



Executive Council

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Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(d) Membership status

I. Present membership

1. At the date of this document, the total number of Member States of the Organization is 158. No membership applications or withdrawals have been received since the last report of the Secretary-General on membership status to the 22nd General Assembly.

II. Contacts with non-member States

2. The Secretariat aims at expanding membership in the Organization which is one of the key objectives of the current management. 16 non-members have been identified as priority states to join and re-join the UNWTO, namely, in Europe: the United Kingdom, Latvia, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein; in the Americas: the United States of America and Canada; in Asia and the Pacific: Australia and New Zealand; in Africa: South Sudan.

3. The Secretariat is working to prepare proposals based on the benefits of UNWTO membership, concrete areas of cooperation and action plans.

Europe

4. The Secretary-General will meet with the Minister of the Arts, Tourism and Heritage of the United Kingdom in London before the 108th session of the UNWTO Executive Council to discuss issues of common interest and membership. An official visit of the Secretary-General to Estonia is being planned in the second half of 2018. The Regional Programme for Europe is actively in touch with the respective ministries of tourism on a technical level to discuss ways for future cooperation. The Nordic and Anglo-Saxon countries are very much interested in Innovation and Digital Transformation, which is one of the main priority areas of the UNWTO management. Public and private-sector representatives of non-member States have expressed their interest to participate in the 2nd UNWTO World Conference on Smart Destinations to be held in Oviedo, Spain on 25-27 June 2018.



The Americas

5. The Secretary-General has met with the Ambassador of the United States to Spain and requested him to convey to the U.S. Government the political message on the benefits for the United States to re-join the Organization. The Director of Sustainable Development of Tourism Programme has held several meetings with the authorities of Canada on the occasion of the Second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the Traveller Identification Programme (TAG/TRIP/2).

Asia and the Pacific

6. The Secretary-General has met with the Ambassadors of New Zealand and Australia to encourage their governments to consider joining or resuming their membership in the Organization.

Africa

7. Different initiatives have been undertaken towards South Sudan for its membership.

III. Action by the Executive Council

DRAFT DECISION¹

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on membership status,

1. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the Secretary-General in order to expand membership;
2. *Welcomes* the systematic approach of the Secretariat towards attracting new Members through the preparation of specific proposals that include the benefits of membership, concrete areas and action plans;
3. *Calls upon* the member countries of the United Nations that do not yet belong to the UNWTO to join the Organization, and
4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard.

¹ This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.