



## General Assembly

Twenty-first session  
Medellín, Colombia, 12-17 September 2015  
Provisional agenda item 6

A/21/6  
Madrid, 8 July 2015  
Original: English

### Report of the Executive Council to the General Assembly

#### I. Introduction

---

1. In accordance with 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 in Cancún, 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 101st session, to be held in Medellín, Colombia, on 13 September 2015, immediately before the General Assembly session.

## **II. Sessions of the Council**

---

5. Since the twentieth session of the General Assembly, held at Victoria Falls, Zambia/Zimbabwe, in 2013, the Executive Council has held four ordinary sessions, whose dates and venues were as follows:

- ninety-seventh session, 29 August 2013 in Livingstone, Zambia (with Romania in the Chair)
- ninety-eighth session, 4-6 June 2014 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain (with Indonesia in the Chair)
- ninety-ninth session, 1-3 October 2014 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (with Indonesia in the Chair)
- 100th session, 27-29 May 2015 in Rovinj, Croatia (with Jamaica in the Chair)

The Executive Council will hold its 101st session in Medellín, Colombia, on 13 September 2015.

6. At these four ordinary sessions already held, the Executive Council adopted a total of 72 decisions, viz.:

- ninety-seventh session: 6 decisions
- ninety-eighth session: 20 decisions
- ninety-ninth session: 21 decisions
- 100th session: 25 decisions

## **III. 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 ninety-seventh, ninety-eighth, ninety-ninth, and 100th 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(XCVII)   | - CE/DEC/1(XCIX)  |
| - CE/DEC/6(XCVII)   | - CE/DEC/21(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/1(XCVIII)  | - CE/DEC/1(C)     |
| - CE/DEC/19(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/23(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/20(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/25(C)    |

**(b) Statutory matters and elections (reports of the Chair and of the Secretary-General, declaration of loyalty by the Secretary-General, membership, authorizations granted for the use of the UNWTO logo, United Nations system activities, Joint Inspection Unit recommendations, preparations for the twenty-first session of the General Assembly and election of officers)**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/2(XCVII)   | - CE/DEC/7(XCIX)  |
| - CE/DEC/3(XCVII)   | - CE/DEC/14(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/4(XCVII)   | - CE/DEC/15(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/5(XCVII)   | - CE/DEC/20(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/2(XCVIII)  | - CE/DEC/2(C)     |
| - CE/DEC/7(XCVIII)  | - CE/DEC/7(C)     |
| - CE/DEC/12(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/14(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/15(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/21(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/2(XCIX)    |                   |

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

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/9(XCVIII)  | - CE/DEC/12(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/10(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/10(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/11(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/11(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/14(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/12(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/10(XCIX)   | - CE/DEC/14(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/11(XCIX)   | - CE/DEC/15(C)    |

**(d) General programme of work and related issues (programme of work, Programme and Budget Committee, World Tourism Day, implementation of an ethics function, information and communication technologies at the Secretariat)**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/6(XCVIII)  | - CE/DEC/6(C)     |
| - CE/DEC/13(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/16(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/5(XCIX)    | - CE/DEC/17(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/6(XCIX)    | - CE/DEC/20(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/8(XCIX)    | - CE/DEC/16(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/13(XCIX)   |                   |

**(e) Affiliate membership**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| - CE/DEC/16(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/18(XCIX) |
| - CE/DEC/17(XCVIII) | - CE/DEC/18(C)    |
| - CE/DEC/17(XCIX)   | - CE/DEC/19(C)    |

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

#### **IV. Implementation of the general programme of work and budget for 2014-2015**

---

10. The Executive Council welcomed the Secretariat's proposal to lead the Sustainable Tourism Programme within the 10YFP and encouraged the Member States to actively support it.

11. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue its active participation in the Open Working Group discussions leading to the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

12. It also acknowledged with interest the recommendation for UNWTO to lead, with strong support of Member States, the possible launching of an International Year on Tourism for Development and Peace in 2017 and supported the Secretariat in taking the necessary measures to reach this milestone (CE/DEC/7(XCVIII)).

13. The Council requested the Secretary-General to develop standards-based measurement tools and guidelines on measuring sustainability in tourism in order to, among other objectives, properly contribute to the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to keep working on the measurement and analysis of tourism at the sub-national level in order to ensure the envisaged outcome of such an important initiative.

14. It also entrusted the Secretary-General to advise the Working Group on the Protection of Tourists/Consumers and Travel Organizers to continue the elaboration of the text of the Convention and to report on future necessary steps (CE/DEC/6(C)).

#### **V. Draft programme of work and budget for 2016-2017**

---

15. The Executive Council recommended the General Assembly to adopt the draft general programme of work and budget of the Organization for the period 2016-2017, for a total amount of 26,984,000 euros, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 23(2) of the Statutes, and to authorize the Secretary-General to execute the programme of work and budget for 2016-2017 in accordance with the amounts collected, establishing a plan of expenditure for that purpose and keeping with the satisfactory budgetary practice established in the previous financial years.

16. The Council took note of the changes made in the structure of the revised Programme Budget for 2014-2015 and noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's proposal to present a balanced budget for the biennium 2016-2017 with zero nominal growth based on the 2015 budget, with the budget of 2016 and 2017 being in the same amount as the 2015 budget (CE/DEC/17(C)).

#### **VI. Report of the Working Group on Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

---

17. The Executive Council expressed its appreciation for the activities of the Working Group on Official Development Assistance (WG-ODA) in pursuing the objective of achieving full ODA eligibility for UNWTO and mobilizing new resources for the Organization, as set out in decision CE/DEC/4(XCV).

18. The Council endorsed the proposal of the WG-ODA to create the "Tourism for Development Facility" in order to strengthen the efforts of the Secretariat to mobilize ODA resources.

19. It requested the Secretary-General to report on the “Tourism for Development Facility” to the next Executive Council and to further strengthen advocacy efforts in positioning tourism as a sector with high impact for development and UNWTO endeavours as a development UN agency (CE/DEC/8(C)).

## **VII. United Nations system activities**

---

20. The Executive Council noted with satisfaction the active participation of the Secretariat in the Open Working Group discussions and encouraged it to follow up on the processes leading to the approval of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

21. The Council welcomed the decision of the 10YFP Secretariat to invite UNWTO to lead the preparation of the final programme proposal on sustainable tourism, having France, Morocco and the Republic of Korea as co-leads, while encouraging Member States to actively support the Secretariat in this process (CE/DEC/7(XCIX)).

22. The Executive Council encouraged the Secretariat to continue its active participation in the various UN working groups and streams which are addressing the overall framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the subsequent indicators as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

23. It also encouraged the Secretariat to follow and actively contribute to the preparations of the Third Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015) and the related processes and other initiatives that aim to implement the post-2015 Development Agenda (CE/DEC/7(C)).

## **VIII. Membership**

---

24. The Executive Council took note with satisfaction of the decisions of Samoa and Barbados to join the Organization and recommended the General Assembly to approve the countries' candidatures in accordance with Article 5(3) of the Statutes (CE/DEC/15(XCIX)) and (CE/DEC/14(C)).

25. The Council urged Norway to reconsider its decision to withdraw from UNWTO and to once again take its place in the Organization.

26. It called upon the member countries of the United Nations that do not yet belong to the UNWTO to join the Organization and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard (CE/DEC/14(C)).

## **IX. Financial situation of the Organization**

---

27. The Executive Council urged Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2015 thereby averting delays that could hamper programme execution.

28. The Council approved financing of the investments at the Secretariat from the Special Contingency Reserve in accordance with its terms of reference, encompassing the renewal of the ninth-floor meeting rooms, the renewal of UNWTO's printers and the development of a new UNWTO website up to a total of 256,000 euros.

29. The Council noted that UNWTO has completed the IPSAS implementation successfully and received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2014 Financial Statements ((CE/DEC/10(C)).

## **X. Human resources matters**

---

30. The Executive Council expressed its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in the service of the Organization. It approved the amendments of paragraphs (b), (c) and (g) of Rule 17(1) "Special Leave" of the Staff Rules ((CE/DEC/15(C)).

## **XI. Ethics function**

---

31. The Executive Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Ethics Officer regarding the activities implemented by the Ethics Office in 2014.

32. It commended the progress made by the Secretary-General in applying ethical standards throughout 2014 and encouraged him to continue to implement the ethics function, in particular through additional training to staff on ethics (CE/DEC/16(C)).

## **XII. Affiliate Members**

---

33. During the period under consideration, 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 35, 13 and 46 applications at its ninety-eighth, ninety-ninth and 100th sessions, respectively, for affiliate membership. That is a total of 94 applications which will have to be approved by the Assembly (CE/DEC/17(XCVIII), CE/DEC/18(XCIX) and CE/DEC/19(C)).

## **XIII. World Tourism Day**

---

34. The Council approved for submission to the 21st session of the General Assembly, the following themes for World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017:

2016: "Tourism for All - promoting universal accessibility";

2017: "Tourism - driving peace and development".

35. The Council noted that the proposed host countries for World Tourism Day for 2016 and 2017 would be presented to the 101st session of the Executive Council for approval and subsequent submission to the 21st session of the General Assembly (CE/DEC/15(C)).

## **XIV. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly**

---

36. The General Assembly is invited:

(a) To take note of the information presented concerning the Council's activities, and in particular the decisions of its ninety-seventh, ninety-eighth, ninety-ninth and 100th ordinary sessions;

(b) To take cognizance of the major matters considered by the Council, such as the implementation of the programme of work for 2014-2015, the financial situation of the Organization, the draft programme of work for 2016-2017, the implementation of an ethics function in the Organization, the progress in the field of United Nations system activities, Affiliate Members activities, World Tourism Day and membership of the Organization;

- (c) To approve the report of the Council;
- (d) To pay tribute to the dedication and competence demonstrated by its Chairs, Indonesia in 2014, and Jamaica, which occupied the post of Chair in 2015; and
- (e) To also thank the Vice-Chairs, Jamaica and Mozambique in 2014, and Mozambique and Croatia in 2015, for the quality of the work they carried out in the exercise of their functions.