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PREPARATIONS FOR THE 22ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

In this document, the Secretary-General provides to the Members of the UNWTO Commission for Europe information regarding the preparations for the twenty-second session of the General Assembly, which will be held in Chengdu (China).

Preparations for the 22nd Session of the General Assembly

I. PLACE AND DATES

1. At its twenty-first session, the General Assembly decided to accept the generous invitation of the Government of China (resolution A/RES/672(XXI)) to host its twenty-second session. The session and other related meetings will be held in Chengdu, in accordance with Rule 1(2) of its Rules of Procedure.

II. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

2. The Secretariat has established the structure of the twenty-second session taking into account the experience of the previous sessions and the observations received from Members.

A. Preparatory and related meetings

Programme and Budget Committee (PBC), and 106th and 107th sessions of the Executive Council

3. The PBC meeting will take place on the first day of the session and the 106th session of the Council will be held on the eve of the first plenary session of the General Assembly, for transmission to the Assembly of items on which an Executive Council recommendation is required. The 107th session of the Council will be held immediately after the last plenary session of the Assembly for the election of Council Officers for 2018 and the filling of vacant seats on certain subsidiary organs of the Executive Council for the period 2017-2021.

Regional Commissions

4. All Regional Commissions will hold a meeting in the framework of the Assembly. Their agendas will include the designation of their respective representatives for the various General Assembly offices, which should be approved by the Assembly. Each Commission will also be required to designate its representatives to serve on those subsidiary bodies of the Council whose membership is to be renewed. Finally, they will be required to put forward candidates for the vacant seats on the Executive Council, for which elections will be held during the Assembly.

Credentials Committee

5. The Credentials Committee will meet after the first plenary session of the Assembly. It will present its report to the Assembly at the second plenary session.

International Conventions

6. During the first plenary session of the Assembly an ad hoc Committee composed of Member States may be established (subject to the endorsement of the Special Guidelines for the adoption of draft UNWTO Conventions (document CE/105/5 (a)) by the Executive Council and their approval by the General Assembly) to revise and prepare the final text(s) of the Convention(s) in accordance with resolutions 654(XXI) and 668(XXI) concerning the draft

Convention on the Protection of Tourists and the Rights and Obligations of Tourism Service Providers and the draft Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, respectively.

Affiliate Members

7. The Plenary of the Affiliate Members will be held in the framework of the Assembly.

Side events

8. In order to enhance the technical nature of the General Assembly proceedings and to encourage high-level participation of the private and public sectors, a number of side events will be organized in the framework of the Assembly. Detailed information on them will be communicated at a later stage.

B. General Assembly session

9. The provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly is being drafted in accordance with Rule 5(1) of its Rules of Procedure. Members are kindly reminded that they may propose the inclusion of new items in the provisional agenda, provided they follow the procedure laid down for this purpose in Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.
10. The Assembly will be called upon to elect the President of its twenty-second session, in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure.

Official ceremony and High-level/Ministerial segment

11. An official ceremony followed by the high-level/ministerial segment on “Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals – Journey to 2030” will be organized in the framework of the Assembly.

III. FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE ORGANIZATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA

12. The authorities of China have already taken all necessary measures to host this session in optimum conditions in the facilities of the InterContinental Century City Hotel (www.intercontinental.com) in Chengdu and to provide all kinds of appropriate services to the delegates of UNWTO Members. They will also facilitate the entry into their territory of Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of the UNWTO, as well as of the other participants invited by the Secretary-General.
13. The Agreement between the Organization and the host Government establishes in particular the obligations and commitments that the Government has generously agreed to meet in convening and conducting the proceedings of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly and the other related meetings, in accordance with the Statutes, rules and practices of the Organization.

IV. INVITATIONS AND WORKING DOCUMENTS

14. The corresponding convocation letters and invitations issued by the Secretary-General to all Members, together with the provisional agenda prepared in accordance with Rule 5(1) of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure and an information note, will be sent by e-mail within the prescribed time limits, i.e., ninety days before the opening of the session, and posted in electronic format on the UNWTO website.
15. The working documents necessary for the General Assembly's discussions and resolutions on the various agenda items will also be sent by e-mail to Members within the time limits prescribed in Rule 8 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. They will also be posted in electronic format on the UNWTO website.

V. LANGUAGES OF THE ASSEMBLY

16. The five official languages will be used for the Assembly and the other related meetings, in part or in totality, as each meeting requires.