made in this communication, the full text of Article 8(2) of the Statutes and of Rule 3(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council are also provided below.

**Article 8(2) of the Statutes:**

"Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise."

**Rule 3(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council:**

"Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Rule, the sessions of the Council shall be held at the Organization's Headquarters unless the Council decides otherwise."

