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Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(e) Election of the Auditors for 2014-2015

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to Article 26 of the Statutes, Financial Regulation 15 provides the following:
 - “1. *The Assembly shall elect from among its Full Members, on the recommendation of the Council, two External Auditors to audit the accounts of the Organization.*
 2. *The External Auditors shall be elected for a two-year term of office. Their term of office shall be renewable.”*

II. Procedure

2. In accordance with the procedure established, any Member State of the Organization wishing to present its candidature to the post of External Auditor of the UNWTO for the period 2014-2015 may do so by written notice addressed to the Secretary-General. The deadline for submission of candidatures will remain open until the corresponding agenda item is discussed by the General Assembly.
3. In accordance with the established practice, once elected by the General Assembly, each of the two Member States entrusted with the auditing of the Organization's accounts will be required to propose for this function a person who is a national of the Member State and who performs the function of controlling public accounts in his home country.
4. At its nineteenth session the General Assembly elected in its resolution [A/RES/598(XIX)] India and Spain for the posts of External Auditor for the period 2012-2013.
5. It is recalled that Spain, the host country of the Organization, has in practice occupied one of the two posts of External Auditor of the UNWTO in recent years, as a matter of practicality due to the proximity and accessibility of the Auditor. It also represents a saving for the Organization, since the audit is performed cost-free. The other post of External Auditor, also by election of the General



Assembly, has been filled successively by Egypt, the Netherlands, Kenya, Romania, Guinea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Chile, Poland and India. This second External Auditor has traditionally been responsible for the inspection of the expenditures decided by the UNWTO in its capacity as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

6. Due to the implementation of IPSAS by the UNWTO from 1 January 2014 (CE/95/3(II)(a)add.1), in line with the IPSAS work plan (CE/88/5(a)) and in addition to the External Auditors' mandate under the UNWTO Financial Regulations (FR) (FR, Annex I) as stated in paragraphs above, the External Auditors will be requested during the year 2014:

- (a) to audit the UNWTO restated opening balance compliant with IPSAS as at 1 January 2014 and,
- (b) to review the UNWTO IPSAS pilot financial statements as at 30 September 2014.

7. Therefore, the two Member States entrusted with the external audit of UNWTO's accounts will be requested to devote sufficient time and resources to complete these additional activities during the year 2014.

III. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

8. The General Assembly is requested to designate two External Auditors to carry out the auditing of the Organization for the period 2014-2015.