

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



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ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND STATUTORY MATTERS

(c) Linguistic diversity

Note by the Secretary-General

In this document, the Secretary-General informs the Members about the requests received from China and from Kazakhstan concerning the official languages of the Organization.

ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND STATUTORY MATTERS

(c) Linguistic diversity

I. INTRODUCTION OF A DRAFT AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 38 OF THE STATUTES: INTERPRETATION AND LANGUAGES

1. Mr. Shao Qiwei, Chairman of the China National Tourism Association, sent to the Secretary-General a communication dated 3 April 2007 requesting on behalf of his Government that Article 38 of the Statutes be amended as follows:

"The official languages of the Organization shall be English, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish."

2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of the Statutes (Amendments), the Secretary-General has circulated this draft amendment to all the Members, before its submission to the consideration of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

3. The Secretary-General reminds the Members that Article 33 mentioned above stipulates, on the one hand, that an amendment shall be adopted by the Assembly by a two-thirds majority of Full Members present and voting, and on the other hand, that an amendment shall come into force for all Members when two-thirds of the Member States have notified the Depository Government of their approval of such amendment.

4. Accordingly, this draft amendment is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.

5. Members will recall that Article 38 of the Statutes is already the object of a draft amendment introducing Arabic as an official language of the Organization. This draft amendment, adopted by the General Assembly at its third session, Torremolinos, September 1979 [resolution 61(III)], has not entered into force owing to an insufficient number of ratifications.

6. The Secretary-General is favourably disposed toward the introduction of Chinese at UNWTO, not so much because it is also an official language of the United Nations—since the Organization's status as a specialized institution carries no such obligation—but because of China's growing importance in the tourism sector. He believes the addition of Chinese will only be feasible, however, if additional resources are also provided, either through a budget increase (without altering the programme of work) or voluntary contributions.

II. LANGUAGES OF THE COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

7. On 16 February, H.E. Mr. Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov, Minister of Tourism and Sports of Kazakhstan, also sent a communication to the Secretary-General requesting that Russian be considered as an official language of the meetings of the Commission for Europe.

8. During the Council's twenty-fourth session, Spain requested that if other languages are introduced in the Commission for Europe, Spanish, an official language of UNWTO, should be considered a working language for that Commission.

9. It is recalled that since the Regional Commissions are subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, it is up to the latter to take a decision, if it wishes to do so, regarding this matter.

10. The official languages of the Commission for Europe are currently English and French.

III. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. In pursuance of decision 11(LXXX), taken during the Council's last session, the costs that would be entailed in an increase in the number of official languages of UNWTO, and/or of one of its organs, are indicated below.

With the exception of the IT component, these costs are estimated on an annual basis using data for 2007.

- Chinese

a)	Recruitment of a grade P3 translator	
	salary	88.000 €
	benefits	10.000 €
b)	Recruitment of a grade G3 assistant	
	salary	40.000 €
	benefits (as appropriate)	10.000 €
c)	IT equipment and software	7.000 €
d)	Budget for publications	22.000 €
e)	Interpretation	10.000 €
	TOTAL	<u>187.000 €</u>

- Spanish and Russian for the Commission for Europe

a)	Increase in the number of grade P3 translators (1/2 per language)	
	salary	88.000 €
	benefits	10.000 €
c)	IT equipment and software	4.500 €
d)	Budget for publications	11.000 €
e)	Interpretation	8.000 €
	TOTAL	<u>121.500 €</u>

