

General Assembly

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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 ninety-first session, to be held at Gyeongju on 9 October 2011, immediately before the General Assembly session.

Sessions of the Council

5. Since the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, held at Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2009, the Executive Council has held four ordinary sessions, whose dates and venues were as follows:

- eighty-seventh session, 8 October 2009 at Astana, Kazakhstan (with Costa Rica in the Chair)
- eighty-eighth session, 8 June 2010 at Puerto Iguazú, Argentina (with Costa Rica in the Chair)
- eighty-ninth session, 26 October 2010 at Kish Island, Iran (with Costa Rica in the Chair and Kenya as Acting Chair)
- ninetieth session, 21 June 2011 at Mombasa, Kenya (with Italy in the Chair)

The Executive Council will hold its ninety-first session at Gyeongju on 9 October 2011.

6. At these four ordinary sessions already held, the Executive Council adopted a total of 57 decisions, viz.:

- eighty-seventh session: 6 decisions
- eighty-eighth session: 15 decisions
- eighty-ninth session: 16 decisions
- ninetieth session: 20 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, ongoing and forthcoming projects and studies 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-seventh, eighty-eighth, eighty-ninth, and ninetieth 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(LXXXVII) | - CE/DEC/15(LXXXIX) |
| - CE/DEC/6(LXXXVII) | - CE/DEC/16(LXXXIX) |
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXXVIII) | - CE/DEC/1(XC) |
| - CE/DEC/14(LXXXVIII) | - CE/DEC/19(XC) |
| - CE/DEC/15(LXXXVIII) | - CE/DEC/20(XC) |
| - CE/DEC/1(LXXXIX) | |

(b) Statutory matters and elections (reports of the Chairman and the Secretary-General, declaration of loyalty by the Secretary-General, composition of the Organization, United Nations system activities, sessions of the General Assembly, use of the UNWTO logo, Joint Headquarters Committee, election of officers and report of the Staff Association)

- CE/DEC/2(LXXXVII)
- CE/DEC/3(LXXXVII)
- CE/DEC/4(LXXXVII)
- CE/DEC/5(LXXXVII)
- CE/DEC/2(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/3(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/8(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/9(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/10(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/2(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/3(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/8(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/9(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/14(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/2(XC)
- CE/DEC/3(XC)
- CE/DEC/9(XC)
- CE/DEC/10(XC)
- CE/DEC/14(XC)
- CE/DEC/18(XC)

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

- CE/DEC/5(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/6(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/7(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/6(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/7(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/5(XC)
- CE/DEC/6(XC)
- CE/DEC/7(XC)
- CE/DEC/8(XC)

(d) General programme of work (programme of work, Programme Committee, UNWTO White Paper, World Tourism Day, study on tourist/consumer protection, progress report on the 2030 study)

- CE/DEC/4(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/11(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/4(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/5(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/10(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/11(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/4(XC)
- CE/DEC/11(XC)
- CE/DEC/12(XC)
- CE/DEC/13(XC)
- CE/DEC/17(XC)

(e) Affiliate membership

- CE/DEC/12(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/13(LXXXVIII)
- CE/DEC/12(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/13(LXXXIX)
- CE/DEC/15(XC)
- CE/DEC/16(XC)

9. In the following paragraphs, the Executive Council draws the attention of the Assembly to the salient decisions it took among the 57 enumerated above.

Merger of the Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance

10. The Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance presented to the Council the joint proposal to merge the two Committees, which was approved by the Council (CE/DEC/6(LXXXVIII)). With regard to the merger, the Council requested the Secretary-General to carry out the necessary formal modifications in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, the Financial Regulations and the Detailed Financial Provisions of the World Tourism Organization, for their final approval by the General Assembly.

Work and joint reports of the Committee on Programme and the Committee on Budget and Finance (budget and finance issues)

11. The Committees met twice jointly in April 2010 and in April 2011. Having heard the reports of the two Committees, the Council took note of the preparation of an expenditure forecast for the financial years 2010-2011 established at 95 per cent of approved amounts, so as to maintain the necessary budget equilibrium (CE/DEC/5(LXXXVIII) and CE/DEC/5(XC)).

12. The Council approved the closing of the Organization's audited administrative accounts for the seventeenth financial period (2008-2009) with a surplus balance of 485,419.96 euros, and authorized the Secretary-General to include this surplus in the "Special Contingency Account", in accordance with the criteria established in resolution 572(XVIII) (CE/DEC/7(XC)).

13. The Council took note of the progress report on the implementation of the IPSAS standards and of the favourable opinion of the External auditors and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to advance in the proposed plan for its application (CE/DEC/5(XC)).

Work and joint reports of the Committee on Programme and the Committee on Budget and Finance (programme issues)

14. The Council subscribed to the overall vision of the Secretary-General of systematically placing tourism at the highest level of national and global policy agendas and requested him to orient the Organization's communication strategy in this direction (CE/DEC/4(LXXXIX)). Based on this recommendation, the Secretariat, in partnership with WTTC, launched the "Global Leaders for Tourism" campaign to position travel and tourism higher in the global agenda.

15. The Council supported the opinion of the Programme Committee that many of the technical committees have not been very active in the past years and requested the Secretary-General to review the technical committees (CE/DEC/4(LXXXVIII) and CE/DEC/4(LXXXIX)).

16. It emphasized a range of areas where action is needed, such as the importance of climate change in relation with tourism, the technical analysis of domestic tourism as well as on employment and its linkage on tourism, and the diversification of the UNWTO Technical Portfolio, and encouraged the Secretary-General to further develop these areas (CE/DEC/4(LXXXVIII) and CE/DEC/4(LXXXIX)).

17. The Executive Council supported the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General in reducing progressively the number of operational programmes (CE/DEC/4(LXXXIX) and CE/DEC/4(XC)) and welcomed the transparency and the work of the Secretary-General in the field of human resources of the Organization (CE/DEC/5(XC)).

Joint Headquarters Committee

18. The Council welcomed the proposal of the Spanish authorities to provide a new building for the Organization's Headquarters in line with current operational, security and safety requirements, and appreciated the spirit of cooperation presiding over the relationship between UNWTO and the Spanish authorities (CE/DEC/9(XC)).

UNWTO White Paper

19. The Secretary-General presented to the Executive Council the draft White Paper "A reform process for a more relevant UNWTO", which was warmly welcomed by the Executive Council congratulating him for his substantial and comprehensive work, undertaken in order to examine shortcomings, strengths and changes needed in the Organization.

20. The Council further debated on a series of issues: a better definition of the mission of the Organization, the Member States' increasing involvement in the decision-making process of the Organization, the strengthening of the relations with the Affiliate Members and reinforced collaboration with the UNWTO external entities. The final document should be presented to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly (CE/DEC/11(LXXXVIII) and CE/DEC/10(LXXXIX)).

UNWTO logo

21. The Executive Council noted that the provisional guidelines with regard to the use of the signs of the Organization have been revised to better align them to UN standards and practices and approved them with some modifications (CE/DEC/8(LXXXVIII) and CE/DEC/8(LXXXIX)).

United Nations system activities

22. The Council welcomed UNWTO's regular collaboration with various other United Nations bodies, as well as its participation in technical meetings of the system. It supported the introduction of the new programme on Institutional and Corporate Relations, the development of TOURpact.GC, a joint initiative of the UNWTO with the UN Global Compact and the announcement of the report prepared by UNWTO for the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) (CE/DEC/9(LXXXVIII), CE/DEC/10(LXXXVIII) and CE/DEC/9(LXXXIX)).

23. The Council highly commended the initiative of the UNWTO Secretary-General in forming an alliance of nine UN Organizations to *Deliver-as-One UN* for tourism by strategically placing tourism as a key instrument for development of LDCs and developing countries (CE/DEC/14(XC)).

24. The UNWTO Secretariat proposed to open a dialogue, in the framework of the 19th UNWTO General Assembly, on the preparations for Rio+20 and to adopt a declaration/resolution to be presented as a contribution to the future Rio Plan of Action, which was shared with particular interest by the Council (CE/DEC/14(XC)).

Study on tourist/consumer protection

25. Taking into consideration the insufficiency of existing binding rules at the global level governing the rights and obligations of tourists/consumers and of travel organizers, particularly in a context of increasing diversification of destinations and generating countries, the UNWTO Secretariat undertook preparations towards a preliminary study on tourist/consumer protection. The Council approved the procedure proposed by the Secretary-General calling for the constitution of a working group to define the scope and level of the proposed legal instrument (CE/DEC/11(LXXXIX)).

26. The UNWTO Working Group on the Protection of Tourists/Consumers and Travel Organizers presented its report to the ninetieth session of the Executive Council, which considered it and invited the Secretary-General to prepare guidelines and recommended practices on the protection of tourists/consumers under the umbrella of the principles of the Global Code of Ethics (CE/DEC/12(XC)).

Progress report on the 2030 study

27. The Executive Council took note of the progress report on the UNWTO project *Tourism Towards 2030* and recommended the Secretariat to conduct periodical updates on the main findings of the study and incorporate the area of long-term trends and forecasting as a regular line of research in the programme of work in the field of Tourism Trends and Marketing Strategies (CE/DEC/13(XC)).

Affiliate Members

28. 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 13, 12 and 23 applications at its eighty-eighth, eighty-ninth and ninetieth sessions respectively, for affiliate membership, that is to say, a total of 48 which will have to be approved by the Assembly (CE/DEC/13(LXXXVIII), CE/DEC/12(LXXXIX) and CE/DEC/16(XC)).

Preparations for the nineteenth session of the General Assembly

29. The Council noted the structure of the next session of the General Assembly and the seven-day duration of the proceedings and related activities, including a Ministerial Round Table, and thanked the Korean authorities for the efforts already made to ensure the success of the General Assembly session in Gyeongju (CE/DEC/18(XC)).

Officers of the Executive Council

30. For 2010, Costa Rica was re-elected as Chairman of the Council, with Kenya and Italy occupying the posts of first and second Vice-Chairmen, respectively (CE/DEC/5(LXXXVII)).

31. In 2011, the chairmanship of the Council was entrusted to Italy and the Vice-Chairman posts to Kenya (first) and to Romania (second) (CE/DEC/14(LXXXIX)).

World Tourism Day: themes for 2012 and 2013 for submission to the General Assembly and selection of the host countries

32. Having considered the themes proposed by the Secretary-General, the Council decided to propose to the General Assembly the following themes for the celebration of World Tourism Day in 2012 and 2013:

2012: Tourism and Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development

2013: Tourism and Water: Protecting our Common Future

33. The Council took note of the offer of Spain to host the World Tourism Day in 2012, and accepted the offer of Egypt to host the celebration of the World Tourism Day in 2011 (CE/DEC/17(XC)).