



Eighteenth session  
Astana, Kazakhstan, 5-8 October 2009  
Provisional agenda item 6

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

In the following document the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly, in accordance with Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Organization's Statutes, the draft report of the Executive Council to the Assembly, which he prepared at the Council's request. It will be submitted to the Executive Council for information at its eighty-sixth session on 3 October 2009, immediately preceding the eighteenth session of the General Assembly.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1. According to Article 19(a) of the Organization's Statutes, "The functions of the Council, other than those which are elsewhere assigned to it in these Statutes, shall be:

*"(a) to take all necessary measures, in consultation with the Secretary-General, for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Assembly and to report thereon to the Assembly".*

Moreover, Article 20 of the Statutes provides that:

*"Between sessions of the Assembly and in the absence of any contrary provisions in these Statutes, the Council shall take such administrative and technical decisions as may be necessary, within the functions and financial resources of the Organization, and shall report the decisions which have been taken to the Assembly at its following session, for approval".*

2. As the two aforementioned statutory provisions indicate, the Executive Council is required to report to the General Assembly on its activities, dealing both with the decisions it has taken in implementation of General Assembly resolutions and with the administrative and technical decisions it has taken between Assembly sessions.

3. At its thirty-fifth session, held at Cancun, Mexico, in May 1989, the Executive Council decided on the form and content of its report to the Assembly and adopted decision 21(XXXV) on this subject, which reads as follows:

*"The Executive Council,*

*Noting that it is obliged, pursuant to Articles 19(a) and 20 of the Statutes of the Organization, to present a report on its activities to the General Assembly:*

- 1. Thanks the Secretary-General for the draft of such a report with whose general plan and content it agrees;*
- 2. Requests the Secretary-General to complete this report in the light of the decisions taken by the present Council session and to submit it for approval to its thirty-sixth session."*

4. Since this document reports on matters covered in decisions already taken by the Council, it is being transmitted for information at the Council's eighty-sixth session, to be held at Astana on 22 November 2007, immediately before the General Assembly session.

### **Sessions of the Council**

5. Since the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in 2007, the Executive Council has held four ordinary sessions, whose dates and venues were as follows:

- eighty-second session, 29 November 2007 at de Indias, Colombia (with Tunisia in the Chair)
- eighty-third session, 13-14 June 2008 at Jeju, Republic of Korea (with India in the Chair)
- eighty-fourth session, 14-15 October 2008 at Madrid, Spain (with India in the Chair)
- eighty-fifth session, 7-8 May 2009 at Bamako, Mali (with Costa Rica in the Chair)

The Executive Council will hold its eighty-sixth session at Astana on 3 October 2009.

6. At these four ordinary sessions already held, the Executive Council adopted a total of 69 decisions, viz.:

- eighty-second session: 5 decisions
- eighty-third session: 21 decisions
- eighty-fourth session: 19 decisions
- eighty-fifth session: 24 decisions

### **Analysis of decisions taken by the Council**

7. The decisions taken by the Council may be divided under the following headings: organization of Council sessions, statutory matters and elections, administration and finance, the general programme of work, and affiliate membership. Such decisions include both those necessary for the implementation of recommendations of the Assembly, pursuant to Article 19(a) and those of an administrative and technical nature which the Council is empowered to take between sessions of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes.

8. As classified, the decisions taken by the Council at its eighty-second, eighty-third, eighty-fourth, and eighty-fifth sessions are divided under the five above-mentioned headings as follows:

**(a) Organization of Council sessions (agenda, dates of future meetings, votes of thanks)**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXXII)   | - CE/DEC/18(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/5(LXXXII)   | - CE/DEC/19(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/1(LXXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/20(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/24(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/21(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/25(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXXIV)   |                     |

**(b) Statutory matters and elections (reports of the Chairman and the Secretary-General, composition of the Organization, specialized agency status, sessions of the General Assembly, election of officers and report of the Staff Association)**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - CE/DEC/2(LXXXII)   | - CE/DEC/10(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/3(LXXXII)   | - CE/DEC/16(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/4(LXXXII)   | - CE/DEC/17(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/2(LXXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/2(LXXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/3(LXXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/3(LXXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/7(LXXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/4(LXXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/8(LXXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/10(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/9(LXXXIII)  | - CE/DEC/11(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/10(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/12(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/14(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/14(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/2(LXXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/15(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/3(LXXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/16(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/6(LXXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/17(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/7(LXXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/23(LXXXV)  |

**(c) Administration and finance (financial situation, accounts, contributions and administrative matters)**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/4(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/6(LXXXV) |
| - CE/DEC/5(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/7(LXXXV) |
| - CE/DEC/6(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/8(LXXXV) |
| - CE/DEC/4(LXXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/9(LXXXV) |
| - CE/DEC/5(LXXXIV)  |                   |

**(d) General programme of work (programme of work, Programme Committee, World Tourism Day, draft Declaration on facilitation)**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - CE/DEC/11(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/11(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/12(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/12(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/13(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/5(LXXXV)   |
| - CE/DEC/15(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/13(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/16(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/18(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/8(LXXXIV)   | - CE/DEC/19(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/9(LXXXIV)   |                     |

**(e) Affiliate membership**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - CE/DEC/17(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/15(LXXXIV) |
| - CE/DEC/18(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/20(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/19(LXXXIII) | - CE/DEC/21(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/13(LXXXIV)  | - CE/DEC/22(LXXXV)  |
| - CE/DEC/14(LXXXIV)  |                     |

9. In the following paragraphs, the Executive Council draws the attention of the Assembly to the salient decisions it took among the 69 enumerated above.

### **Work and reports of the Committee on Budget and Finance**

10. The Council approved the closing of the Organization's audited administrative accounts for the sixteenth financial period (2006-2007) with a surplus balance of 830,993.50 euros, and requested the Assembly to establish a special account for such surplus which the Secretariat can only mobilize with the agreement of the Executive Council (decision CE/DEC/8(LXXXV)).

### **Work and reports of the Programme Committee**

11. The Programme Committee held three meetings, under the chairmanship of Mr. Victor Wee (Malaysia), during this period. Based on the deliberations of the Committee, the Secretariat prepared a programme of work that better reflects the priorities of the Members of the UNWTO and which follows a results-oriented management approach, as demanded by the United Nations system. The Committee also approved the evaluation mechanisms of different activities. The Council thus adopted the principles of planning, the general orientations of the programme, the guidelines as well as the draft programme itself (decisions CE/DEC/12(LXXXIII), CE/DEC/9(LXXXIV) and CE/DEC/13(LXXXV)) and has regularly reviewed the implementation of the programme in progress (decisions CE/DEC/12(LXXXIII), CE/DEC/8(LXXXIV) and CE/DEC/4(LXXXV)).

12. Furthermore, the Council approved, as recommended by the Programme Committee, the inclusion in the current programme of three new activities with a view to responding to the international economic situation and its repercussions on tourism (decision CE/DEC/10(LXXXIV)).

### **Recommendation by the Executive Council to the General Assembly of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2010-2013**

13. At its eighty-fifth session, the Council held a secret ballot to recommend to the General Assembly a nominee to the post of Secretary-General for the period 2010-2013.

14. Mr. Taleb Rifai (Jordan) having obtained 20 votes in the first ballot, the Council decided to recommend him to the General Assembly to occupy this post (decision CE/DEC/12(LXXXV)).

### **Acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies**

15. At its eighty-third session, the Executive Council took note of the approval by the United Nations Economic and Social Council of the draft annex relating to the UNWTO, approved this text, and authorized the Secretary-General to notify the United Nations of such approval (CE/DEC/9(LXXXIII)).

### **UNWTO logo**

16. The Executive Council decided to create, at its eighty-fifth meeting, a working group in charge of studying the question of the use of the logo, as well as that of the name, acronym, emblem and domain name of the UNWTO (CE/DEC/10(LXXXV)).

### **Report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit**

17. A report prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit on the Organization as a new specialized agency was referred for the first time to the Executive Council at its eighty-fifth session. The Council created a Working Group to prepare a plan for the implementation of the recommendations (CE/DEC/15(LXXXV)).

### **Draft Declaration on the facilitation of tourist travel**

18. At its eighty-third session, the Council noted the consensus formed by the Members of the Working Group created for this purpose, with a view to preparing a draft Declaration (CE/16(LXXXIII)). This draft was considered during the two subsequent sessions and was approved, for transmission to the General Assembly, through decision CE/18(LXXXV).

### **Report on entities associated with the UNWTO**

19. At its eighty-fifth session, the Council established a Working Group to enable the Secretary-General to establish an appropriate policy framework for these entities (decision CE/DEC/17(LXXXV)).

### **Affiliate Members**

20. During the period considered, the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership convened at each of the sessions of the Council to transmit to it its recommendations. The Council thus approved 22, 16 and 26 applications, respectively, for affiliate membership, that is to say, a total of 64 which will have to be approved by the Assembly.

### **Preparations for the eighteenth session of the General Assembly**

21. The Council noted the structure of the next session of the General Assembly and the date of the signing of the corresponding agreement between Kazakhstan and the UNWTO (CE/DEC/25(LXXXV)).

**Officers of the Executive Council**

22. For 2008, India was elected as Chairman of the Council, with Hungary and Ghana occupying the posts of first and second Vice-Chairmen.

23. In 2009, the chairmanship of the Council was entrusted to Costa Rica and the Vice-Chairman posts to Iraq (first) and to Cameroon (second).

**Report of the Staff Association**

24. Lastly, it should be noted that the Staff Association presented a report to the Council for the first time (CE/DEC/11(LXXXV)).