



Executive Council

Ninety-fifth session
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Provisional agenda item 4

CE/95/4
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Recommendation by the Executive Council to the General Assembly of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2014-2017

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with rule 29 of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Council is required to recommend to the Assembly a nominee for appointment to the post of Secretary-General.
2. In accordance with the procedure prescribed by the last session of the Executive Council [decision 17 (XCIV)], only one candidature, that of Mr. Taleb Rifai (Jordan), was received on 29 March 2013 at 13:09 Madrid time, before the deadline for the submission of candidatures established by the Council had lapsed. Consequently, on 4 April 2013, a note verbale was sent to all Member States in order to keep them informed.
3. All the documents required by the above-mentioned procedure were provided by the candidate and the candidature may be considered to be in compliance with the rules established by the Council. The curriculum vitae and the statement of policy and management intent of the candidate are attached as Annex I of this document. These documents were prepared by the candidate under his own responsibility. The translation of the documents into the official languages of the Organization has been done by the Secretariat.
4. The rules of procedure for the election of the Secretary-General are laid down in Article 22 of the Statutes and rules 29 and 16 of the Council's Rules of Procedure. All necessary clarifications on the subject, made in document CE/94/6 and endorsed by the Council at its previous session are also reproduced herein in case delegations may need them during the election process.

II. Reminder of the rules and procedure in force for the election of the Secretary-General of the Organization (2014-2017)

A. Statutory and regulatory texts

5. Article 22 of the Statutes:

"The Secretary-General shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority of Full Members present and voting in the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council, for a term of four years. His appointment shall be renewable."



6. Rule 29 of the Rules of procedure of the Executive Council:

"1. The Council shall recommend to the Assembly a nominee for appointment to the post of Secretary-General.

2. The recommendation shall be made at a private meeting of the Council.

3. The recommendation shall be made by a simple majority of the Members of the Council present and voting. If no candidate receives the majority in the first ballot, a second and, if necessary, subsequent ballots shall be held to decide between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the first ballot."

7. Rule 16 of the Rules of procedure of the Executive Council:

"The meetings of the Council shall be public unless it decides otherwise. ..."

B. Procedure for the nomination of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization

8. The document approved by the Council at its 94th session in Campeche, Mexico (CE/94/6) referred to above, summarized the relevant Council decisions that have been consistently applied for the nomination for the post of the Secretary-General since 1992. They provide the following rules and procedure:

- (a) Only nationals of States Members of WTO may be candidates;
- (b) Candidates shall be formally proposed to the Council, through the Secretariat, by the governments of the States of which they are nationals, and these proposals should be received not later than (date to be determined), the postmark providing proof thereof;
- (c) voting shall be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot attached to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;
- (d) the vote shall be decided in accordance with Article 30 of the Statutes and Rule 28 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, by simple majority, defined as fifty per cent plus one of the valid ballots cast;
- (e) the selection of one nominee by the Council shall be conducted, in accordance with Rule 29 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, during a private meeting, part of which shall be a restrictive meeting, as follows:
 - (i) discussion of candidates shall be conducted during a restrictive private meeting at which only voting delegations and interpreters shall be present; there shall be no written record and no tape recording of the discussions;
 - (ii) during the balloting Secretariat staff necessary to assist with the voting shall be admitted;
- (f) the Executive Council decides not to recommend a candidate proposed by the government of a member State in unjustified arrears (paragraph 12 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes);

(g) the Council shall select only one nominee to recommend to the Assembly.

9. Since 1997, the nominees for election to the post of Secretary-General have made an oral presentation of their candidature and intentions during the Council's nominating session. Called in the Spanish alphabetical order of their surnames, the nominees were allotted equal time for making their presentations which were not followed by discussions.

10. In accordance with rule 29(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, the recommendation to the Assembly of a nominee for appointment to the post of Secretary-General:

“shall be made by a simple majority of the Members of the Council present and voting. If no candidate receives the majority in the first ballot, a second and, if necessary subsequent ballots shall be held to decide between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes.”

11. In accordance with the constant practice of the Organization, recalled in decision 17 (XXIII) of 1984, a simple majority is “defined as 50 per cent plus one of the valid ballots cast”. This rule was confirmed in 1988 and 1992 (decisions 19 (XXXIV) and 19 (XLIV). In the event of an odd number, it seems in conformity with logic, with the ordinary meaning of words and with the dominant practice, to define it rather as representing the number of votes immediately higher than half of the votes validly cast¹. After counting the votes, the tellers are responsible for determining the number of votes necessary to constitute the majority required, as defined above.

12. On the procedures of the “second” and “subsequent ballot” mentioned in rule 29(3), if they were necessary, the clarifications provided by the Legal Adviser in the Information Document for the Election of the Secretary-General in 1989 and confirmed in 2008 (16 (LXXXIV)) would apply in the event that two candidates should share the second place in the first ballot. The consequence would be that another ballot (and as many additional as necessary for achieving the required majority) would be organized between the three candidates to decide which two candidates, having received the greatest number of votes, will subsequently participate in the final ballot.

13. Representation of a State by another Full Member of the Organization during the election of the nominee will follow resolution 591 (XIX) adopted during the 19th session of the General Assembly in Korea in 2011. If a Full Member is unable to participate in the voting, it can be represented by a member of another State’s delegation, provided it submits a formal letter or fax signed by the competent authority designating the individual that will represent it and, if applicable, giving him/her the power to vote on its behalf. Please note that, unless the items for which the power to vote is given are clearly specified, it will be understood that the delegate has full powers to cast a vote on behalf of the Government he/she is representing by proxy on any agenda item. Delegations are requested to avoid having more than one delegate representing another State for an orderly conduct of business.

14. It is recalled that Members to which Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes are being applied at the time of the election are deprived of the Member’s privileges in the form of services and the right to vote in the Assembly and the Council unless they have been granted a temporary exemption from the application of such provisions by the Assembly.

C. Meetings of the Executive Council for the nomination of the Secretary-General

15. Decision 11(LIV) of the Executive Council provides for two types of meeting to nominate the Secretary-General, both private:

¹ CE/84/12 Add.1. Summary note by the Legal Adviser on the procedure and timetable for the election of the Secretary-General of the Organization for the period 2010-2013.

- (i) a restrictive private meeting;
- (ii) a normal private meeting.

16. It should be noted that in order to hold meetings, and hence in order to be able to decide on the "nomination of the Secretary-General", the Executive Council must have the necessary quorum. According to rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, a "majority of the Members of the Council" constitutes a quorum. The Chairman of the Council must confirm at the beginning of the meeting that there is the necessary quorum, i.e., that at least sixteen Members of the Council are present in the room.

1. Restrictive private meeting

17. During the restrictive private meeting, which will precede the normal private meeting, the Executive Council shall conduct a "discussion of candidates". "Only voting delegations and interpreters" shall be present at this meeting.

2. Normal private meeting

18. During the normal private meeting, the Executive Council votes on the various candidates. This meeting may be attended by Full, Associate and Affiliate Members (though, of course, without participating in the vote), which, according to the provisions of rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, have the right to participate in the work of the Council. Thus, the normal private meeting, during which the vote will be held, may be attended by:

- (a) the Members of the Executive Council, including the host State of the Organization, Permanent Member, whose delegations must be composed in accordance with rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council: "*The delegation of each Full Member of the Council shall consist of one delegate, who may be accompanied by one or more advisers entitled to act as alternates*";
- (b) one delegate of an Associate Member;
- (c) one representative of the Affiliate Members;
- (d) Full Members that are not Members of the Executive Council, in an observer capacity;
- (e) Members responsible for the chairmanship of the Regional Commissions specifically invited to participate in the Council in accordance with rule 6(7) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council;
- (f) Secretariat officials designated by the Secretary-General and necessary for the conduct of the vote;
- (g) the interpreters.

D. Other questions that may arise and covered indirectly by the regulatory texts, or have been resolved in practice

19. Presence of the candidates at the private meeting (restrictive and normal) of the Council during nomination of the Secretary-General: it is the generally accepted practice in international organizations that candidates should not be present. Nevertheless, if the Council so decides, candidates may be heard by the Council when discussion of the agenda item in question begins. This practice was

observed in both 1997 and 2001, with the candidates being called to address the Council, under the same conditions and in alphabetical order.

20. Discussion during the vote itself: no discussion or intervention may take place during the vote itself, which may not be interrupted under any circumstances, except in the case of force majeure or purely technical problems.

21. Suspension or adjournment of the meeting in the event of two or more ballots: according to rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, suspension or adjournment of the meeting may be proposed by a delegate and decided upon by the Council by a simple majority of Members present and voting. A motion to suspend or adjourn the meeting cannot be debated and must be immediately put to the vote. It should be noted that the practice at UNWTO has always been for the Executive Council to proceed immediately with as many ballots as necessary, without suspending or adjourning the meeting.

III. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council

22. The Executive Council is requested:

- (a) To recall Article 12(c) of the Statutes and rule 29(1) of its Rules of Procedure;
- (b) To proceed with the election of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 2014-2017 in accordance with the rules and procedure established in CE/94/6 by its decision 17 (XCIV); and
- (c) To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the nominee elected by the Council during its 95th session.

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4. **Transforming the Affiliate Members' structure into a more meaningful and effective body:** In the last four years, major transformations and reforms to the structure of the Affiliate Members have been introduced. The General Assembly held in the Republic of Korea in 2011 approved the new rules and procedures and elected a new Affiliate Members Board, which is more representative structurally and geographically. The new Board has succeeded in attracting new members in many regions that were under-represented, and embarked in several global and regional activities such as the first General Assembly of the Affiliate Members held in Istanbul in 2012. Much work still needs to be done, but progress in this area is clear.

5. **Expanding resources and funding potential:** As planned, a Unit exclusively dedicated to resource mobilization was established within the Secretariat in 2010. The Unit has engaged actively with major donors at a bilateral level as well as at regional and international levels. While UNWTO is still largely dependent on its regular budget for its main operations, the Organization has been able in the last four years to raise much-valued extra budgetary funds and leverage its limited resources to increase the effectiveness of its operations and better serve its membership. Efforts need to be continued and strengthened in this area, namely in transforming the UNWTO into a fully-fledged ODA eligible Organization; yet the attribution of ODA eligibility to the UNWTO at bilateral level was an important step achieved during this period.

6. **Engaging Member States:** This is probably the area where most progress has been achieved. The sense of ownership, involvement and engagement of Member States at all levels has become evident. Members of the Executive Council, Regional Commissions and the full membership at the General Assembly have become more aware and involved in the activities of the Secretariat. We need to consolidate this work and continue to engage our Members in the years to come as to ensure their participation in the work of the Organization from planning to implementation and evaluation of our activities.

7. **Committing to good governance, efficiency and transparency:** Big achievements have been made in this area. The UNWTO is today a much more transparent, professional and efficient Organization. It completely prescribes to the rules, practices and regulations of the UN system and international standards. Reports are being submitted in a timely and transparent manner to the Executive Council and the General Assembly. The International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), required by the UN will be in place by January 2014. A new career growth scheme has been introduced, and the staff is today much clearer about their career path. These reforms will have to continue to be improved and reassessed.



THE WAY FORWARD

In order for any plan to be able to address the new emerging challenges, it must build on the progress achieved so far. The UNWTO must therefore work to fully implement the elements contained in the *White Paper - UNWTO 2020* introduced by the Secretary General in 2010 and approved by the General Assembly in 2011, particularly:

1. **Advance the reform process** already in place within the Organization, enabling it to perform its objectives in a cost-effective, efficient and transparent manner.
2. **Intensify the engagement of Members States** in the Organization as true "owners" of the UNWTO.
3. **Ensure that the UNWTO continues to provide leadership** to the sector and drives the Travel and Tourism Agenda.
4. **Provide service to the Member States** as to promote the competitiveness and sustainability of their tourism sectors.
5. **Place tourism firmly in the global agenda** as a key socio-economic sector that supports the livelihoods of millions of people in developed and developing countries and has a central role to play in sustainable development.

In conclusion, the UNWTO must continue to improve its ability to **DO MORE WITH LESS. More leadership, more service and more value with the same resources.**

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