



Executive Council

Ninety-eighth session
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Provisional agenda item 6

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Place and dates of the ninety-ninth and 100th sessions of the Executive Council

I. Procedure for establishing the place and dates of Executive Council sessions

1. Article 8(2) of the Organization's Statutes and rule 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure provide that the sessions of the Council shall be held at the Organization's Headquarters, unless the Council decides otherwise.

2. In compliance with decision 18(XCIII) of the Executive Council adopted at its ninety-third session in Madrid, Spain, the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the members of the Executive Council, prepared the guidelines on the selection of venues of Executive Council and General Assembly sessions which were submitted to the ninety-fourth session of the Executive Council and adopted by its decision 11(XCIV).

3. Document CE/94/3(III)(d) rev. 1 prepared for the ninety-fourth session of the Executive Council describes the procedure for the selection of the venue of the Executive Council adopted through the above-mentioned decision 11(XCIV). The UNWTO Secretariat recalls the content of paragraph 14, whose sub-paragraphs (a) to (j) read as follows:

(a) The next Executive Council meeting following the one held immediately after the General Assembly must be held at the Headquarters of the Organization. It decides the places of the meetings of the Council up to the next General Assembly.

(b) States wishing to host the Executive Council should inform the Secretary-General ninety days before the Executive Council that is required to decide on the venues of these forthcoming meetings. Such candidature must specify the ordinal number of the Executive Council meeting that the country wishes to host.

(c) The Secretary-General communicates to the Member States of the Executive Council, in the month following the closing date for the reception of candidatures, the list of candidates to host the Executive Council, requesting them to indicate if they grant their sponsorship to this or these candidatures. In order for a candidature to be eligible, it must receive the sponsorship of at least 25% of the Full Members of the Executive Council. Granting sponsorship does not mean a commitment by the State to vote for such candidature. Consequently, a Member may sponsor several candidatures.



(d) The Secretariat has developed a template agreement for the hosting of an Executive Council meeting that establishes the standard requirements of the Organization in terms of Privileges and Immunities, logistical arrangements and security, among others. These conditions are primarily determined by Article 32 of the Statutes, by the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations of 1947 and its Annex XVIII, adopted by the seventeenth General Assembly through resolution A/RES/545(XVII) and by resolution A/RES/136(V) of the fifth General Assembly of the Organization.

(e) Candidates to host the meetings shall comply with the policy and requirements of the United Nations for the hosting of UN events outside Headquarters.

(f) Before the Executive Council adopts the decision concerning the place of its next session, the States concerned shall undertake in writing to observe the standard requirements mentioned and the terms and conditions of the template agreement for the hosting of an Executive Council meeting mentioned above.

(g) One month before the Executive Council session that is required to determine the venues of its forthcoming sessions, the Secretary-General will transmit to the Member States of the Executive Council the list of candidatures having received at least 25% sponsorship.

(h) From among the candidatures having received 25% sponsorship the Executive Council will designate the host State of its next meeting and will assign the venues of the other meetings of the Executive Council up to the next General Assembly in the order that it will determine, taking into account the principle of regional geographic rotation.

(i) All the conditions to be met for holding a Council session will be the subject of an agreement between the government of the host State and the Organization, which will spell out the commitments of the State and be accompanied by a set of standard requirements as provided for in the template agreement accepted by the candidate in accordance with (d) above.

(j) The final date for the signature of the agreement between the parties is fixed at ninety days before the opening of the session in question.

4. In line with the above, the UNWTO Secretariat informed the Member States of the Executive Council through Note Verbale ED/4/2014 of 20 March 2014 on the received candidatures to host the two forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council and recalled to them that support letters provided by the members of the Executive Council should reach the UNWTO Secretariat **not later than 5 May 2014**.

II. Candidatures received for the next two sessions

5. The UNWTO Secretariat received the following candidatures within the deadline specified in point 3(b) (ninety days before the Executive Council):

(a) Ninety-ninth session of the Council (second semester of 2014):

(i) **Uzbekistan** expressed its interest in hosting a Council session at the ninety-third session of the Executive Council (Madrid, Spain, 13 June 2012). The intention to hold **the ninety-ninth session** of the Executive Council was reiterated several times and reconfirmed by a letter, dated 3 March 2014 and signed by Mr. Farrukh Rizaev, Chairman, National Company "Uzbektourism".

(ii) At the ninety-seventh session of the Executive Council in Zambia held right after the twentieth session of the General Assembly in August 2013, **Tunisia** expressed verbally its willingness to organize **the ninety-ninth session** of the Executive Council.

(b) 100th session of the Council (first semester of 2015):

(i) At the ninety-second session of the Executive Council (Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 13 October 2011), the delegation of **Egypt** expressed its wish to host the session of the Executive Council. This intention was again reiterated at the ninety-third session, however, in a laudable spirit of consensus, and taking into account the Mundo Maya celebration in 2012, Egypt, along with Serbia, agreed to defer its candidature to host the ninety-fourth session in favour of Mexico. The wish to host **the 100th session** of the Executive Council was reconfirmed by a formal letter of 24 December 2013 addressed by Mr. Hisham Zaazou, Minister of Tourism of Egypt, to the UNWTO Secretary-General.

(ii) In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 17 February 2014 and signed by Mr. Darko Lorencin, Minister of Tourism of Croatia, **Croatia** confirmed its candidature to host **the 100th session** of the Council in the city of Rovinj, located in Istria.

(iii) In Note Verbale 50/140/80 of 4 March 2014 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of **Jamaica** informed the UNWTO Secretariat about the intention of Jamaica to host **the 100th session** of the Executive Council.

6. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 12 February 2014 and signed by Mr. Alain St. Ange, Minister of Tourism and Culture of **the Republic of Seychelles**, Seychelles informed UNWTO of its intention to host the next meeting of the Executive Council, without specifying the ordinal number of the session.

III. Candidatures in compliance with the requirements of the Guidelines

7. **Uzbekistan** reiterated its intention to hold **the 99th session** in the city of Samarkand in the second semester of 2014. In the above-mentioned letter, Mr. Farrukh Rizaev, Chairman, National Company “Uzbektourism”, undertook in writing to observe the standard requirements and the terms and conditions of the template agreement for the hosting of an Executive Council meeting. Within the deadlines indicated in Note Verbale ED/4/2014 of 20 March 2014 the UNWTO Secretariat received more than 25% sponsorship for Uzbekistan from the following countries: Argentina, Azerbaijan, China, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Serbia.

8. **Croatia** confirmed its candidature to host **the 100th session** of the Council in the city of Rovinj, located in Istria, the best developed Croatian tourist region, and undertook in writing to comply with the standard requirements and the terms and conditions of the template agreement for the hosting of an Executive Council meeting. The UNWTO Secretariat received 25% sponsorship for Croatia within the established deadlines from the following countries: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

IV. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council

9. The Executive Council is requested:
- (a) To express its gratitude to the governments of the above-mentioned countries for their generous invitations to hold the next two sessions of the UNWTO Executive Council in the second semester of 2014 and the first semester of 2015; and
 - (b) To make a final decision on the place and dates of its ninety-ninth and 100th sessions, in accordance with its decision CE/DEC/6(XCVII).