



## Executive Council

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### Report of the Secretary-General

#### Part I: Current situation and activities

##### (e) Technical committees on competitiveness and sustainability issues

##### Redefining name, mandate, composition and modus operandi

#### I. Introduction

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1. Ever since its inception, the Organization has established the subsidiary organs that it considers necessary for its work. These organs may be created by the General Assembly or by the Executive Council. The present document relates to those organs established by the Council.

2. Rule 9 of the Council's Rules of Procedure states that the Council shall establish one main committee, the Programme and Budget Committee. Rule 8 provides that the Council may establish, at its discretion, any subsidiary organs it considers necessary for its work.

3. As of today the list of subsidiary organs of the Executive Council<sup>1</sup>, usually referred to as technical committees, is as follows:

- (a) Programme and Budget Committee (PBC), which is the result of the recent merger of the Programme Committee with the Committee on Budget and Finance
- (b) Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account (CSTSA)
- (c) Committee on Poverty Reduction (CPR): Board of Directors of the ST-EP Foundation<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership (CRAAM)
- (e) Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee (SDTC)
- (f) Market and Competitiveness Committee (MCC)

4. It has been brought to the attention of the Secretary-General by some Members that the **Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee** and the **Market and Competitiveness Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The Regional Commissions and the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE) are subsidiary organs of the General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> In the light of the reform of UNWTO satellite entities, a revision of this committee may be envisaged.



are not operating satisfactorily. Therefore, the Secretariat initiated the process of reviewing the respective mandates, composition and modus operandi of the before-mentioned committees.

5. The present document is a proposal by the Secretary-General for renewed and more functional technical committees in relation with (a) competitiveness and (b) sustainability issues.

## II. Proposal for two renewed committees on competitiveness and sustainability issues

6. As stated in the White Paper, technical committees are important to ensure the desirable and necessary engagement of UNWTO Members, highlighting their responsibility and ownership. They are also essential to give added value to the work of the Secretariat and further advance the global knowledge on tourism.

7. It is recalled that the Programme and Budget Committee is the “*main instrument of the Executive Council for the preparation of the Organization’s budget and programme of work, for the monitoring of the programme of work and its financial implementation; and for the systematic evaluation and audit of its outputs, results and overall performance.*”<sup>3</sup>

8. The following paragraphs present the redefined name, mandate, composition and modus operandi of the two committees that are dealt with in this document.

### Mandate

9. As bodies with an advisory and consultative role, technical committees are meant to be the first step of a validation process that channels technical outputs referring to policies, principles, practices and processes such as definitions, guidelines, criteria and standards, especially in view of their normative character, to the corresponding governing organs for approval and endorsement, underscoring UNWTO’s nature as the specialized UN agency for tourism.

#### Competency of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness

10. The competency of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness refers to areas of work aiming at:

- (a) reinforcing UNWTO Members’ global competitiveness in the tourism marketplace,
- (b) helping them in delivering the highest quality of experience and the best value to visitors,
- (c) contributing to credible, consistent, updated and comparable market intelligence, and
- (d) creating synergies among all the tourism stakeholders for a better performance of destinations.

#### Competency of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability

11. The competency of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability refers to areas of work aiming at:

- (a) advancing the sustainable development and management of tourism, and
- (b) focusing especially on the generation of social, economic and cultural benefits at tourism destinations, while minimizing the negative impacts upon the natural or socio-cultural environments.

<sup>3</sup> See rules of procedures of the PBC in document A/19/11 ann.1.

## Composition

12. The two technical committees should be able to tackle all aspects of the reality of tourism and of the relations between the sector and the global challenges of the world. Therefore, they ensure, as much as possible, a diverse and representative participation of the public and private sectors, from national and international levels.

13. The groups of members are listed below, as well as some examples of possible partners to be included according to the specificity of each committee:

- **UNWTO Members:**
  - Member States, maintaining the current members of the SDTC<sup>4</sup> and MCC<sup>5</sup> elected for a period of four years (2011-2015)
  - Associate and Affiliate Members, still to be designated, according to the rules of the current SDTC and MCC for a period of four years (2011-2015)
- **Invited participants** (on an ad hoc basis, according to the agenda of one or more specific meeting(s))
  - International organizations
  - Public sector, private sector and civil society entities, including educational institutions, destination management organizations (DMOs)
  - Individual experts (e.g., researchers, personalities)

**Note:** *Invited participants to be included in each committee, and their terms of office, will be proposed by the Secretary-General for approval by the Executive Council.*

### **Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness,** examples of possible invited participants:

- International organizations: ILO, ICAO, World Bank Group, OECD, etc.
- Public sector, private sector and civil society entities: IATA, WTTC, PATA, etc.

### **Committee on Tourism and Sustainability,** examples of possible invited participants:

- International organizations: UNEP, UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF, UNCTAD, EU, etc.
- Public sector, private sector and civil society entities: TOI, CTO, etc.

## Modus operandi

14. New technologies shall be used as much as possible in order to reduce lead times for committee members, i.e., the time between inviting and convening the meeting as well as travel costs and environmental impacts. Hence, telephone and video conferences and also electronic meetings and consultations will be the main form of interaction.

15. However, conventional meetings requiring the actual presence of members are also needed for networking and ownership purposes. Therefore, it is proposed that both committees meet in the framework of the General Assembly. Other conventional meetings should be approved by the Executive Council, upon the proposal of the Secretary-General.

16. The logic of a wide support is a key element in the work of these committees. Hence, they will

<sup>4</sup> See: <http://dtxtg4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/docpdf/sustainabledevelopmentoftourismcommittee.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> See: <http://dtxtg4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/docpdf/marketandcompetitiveness.pdf>

run along a participatory and consensus-building process, leading to a broader legitimacy of the results of their work.

17. UNWTO Member States that belong to the technical committees elect a chair and a vice-chair among them.

18. UNWTO will not be able to cover the cost of participation of committees' Members at meetings.

19. The Secretary-General will delegate a staff member of the UNWTO Secretariat to act as Secretary for each of the two technical committees.

20. The rules of procedure of these committees will be adopted pursuant to rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, to which they are subordinate. Should circumstances arise, which are not provided for in the rules of procedure of the committees, the rules of procedure of the Executive Council shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

### **III. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council**

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21. The Executive Council is requested:

(a) To comment upon and to endorse the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the two renewed committees on competitiveness and sustainability issues;

(b) To officially change the names:

- of the Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee (SDTC) into the **Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)**, and
- of the Market and Competitiveness Committee (MCC) into the **Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC)**; and

(c) To request the Secretary-General:

- to organize the first meetings of both committees in the framework of the forthcoming General Assembly (2013, Zambia and Zimbabwe); and
- to submit to the 97<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council the rules of procedures proposed by the two committees<sup>6</sup> as well as the list of invited participants for each committee as stipulated under "**Composition of the Committees**".

(d) To approve that the representative of the Associate Members in the Executive Council be temporarily their representative in both committees until the Associate Members designate a Member for each committee; and

(e) To approve that the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members be temporarily their representative in both committees until the Board designates an Affiliate Member for each committee.

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<sup>6</sup> See rule 8(2) of the rules of procedure of the Executive Council.