



General Assembly

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Election of Council Members

I. Membership of the Executive Council

1. The General Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council, in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes of the Organization, which reads as follows¹:

“The Council shall consist of Full Members elected by the Assembly in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly, with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution.”

2. Article 15 of the Statutes also stipulates that:

“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...). Election for one-half of the membership of the Council shall be held every two years.”

3. This provision is enlarged upon in rule 55(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, paragraph 4 of which reads:

“The term of office of the Members of the Council shall begin immediately following their election by the Assembly and shall end on the election of their successors.”

4. Article 14(1) of the Statutes provides that the total number of the Organization’s Full Members determines the number of seats on the Council. In order to achieve, so far as possible, fair and equitable geographical representation, the number of seats per region is calculated on the basis of one seat for every five Members out of the total number of Members in each region. By the time the Organization achieved 155 Full Members, the Executive Council was then composed of 31 seats, in addition to Spain as a permanent member.

5. At the date of this document, the total number of Full Members of the Organization is 156. Should the General Assembly approve Samoa’s and Barbados’ candidatures to full membership, the total number would therefore come to 158 Member States (see Annex I). Consequently, and in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes, the Council may be composed of thirty-one members (as it is today), in

¹ The same provision is repeated in rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.



addition to Spain as a permanent member, during the period between the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the General Assembly. This would mean, however, that despite the fact that the Organization has 156 Full Members and is expecting to approve in this session of the General Assembly two more candidatures, the number of seats in the Council remains unchanged. This situation is neither fair nor representative of the membership of the Organization and fails to fulfill the goal of “equitable geographical distribution”.

6. Aligning the number of seats in the Executive Council with the increasing membership of the Organization would preserve its representative character while at the same time it would facilitate the allocation of an extra seat to the regions that aspire to have a greater voice and more effective role for their people.

7. The application of the statutory rule of 1/5 to 158 Full Members makes the resulting figure closer to 32 rather than 31. When this situation arises it would seem more logical to round the figure to the highest whole number. This would enable the allocation of one extra seat while fully complying with the Statutes as they do not provide a fixed number of seats. In the event that the General Assembly approves this interpretation of Article 14(1) of the Statutes, the number of seats of the Council for the period 2015-2017 will be 32 instead of 31, in addition to Spain as a permanent member. Other UN organizations follow a similar practice when adapting the size of non-plenary organs to their increasing membership.

8. This rule may be implemented without having to initiate any amendment process to Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and the Executive Council. Nevertheless, should the Member States wish to adopt this new practice as a consistent rule, an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly should be produced and submitted to the next session of the General Assembly for its approval, along with a report on the practice of other UN organizations in this regard.

9. The current membership of the Executive Council is indicated in Annex II (including Peru and Bahamas which will replace Argentina and Jamaica until 2017).

10. Annexes III to VIII provide a graphical representation of terms of office, broken down by region, since the creation of UNWTO, and Annex IX shows that in addition to the fifteen members which stay until the twenty second session of the General Assembly how the 17 new full members can be elected to the Council.

II. Candidatures for membership of the Council

11. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2015-2019

AFRICA (5 seats can be filled)

Kenya

Mozambique (re-election)

Zimbabwe

Morocco

Zambia

Ghana

Côte d'Ivoire

Cameroon
Dem. Republic of Congo

AMERICAS (1 seat can be filled)

Costa Rica
Paraguay
Brazil (re-election)
Mexico (re-election)

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (4 seats can be filled)

Japan
China (re-election)
Republic of Korea (re-election)
Indonesia (re-election)

EUROPE (3 seats can be filled)

Portugal
Russian Federation (re-election)
Slovakia
Uzbekistan (re-election)
Poland
France (re-election)
Italy (re-election)

MIDDLE EAST (1 seat can be filled)

Iraq
Saudi Arabia (re-election)

SOUTH ASIA (No seat to be filled)

12. Any other candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the Assembly will be announced in an addendum to this document.

13. It should be recalled that Executive Council decisions 4(XXXIII) and 4(XXXIV) recommend that "...only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council".

14. Associate Members are, for their part, requested to nominate a representative to the Executive Council.

15. The Board of Affiliate Members is requested to nominate its representative to serve on the Executive Council. This function is traditionally shouldered by the Chair of the Board.

III. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

16. The General Assembly is invited:

After having received the proposals of its Regional Commissions, the Associate Members and the Committee of Affiliate Members,

- (a) To decide that the number of seats of the Executive Council for the period 2015-2017 will be 32, in addition to Spain as a permanent member;
- (b) To declare which Full Members are elected as members of the Executive Council for the period 2015-2019, for the 14 regular seats and 3 “floating” seats;
- (c) To note the Associate Members will be represented by their selected representative on the Executive Council for the period 2015-2019; and
- (d) To note that the Affiliate Members will be represented on the Council by the Chair of their Board.

ANNEX I

MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION - 156+ 2=158

Argentina	Albania	Hungary	Russian Federation	Bahrain	Afghanistan	Australia
Bahamas	Andorra	Israel	San Marino	Egypt	Bangladesh	Brunei Darussalam
Bolivia	Armenia	Italy	Serbia	Iraq	Bhutan	Cambodia
Brazil	Austria	Kazakhstan	Slovakia	Jordan	India	China
Chile	Azerbaijan	Kyrgyzstan	Slovenia	Kuwait	Iran	D.P.R. of Korea
Colombia	Belarus	Lithuania	Spain	Lebanon	Maldives	Fiji
Costa Rica	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Malta	Switzerland	Libya	Nepal	Indonesia
Cuba	Bulgaria	Monaco	The FYROM	Oman	Pakistan	Japan
Dominican Rep	Croatia	Montenegro	Tajikistan	Qatar	Sri Lanka	Lao PDR
Ecuador	Cyprus	Netherlands	Turkey	Saudi Arabia		Malaysia
El Salvador	Czech Republic	Norway	Turkmenistan	Syrian Arab Republic.	CSA 9	Mongolia
Guatemala	France	Poland	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates		Myanmar
Haiti	Georgia	Portugal	Uzbekistan	Yemen		Papua New Guinea
Honduras	Germany	Republic of Moldova		CME 13		Philippines
Jamaica	Greece	Romania				Rep. of Korea
Mexico						Thailand
Nicaragua	CEU 43					Timor-Leste
Panama						Vanuatu
Paraguay	Algeria	Ethiopia	Niger			Viet Nam
Peru	Angola	Gabon	Nigeria			Samoa
Trinidad and Tobago	Benin	Gambia	Rwanda			CAP 19+ 1=20
Uruguay	Botswana	Ghana	Sao Tome and-Principe			
Venezuela	Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal			Observers: Holy See
Barbados	Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles			Palestine
	Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone			
CAM 23+ 1=24	Cape Verde	Lesotho	South Africa			Associate Members:
	Central African Rep.	Liberia	Sudan			
	Chad	Madagascar	Swaziland			Aruba
	Congo	Malawi	Togo			Flanders
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Tunisia			Hong Kong, China
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Mauritania	Uganda			Macao, China
	Djibouti	Mauritius	United R. of Tanzania			Madeira
	Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	Zambia			Puerto Rico
	Eritrea	Mozambique	Zimbabwe			
	CAF 49	Namibia				

ANNEX II

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REGION	MEMBERS	TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES IN	
		2015	2017
AFRICA	Angola	----->	----->
	Gambia	----->	
	Madagascar	----->	
	Mauritania	----->	
	Mozambique	----->	
	Nigeria	----->	
	Seychelles	----->	----->
	South Africa	----->	----->
	Tunisia	----->	----->
	United Republic of Tanzania	----->	
	AMERICAS	Argentina/Peru	----->
Brazil		----->	
Ecuador		----->	----->
Jamaica/Bahamas		----->	----->
Mexico		----->	
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	China	----->	
	Indonesia	----->	
	Republic of Korea	----->	
SOUTH ASIA	India	----->	----->
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	----->	----->
EUROPE	Azerbaijan	----->	----->
	Bulgaria	----->	----->
	Croatia	----->	----->
	France	----->	
	Germany	----->	----->
	Italy	----->	
	Russian Federation	----->	
	Serbia	----->	----->
	Uzbekistan	----->	
	Spain		<i>Permanent Member</i>
MIDDLE EAST	Egypt	----->	----->
	Saudi Arabia	----->	

ANNEX IX

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

	<i>Column No. 1</i>	<i>Column No. 2</i>	<i>Column No. 3</i>	<i>Column No. 4</i>	<i>Column No. 5</i>	<i>Column No. 6</i>	<i>Column No. 7</i>
REGION	MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION BY REGION	SEAT ENTITLEMENT ON THE COUNCIL	COUNCIL SEATS FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2015	TERMS OF OFFICE CONTINUING UNTIL 2017	TERMS OF OFFICE EXPIRING IN 2015	NEW SEATS CORRESPONDING TO SETS OF FIVE MEMBERS	FRACTIONS OF FIVE MEMBERS REMAINING
AFRICA	49	9	10	4	6	5	4
AMERICAS	23+1=24	4	5	3(*)	2	1	4
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	19+1=20	4	3	0	3	4	0
EUROPE	43	8	9	5	4	3	3
MIDDLE EAST	13	2	2	1	1	1	3
SOUTH ASIA	9	1	2	2	0	0	(4)
TOTAL =====	156+2=158 ===	28 ==	31 ==	15 ==	16 ==	14 ==	18(**) ===

The seat of Spain as a permanent member of the Executive Council does not appear in Annex IX.

(*) By resolution 639(XX) of the 20th General Assembly in 2013, Peru will replace Argentina and Bahamas will replace Jamaica until 2017.

(**) This allows for four so-called "floating" seats on the Council between 2015 and 2017. In the period of 2013-2015 there were four "floating" seats which have been held by Africa, the Americas, South Asia and Europe. The "floating" seat still corresponding to the region of South Asia will remain occupied until 2017, which allows for three "floating" seats to be distributed at the twenty-first General Assembly.