



Eighteenth session
Astana, Kazakhstan, 5-8 October 2009
Provisional agenda item 4

NEW MEMBERSHIP

(a) I. Full Members

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly in this document on the changes in membership since its seventeenth session and submits to it, for approval, applications for admission in accordance with Article 5 of the Statutes and rules 49 and 50 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. The applications for affiliate membership submitted in accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes are reported in Part II of this document.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

(a) I. Full Members

1. The purpose of this document is to inform the General Assembly on the changes in membership since its seventeenth session and to submit to it membership applications that it is called upon to consider pursuant to Article 5 of the Statutes and rules 49 and 50 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

I. CHANGE SINCE THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. It is recalled that on 8 September 2008, **Norway**, in accordance with Article 5(2) of the Statutes, joined the Organization upon the receipt of the formal letter from H. E. Mr. Jonas Store, the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs, whereby it accepted the Statutes of the Organization.

3. The Council took note of his change at its session in Madrid in October 2008.

II. CANDIDATURE FOR MEMBERSHIP

4. The Secretariat and the Spanish Government received on 4 July 2008, in the required form, the application of **Vanuatu** for admission to the UNWTO. Pursuant to Article 5(3) of the Statutes, this application is submitted to this session of the General Assembly. This State is a Member of the United Nations.

III. WITHDRAWALS

5. As the Council was informed at its eighty-fourth session, the United Kingdom notified the Secretariat and the Spanish Government of its decision to withdraw from the Organization effective in August 2009. Pursuant to the decision taken by that same session of the Council, the Secretary-General has striven to take all the possible steps in order for the country to reconsider this decision. The Secretary-General will inform the Members of the outcome of these efforts.

6. At the date of the General Assembly, the total number of Member States of the Organization would therefore come to 154. With this total, the number of seats on the Executive Council remains at 30, pursuant to Article 14(1) of the Organization's Statutes and rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.

IV. CONTACTS WITH NON-MEMBER STATES

7. The Secretariat is in contact with several non-member States and is actively taking steps to encourage these countries to join the UNWTO.