

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



A/17/10(b)
Madrid, November 2007
Original: French

Seventeenth session
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23-29 November 2007
Provisional agenda item 10(b)

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(b) Joint Headquarters Committee

Note by the Secretary-General

In the following document, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly about the results of the last meeting of the Joint Headquarters Committee held with the Spanish authorities.

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(c) Joint Headquarters Committee

1. The Joint Headquarters Committee was established following the conversion of the Organization into a specialized agency, in order to deal with all legal and practical matters relating to the presence of the UNWTO in Spain, in line with the arrangements that exist for other United Nations agencies in the countries where they are based.
2. The Committee was constituted in March 2006. At its first meeting it decided to divide the matters to be dealt with between two subgroups, one in charge of issues relative to the headquarters building and its safety and security, and the other in charge of the status of the UNWTO's officials in Spain, including that of their families.
3. The third meeting of the Committee was held on 23 October 2007, at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. It was attended by representatives of the aforementioned Ministry and of the Secretariat of Tourism, as well as by representatives of the UNWTO designated by the Secretary-General for this purpose.
4. In accordance with the agenda adopted for the meeting, matters relative to the headquarters of the Organization were taken up first. The Director of Administration of the UNWTO gave a report on the measures taken in the area of safety and security, in application of resolution 498(XVI) adopted during the last General Assembly, with a view to the implementation of United Nations guidelines in the area of safety and security.
5. For its part, the Spanish Government has taken the necessary measures to provide around-the-clock security by the Spanish gendarmerie. The Spanish representatives reiterated their full readiness to reinforce security measures during special events at the headquarters, as they had already done in 2006, during the meeting of the Chief Executives Board of the United Nations.
6. As for the headquarters building itself, the Spanish representatives indicated their readiness to carry out the necessary upgrades to modernize the air-conditioning system and emergency-exit access. Regarding the capacity of the building, both for the holding of meetings as well as with regard to the number of offices, the Spanish representatives requested the Secretariat to present to them a study of the development of the Institution. As for parking, this matter will be referred to the Municipality of Madrid.
7. Next on the agenda was the consideration of the pending questions relative to the status of UNWTO officials in Spain, including that of their families. Once again, the Spanish authorities expressed their willingness to provide the required solutions within the limits allowed by Spanish law. Contacts will be held in this regard by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with the ministries concerned (Ministry of Labour and Social Security, and the Ministry of the Interior).
8. The Secretariat once again thanks the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for the new identity documents issued to the officials and to their families, as well as for raising the age limit for dependent children. For matters that remain pending, the Secretariat will take charge of sending the corresponding notes verbales to the Ministry so that it can follow up on them.