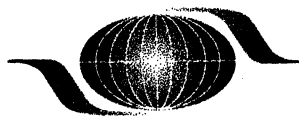


**WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION  
EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL**



CE/78/5  
Madrid, May 2006  
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Seventy-eighth session  
Quito, Ecuador, 27-28 June 2006  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**NEW MEMBERSHIP**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

In this report, the Secretary-General informs the Council of recent developments in the composition of the Organization since the last session of the Executive Council.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP

### **I. Applications in progress**

1. On 10 February 2006, the Secretariat received a communication from H.E. Mr. Abdougafor Rakhmonov, Vice-Minister of Economy and Trade of **Tajikistan**, announcing his country's intention to join the Organization, in accordance with the state programme adopted by the Government for tourism development in the country. The necessary information has been transmitted to the Vice-Minister, indicating the procedure to be followed for the admission of his country to the Institution.

2. H.E. the President of the **Union of the Comoros** on 18 March 2006 sent a letter to the Secretary-General indicating his "determination to initiate steps to become a Member of the Organization". The Secretariat has followed up on this request.

### **II. Démarches with Burundi**

3. The Regional Representative for Africa went to Burundi in February 2006 to inform the government authorities about the content of resolution 480(XVI) adopted by the last session of the General Assembly, which reads as follows :

"Having been informed about the matter concerning the request for suspension of membership submitted by Burundi, but also of a more recent communication from that country expressing its wish to maintain a relationship with the WTO,

6. Shares the Secretary-General's opinion that in the absence of statutory provisions on this subject, the only possible alternative would be Burundi's withdrawal from the Organization;

7. Requests Burundi, whose internal situation is improving, to reconsider its initial request and to propose a plan for the payment of its arrears;

8. Entrusts the Secretary-General with establishing the necessary contacts with Burundi and informing the Executive Council at its seventy-eighth session about the outcome of the démarches made;

9. Authorizes the Council to approve the payment plan that may be proposed or to establish on its behalf the end of Burundi's membership in the Organization;"

4. H.E. Mrs. Odette Kayitesi, Minister of Land Management, Environment and Tourism, confirmed her country's desire to resume active relations with the UNWTO, but stated that the payment of contributions to all international organizations is carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. She assured that the necessary arrangements would be made in order to agree upon a payment plan to be submitted to the Secretary-General before the holding of this session of the Council.

6. The Council will therefore be informed about this payment plan when it is received so that it may be considered for approval by the Council, in accordance with the mandate received by it from the General Assembly.

