

CE/109/DEC

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
AT ITS 109TH SESSION**

Manama, Bahrain, 30 October-1 November 2018

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### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Agenda item 1  
(document CE/109/1 prov.)

*The Executive Council*

*Adopts* the agenda of its 109th session as proposed.

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### **Communication of the Chair**

Agenda item 2  
(document CE/109/2)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having heard* the communication of the Chair, Mr. Gustavo Santos, Minister of Tourism of Argentina,

1. *Thanks* him for it;
2. *Takes note* of the report given by the Chair stating that all the Council Members present have submitted their credentials;
3. *Appreciates* the Chair's efforts for the inclusion of tourism in the outcome document of the G.20 Summit in Buenos Aires; and
4. *Endorses* the Chair's support for the development of the UNWTO Strategic Plan towards 2030.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
General Programme of Work**

Agenda item 3(a)  
(document CE/109/3(a) rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Work,

1. *Takes note* of the activities implemented and progress made;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further inform the Executive Council on the UN Reform, including related operational and financial obligations, as well as benefits; and
3. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proposal to work with all UNWTO Members on the UNWTO Strategic Plan towards 2030 and to present a preliminary draft at the 110th session of the UNWTO Executive Council in 2019.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

Agenda item 3(b)i  
(document CE/109/3(b)i)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Programme and Budget Committee (document CE/109/3(b)i),

*Takes note* of the recommendations presented in the report.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2018**

Agenda item 3(b)ii  
(document CE/109/3(b)ii rev.1 & CE/109/3(b)ii Add.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2018 (document CE/109/3(b)ii rev.1) and the addendum UNWTO Financial Report for the period ended 30 September 2018 (document CE/109/3(b)ii Add.1),

1. *Approves* the Secretary-General's proposal of revised 2018 budget structure and appropriations in accordance with the new structure made by the Secretary-General at 30 September 2018 as presented in the addendum;
2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to review the current Regular Budget structure presentation with the aim of showing a breakdown by budget category to ensure more efficient cost optimization and requests him to present a proposal at its next sessions;
3. *Takes note* of the i) plan of income and expenditure for the financial year 2018 presented by the Secretary-General at 30 September 2018, ii) 2018 Regular Budget assessed and arrears contributions received (cash-in) from Members at 30 September 2018, iii) voluntary contributions received (cash-in) and in-kind contributions for the period ended 30 September 2018, iv) information provided on United Nations salary scales approved and applicable by virtue of Article 16 of the "Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization" and of v) Initiative projects (PRF) information at 30 September 2018 as presented in the addendum;
4. *Approves* the Secretary-General's proposal of using the Project Support Cost available balance:
  - (a) To return the advance made by the Working Capital Fund (WCF) to the General Fund in 2014, partially returned with the budgetary cash surpluses of 2015 and 2016, amounting to EUR 238,396,
  - (b) To return the advance in the amount of EUR 511,202 made from the Working Capital Fund (WCF) to the General Fund in 2017 (total accumulated WCF advance at 31 December 2017 amounting to EUR 749,598) partially or in full at 31 December 2018, contingent upon the 2018 budgetary cash result, and
  - (c) Partially, in the near future, to augment the General Fund, in order to compensate indirect variable costs to support the Programme of Work of the Organization and its priorities;
5. *Approves* the Secretary-General's proposal, in accordance with Financial Regulation 10.1(f), of using the Project Reserve Fund's available balance partially or in full as a means of increasing proposed RB budgetary income as necessary;

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6. *Takes note* with appreciation of the submission of the provisional interim unaudited UNWTO Financial Statements for the period ended 30 September 2018;
7. *Urges* Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2018 and reminds Members to pay their contributions to the budget within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;
8. *Thanks* the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations, in particular, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania for having settled their arrear contributions either partially or in full;
9. *Notes* that Bahrain, Bolivia, Cambodia, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua and Papua New Guinea have respected their agreed payment plans up to 2018 either partially or in full within the reporting period of this document;
10. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proactive approach for the settlement of arrear contributions in order to contribute towards the Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform it, at its next session, about the Members' compliance with the agreements made with a view, as the case may be, to maintaining the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 that they were granted by the General Assembly or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments; and
12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform it, at its next sessions, on the advances made in the IPSAS post-implementation phase project, in particular, with regard to the development of the UNWTO financial management information system, since the progress report submitted to the 22nd session of the GA (A/22/10(III)(b)) and on the proposed financial management information system solution for UNWTO, either continuing with the enhancement of Athena or implementing a different solution.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
Progress on the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations**

Agenda item 3(c)  
(document CE/109/3(c))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations, document CE/109/3(c),

1. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General to report on JIU recommendations in a single dedicated yearly report;
2. *Takes note* of the reports issued by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2017 referenced in the document and thanks the JIU for its insights;
3. *Approves* the actions to be taken on each one of them, as proposed in the Annex I of the document and requests the Secretary-General to report accordingly on them to the JIU;
4. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved, notably since January 2018, with regards to the JIU recommendations issued until 2016 that were pending implementation;
5. *Considers* closed those recommendations that have been 100% implemented;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this issue to the next session of the General Assembly;

*Having examined* the report of its Chair, document CE/109/3(c) Add.1,

7. *Takes note* of the fact that the Chair of the Council has reviewed the confidential report prepared by UNOPS on the case referred to in the addendum;
8. *Thanks* UNOPS and in particular its Ethics Officer, Mr. David Mitchels, for taking up the review of the case with confidentiality and professionalism;
9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretariat to consult the Chair of the Executive Council;
10. *Endorses* the decision of the Chair of the Executive Council and the Deputy Secretary-General to outsource the case to an external and independent entity in order to ensure the impartiality and objectivity of the process;
11. *Supports* the outcome of the preliminary assessment and, in particular, the conclusion that no investigation is required;
12. *Authorizes* the UNWTO Ethics Officer to conduct an initial consideration of any similar future complaints with a view to recommending any further action as appropriate;

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13. *Instructs* the UNWTO Ethics Officer to review the current policies on whistle-blower and protection against retaliation, and to establish appropriate mechanisms for handling such complaints; and
14. *Requests* the UNWTO Ethics Officer to report any progress to the next session of the Executive Council, as part of her annual report.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
Membership**

Agenda item 3(d)i  
(document CE/109/3(d)i rev.1)

*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 and other UNWTO officials in order to expand membership;
2. *Welcomes* the systematic approach of the Secretariat towards attracting new Members through the preparation of detailed working documents with membership benefits and concrete areas of cooperation;
3. *Calls upon* those Member States of the United Nations that do not yet belong to UNWTO to join the Organization; and
4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
Human resources**

Agenda item 3(d)ii  
(document CE/109/3(d)ii)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the human resources situation of the Organization,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization;
2. *Expresses* its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in the service of the Organization and the contribution to the Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;
3. *Encourages* Member States to send concrete proposals to the Secretariat for the financing of Junior Professional Officers at UNWTO;
4. *Encourages* Member States to send to the Secretariat, Officials on Loan, especially in view of the rising demands on the Organization with its limited resources;
5. *Endorses* the amendments to Staff Regulations 15(g) and 28, for submission to the General Assembly for approval;
6. *Approves* the amendment to Staff Rule 14(3)(b) and endorses the amendment of Staff Regulation 28, which will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval;
7. *Approves* the amendments to Staff Rules 24(3)(a), 24(3)(b) and 24(18), and endorses the amendment of Staff Regulation 15(g), which will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval;
8. *Approves* the amendment to Staff Rule 31(2)(a)(i); and
9. *Approves* the amendment to paragraphs 21(b) and (c) of Annex 2 of the Staff Regulations and Rules on the Rules of the Joint Appeals Committee.

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**Report of the Secretary-General  
Status of ratification of amendments to the Statutes and of the 1947 Convention  
on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies**

Agenda item 3(d)iii  
(document CE/109/3(d)iii)

The Executive Council,

Noting the adoption of a new amendment procedure through the amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes and the low level of accessions to Annex XVIII of the 1947 Convention,

1. *Takes note* of document CE/109/3(d)iii on the situation of amendments to the Statutes;
2. *Thanks* the Member States that have ratified one or several amendments or that have initiated the necessary procedure;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to do everything in their power to ratify all amendments to the Statutes and the Financing Rules, with particular regard to the amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes adopted by resolution 695(XXII);
4. *Encourages* the Working Group to further continue its analysis of the current relevance of other pending amendments to the Statutes and its Financing Rules and to submit its recommendations to the next session of the Executive Council for endorsement and subsequently to the 23rd session of the General Assembly for approval;

Recalling that, pursuant to resolution 489(XVI) adopted by the General Assembly, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and its Annex XVIII are applicable to all operations and activities of UNWTO in the territories of its Members,

5. *Requests* Member States to ratify the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and to explicitly notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the application of Annex XVIII to the UNWTO; and
6. *Requests* the Member States to include a specific reference thereto in all agreements concluded with the Organization for the execution of technical assistance projects in their territories.

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## **Report on the preparation of the General Assembly**

Agenda item 4  
(document CE/109/4)

The Executive Council,

*Having examined* the report on the preparation of the General Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the proposed modifications with regards to the meetings of the Regional Commissions in 2019; and
2. *Decides* that there will be no meeting of the Executive Council on the eve of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, and that consequently both the Programme and Budget Committee and the 110th session of the Executive Council taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan, will examine all necessary issues to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

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**Affiliate Members**  
**Report of the Chair of the Affiliate Members**

Agenda item 5(a)  
(document CE/109/5(a))

*The Executive Council,*

Having examined the report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members,

1. *Acknowledges* the constructive role of the initiatives implemented in the Action Plan of the Affiliate Members Department, as well as the growing number of Affiliate Members that participate in them;
2. *Encourages* participation of the Member States in the existing UNWTO Networks and UNWTO Working Groups as well as proactive involvement of new areas of exchange of expertise; and
3. *Supports* the organization of future meetings, in collaboration with UNWTO Regional Departments, to formally introduce the Affiliate Members Department and encourages the engagement of new potential members.

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**Affiliate Members**  
**Report of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership**

Agenda item 5(b)  
(document CE/109/5(b))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of its Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership, which met in Manama, Bahrain, on 31 October 2018, under the chairmanship of Thailand,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee; and
2. *Decides* to admit provisionally to affiliate membership the following candidates, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session:
  1. Bonport (France)
  2. Cote d'Ivoire Tourisme (Cote d'Ivoire)
  3. European Historic Thermal Towns Association - EHTTA(Belgium)
  4. Four Communications Group (United Kingdom)
  5. GBSB Global Business School (Spain)
  6. Hamedan Municipality (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
  7. IE Business School (Spain)
  8. Kish Free Zone Organization (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
  9. Kuwait International Driving Permit & Carnet Club (Kuwait)
  10. Lebanese University (Lebanon)
  11. Leeds Beckett University (United Kingdom)
  12. Niantic Inc. (USA)
  13. Periodistas y Editores de Turismo, A.C. (Mexico)
  14. Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Japan)
  15. Sociedad de Promoción y Desarrollo Económico de la Isla de la Palma, SAU (Spain)
  16. Tourism in Skåne (Sweden)
  17. Universidad Católica Boliviana "San Pablo" (Bolivia)
  18. Urpeak Sarl (Switzerland)
  19. Wine in Moderation – Art de Vivre (WiM Association) (Belgium)

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## **Election of the Vice-Chairs of the Executive Council for 2019**

Agenda item 6  
(document CE/109/6 rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having regard to* Rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure,

*Recalling* its decision 8 (CVII) regarding the designation of Zambia as Chair of the Council for 2019,

1. *Decides* to elect Argentina as first Vice-Chair in 2019;
2. *Decides* to elect Thailand as second Vice-Chair in 2019;
3. *Requests* the Full Members elected to the chairmanship/vice-chairmanships to designate the persons to perform these duties in accordance with Rule 5(4) of its Rules of Procedures; and
4. *Pays special tribute* to the outgoing Chair, H.E. Mr. Gustavo Santos, Minister of Tourism of Argentina, the first Vice-Chair, H.E. Mr. Charles Romel Banda, Minister of Tourism and Arts of Zambia, and the second Vice-Chair H.E. Mr. K.J. Alphons, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture of India, for the quality of the work they have accomplished for the benefit of the Organization in the performance of their functions.

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### **Vote of thanks to the host country**

*The Executive Council,*

*Having carried out* the work of its 109th session under the excellent conditions placed at its disposal by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain,

1. *Expresses* its most sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Bahrain for the support extended to the UNWTO;
2. *Expresses also* its appreciation for the opportunity provided to the delegates to enjoy the attractions of the city of Manama and as well as to attend various social events and technical visits;
3. *Expresses*, in particular, its deepest appreciation H.E. Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, for his gracious presence at the Opening Ceremony and at the UNWTO Tech Adventures Forum on day two of the Council session; and
4. *Conveys* its profound thanks to H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Humoud Al Khalifa, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, and to all his staff, for their magnificent hospitality, as well as their personal involvement in and constant support to the organization of the meeting.