

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



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**PLACE AND DATES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Note by the Secretary-General

In the following document the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of the statutory and regulatory provisions governing the place and dates of its sessions and submits to it the candidature received for hosting its eighteenth session in 2009.

**PLACE AND DATES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

I. PROCEDURE FOR FIXING THE PLACE AND DATES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

1. The Articles of the Organization's Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly concerning the place and dates of General Assembly sessions are reproduced below for information:

(a) 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."

(b) Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure:

- "1. The Secretary-General shall convene the Assembly in ordinary session every two years at the Organization's Headquarters.*
- 2. The Assembly may meet at another place if it so decides, provided the host country reimburses the extra expenses involved in holding the session.*
- 3. The date of the session shall be fixed by the Assembly or by the Council, if so empowered and notified to the Members of the Organization not less than seven months before it is due to be held."*

(c) Resolution 351(XI) of the General Assembly

By this resolution, the General Assembly adopted the procedure for the submission of candidatures by interested States, with particular regard to the timetable for the presentation of candidatures and the signature of agreements between the host State and the Organization.

II. LIST OF VENUES OF THE PREVIOUS FOURTEEN SESSIONS

2. It is recalled that, since its inception, WTO has held its General Assembly at the following venues:

First session (1975)	Madrid (Spain)
Second session (1977)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Third session (1979)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Fourth session (1981)	Rome (Italy)
Fifth session (1983)	New Delhi (India)
Sixth session (1985)	Sofia (Bulgaria)
Seventh session (1987)	Madrid (Spain)
Eighth session (1989)	Paris (France)
Ninth session (1991)	Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Tenth session (1993)	Bali (Indonesia)
Eleventh session (1995)	Cairo (Egypt)
Twelfth session (1997)	Istanbul (Turkey)
Thirteenth session (1999)	Santiago (Chile)
Fourteenth session (2001)	Seoul (Republic of Korea)/Osaka (Japan)
Fifteenth session (2003)	Beijing (China)
Sixteenth session (2005)	Dakar (Senegal)

3. The General Assembly in resolution 443 (XIV), expressed its wish for an "equitable geographical distribution" to be ensured, and it can be observed that for the past twenty or so years, despite a few exceptions, a certain geographical balance among the different regions has in fact been maintained.

III. CANDIDATURE RECEIVED FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

4. The Secretariat received, on 23 May 2006, an official offer from the Government of Kazakhstan to host the eighteenth session:

This proposal was circulated to all Members by the Secretariat.

5. Kazakhstan is a member of the UNWTO Commission for Europe. The General Assembly has not met in Europe since 1997 (Istanbul). Consequently, in the absence of an invitation from a country of the Middle East region, this candidature appears satisfactory in view of the wish expressed in resolution 443 (XIV) mentioned above.

6. In accordance with the rules established for hosting a General Assembly session, the Secretary-General asked this country to confirm its candidature and to say whether it was prepared to accept the conditions laid down for holding an Assembly session in its territory.

7. Member countries are informed that, on 6 August 2007, H. E. Mr. Temirkhan Dosmukhambetov, Minister of Tourism and Sports of Kazakhstan has confirmed its invitation. Kazakhstan has therefore completed the required procedures for the presentation of its candidature as host State of the next session of the General Assembly.

