



DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AT ITS FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

Ushuaia, Argentina, 2-3 December 1998

CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Agenda | 2 |
| 2. List of decisions | 3 |
| 3. Decisions taken by the Council | 5 |
| 4. List of participants | 25 |

1. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the Secretary-General
3. Communication of the Chairman
4. General programme of work of the Organization for the period 1998-1999
5. Administrative, financial and statutory matters
 - (a) Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General
 - (c) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes
 - (d) Revision of the scale of contributions of the member States
6. Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2000-2001: discussion of approach and choice of procedure
7. Affiliate Members - WTO Business Council
 - (a) Report of the Chairman
 - (b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership
8. Election of the Council's Officers for 1999
9. Designation of the country entrusted with the official celebration of World Tourism Day in 1999
10. Place and dates of the sixtieth session of the Council
11. Review and adoption of the draft decisions of the fifty-ninth session of the Council

2. LIST OF DECISIONS

| <u>Decision No.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1(LIX) | Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1) | 5 |
| 2(LIX) | Report of the Secretary-General (agenda item 2) | 5 |
| 3(LIX) | Communication of the Chairman (agenda item 3) | 6 |
| 4(LIX) | General programme of work of the Organization for the period 1998-1999 (agenda item 4) | 7 |
| 5(LIX) | Administrative, financial and statutory matters (b) Report of the Secretary-General (agenda item 5(b)) | 9 |
| 6(LIX) | Administrative, financial and statutory matters (c) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes (agenda item 5(c)) | 10 |
| 7(LIX) | Administrative, financial and statutory matters (d) Revision of the scale of contributions of the Member States (agenda item 5(d)) | 12 |
| 8(LIX) | Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 200-2001: discussion of approach and choice of procedure (agenda item 6) | 14 |
| 9(LIX) | Affiliate Members – WTO Business Council (a) Report of the Chairman (agenda item 7(a)) | 16 |

| <u>Decision No.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 10(LIX) | Affiliate Members – WTO Business Council (b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership (agenda item 7(b)) | 17 |
| 11(LIX) | Election of the Council's Officers for 1999 (agenda item 8) .. | 18 |
| 12(LIX) | Designation of the country entrusted with the official celebration of World Tourism Day 1998 (agenda item 9) | 19 |
| 13(LIX) | Place and dates of the sixtieth session of the Council (agenda item 10) | 20 |
| 14(LIX) | Vote of thanks to the host country | 21 |
| 15(LIX) | Declaration on Antarctic Tourism | 21 |

3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LIX)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/59/1 prov. and CE/59/1 prov.annot.)

The Executive Council

Adopts the agenda of its fifty-ninth session.

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CE/DEC/2(LIX)

Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 2
(document CE/59/2)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note of the report presented by the Secretary-General,

1. Thanks him for his report and the information it contains on the monitoring of world tourism trends;
2. Invites the Secretary-General to continue the course he has described concerning the progress yet to be made in the macro-economic measurement of tourism, a major activity of the present programme of work;
3. Endorses the approach of the Secretariat to the preparation of the forthcoming programmes of work and budgets, as well as the future code of ethics for tourism;

4. Expresses the desire that the proposals for reform of the formula for fixing the contributions of Members be pursued and finalized in a spirit of efficiency, solidarity and equity and in cooperation with the Committee on Budget and Finance;
 5. Welcomes the progress made in diversifying the Organization's resources and in implementing a public-private partnership strategy within it, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue along this path;
 6. Joins in the heartfelt tribute paid by the Secretary-General to the Secretary for Argentine Tourism, Mr. Francisco Mayorga, host of this session of the Executive Council; and
 7. Expresses its satisfaction that this Council session, owing to its location and the subjects of the accompanying technical visits and meetings, should be dominated by the theme of sustainable tourism development and respect for the environment, in keeping with the tourism development of the Antarctic areas, which the Council desires should be gradual, measured and responsible, in accordance with the spirit of the 1959 Treaty which defines the future of that continent.
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CE/DEC/3(LIX)

Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 3
(document CE/59/3)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of its Chairman,

1. Congratulates him on his initiative in imparting to each Council session the views and perspectives of the Chairman;
2. Thanks him for his proposals for involving the Members of the Organization more closely in its work;
3. Accepts the arguments he presented aimed at encouraging the creation of a public-private partnership respecting the Organization's intergovernmental status, and

4. Shares the Chairman's analysis of the need to establish effective cooperation with other international organizations interested in tourism and his vision of WTO's decisive and central future role in this context.
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CE/DEC/4(LIX)

**General programme of work of the Organization
for the period 1998-1999**

Agenda item 4
(document CE/59/4)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 1998-1999,

1. Takes note of the development of technical cooperation activities, globally and by region, as well as of the results recorded at 30 September 1998 concerning the progress of field missions and project execution;
2. Expresses its concern at the low level of financial resources made available for the technical cooperation projects currently being executed by WTO, despite the increase in their number and notes with interest the new projects that are to be launched during the first months of 1999;
3. Commends the Secretary-General on the development of new links of cooperation with the World Bank Group and other financial institutions interested in tourism and encourages him to persevere in his endeavours to diversify the financial resources made available to the Organization for the execution of technical cooperation projects;
4. Takes cognizance of the establishment and operation of the Themis Foundation for Quality and Efficiency in tourism education and training in Andorra and thanks the Government of Andorra for its support;

5. Notes with interest progress made in the development and practical application of the various education and training instruments provided for in the programme, especially the preparation of a first GTAT examination on tourism policy and strategy, the application of the TEDQUAL methodology to specific studies on quality in tourism education and training and the new international tourism policy course delivered as part of the second session of the 1998 Practicum for officials of national tourism administrations;
 6. Takes note of the results of the International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Small Island Developing States and Other Islands, held in Lanzarote in October 1998 as well as of the various conferences, seminars and workshops organized or attended by WTO under the Environment, Planning and Financing programme;
 7. Notes with interest the preparations for the seventh session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1999 and entrusts the Secretary-General with taking the necessary measures so as to ensure the maximum coordinated participation of national tourism administrations of member States in this high-level meeting;
 8. Notes with interest the progress achieved in the preparatory work for the World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism, to be held at Nice in June 1999 and thanks the Government of Mexico for having hosted a preparatory meeting for this purpose;
 9. Expresses its satisfaction at the consensus reached on the draft satellite accounts for tourism developed under the leadership of WTO;
 10. Invites the Secretary-General, in the context of activities in preparation for the year 2000, to expand relations with other intergovernmental organizations interested in tourism, both in Europe and worldwide, with the aim both of clarifying their role and increasing their cooperation with WTO; and
 11. Adopts the report on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 1998-1999.
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CE/DEC/5(LIX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(b) Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 5(b)
(documents CE/59/5(b) and CE/59/5(a)(I))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General,

Having heard the presentations made by the Secretariat and having considered the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Takes note of the amount of contributions received for the current year and the amount of arrears from previous years that have been collected; and
2. Observes that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 369(XII), a balance has been maintained between budgetary income and expenditure;

Having been informed of the revision of the salary scale applicable to officials of the General Service category in Madrid, with retroactive effect to 1 April 1998, in accordance with the information conveyed by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC),

3. Approves these changes, applied provisionally by the Secretary-General in accordance with Staff Rule 33(1);
4. Takes note of the information provided by the Secretary-General on the introduction of the euro on 1 January 1999 as the currency of the European Union; and
5. Approves the measures that the Secretariat will take, since they are in keeping with the recommendations of the European Union and with the measures adopted by other organizations of the United Nations system with their headquarters in Europe;

Having noted the information concerning the rental subsidy payable to non-locally-recruited staff within the United Nations common system,

6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that WTO applies the regulations of the United Nations system to its officials, to ensure that they receive equality of treatment with staff of the other organizations of the system, even though no rental subsidy is payable to any official at this stage;

Having been informed that the common system has no provisions for allocating housing allowances to its top management but that the organizations treat each case individually,

7. Decides :

- (a) to increase to 3,000 US dollars with effect from 1 December 1998 the amount of the housing allowance for the Secretary-General so as to take account of the increase in rents for accommodation in Madrid;
- (b) to grant from the same date a similar allowance to the Deputy Secretary-General, equal to 50 per cent of that granted to the Secretary-General;

8. Recommends to the Assembly to adopt in future specific provisions enabling these allowances to be adjusted on the basis of the above-mentioned report of the Committee on Budget and Finance, no later than for the next election of the Secretary-General.

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CE/DEC/6(LIX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

**(c) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes
and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes**

Agenda item 5(c)
(documents CE/59/5(c) and CE/59/5(a)(I))

The Executive Council,

Observing that the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes are applied to **twenty-five** Full Members and **forty-nine** Affiliate Members,

1. Notes with satisfaction that the Full Member **GEORGIA** has reduced its arrears to the equivalent of less than the past two years' contributions and is therefore no longer liable to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules; and
2. Urges the other Members that are subject to these provisions to fulfil their commitments, if necessary proposing the payment of their arrears in instalments;

Noting the request submitted by **CAMBODIA** for the cancellation of its debt corresponding to the period 1976-1992,

Considering that there is no provision in the legal texts for exemption from the payment of contributions,

3. Considers however that the debt accumulated by Cambodia during the period 1976-1992 is due to "circumstances beyond the control" of the government of that country, in terms of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, and recommends to the General Assembly to let Cambodia enjoy its membership rights;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to Cambodia to discharge its debts by instalments and to submit a payment plan to be received by the Executive Council immediately before the thirteenth session of the General Assembly;
5. Notes the withdrawal of **GRENADA** from the Organization, which will take effect in February 1999;

Having been informed of the Members benefiting from temporary exemption from the application of Article 34 of the Statutes and/or paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes,

6. Decides:

- (a) to maintain the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 as they apply to **EL SALVADOR, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and **PERU**, since they have to date fulfilled their commitments, and to **BURKINA FASO, GUINEA-BISSAU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, COSTA RICA** and **YEMEN** which have complied in part, as well as to **IRAQ**, in view of its special circumstances, and to the Affiliate Member Iraqi Airways;
- (b) to re-apply the provisions of paragraph 13 to the **REPUBLIC OF GUINEA, SENEGAL** and **SUDAN** as from 1 January 1999, if by that date they have not resolved their present situation;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to gather information on the favourable measures that the international community and, in particular, other international organizations may take, with respect to **NICARAGUA** and other countries affected by Hurricane "*Mitch*"; and
 8. Entrusts the Secretary-General with informing it at its sixtieth session of the outcome of his negotiations, so as to be able to decide whether to maintain or discontinue the suspension of the provisions of paragraph 13 and requests him to continue his approaches to the Members concerned in order to agree with them plans to pay their contribution arrears in instalments.
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CE/DEC/7(LIX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(d) Revision of the scale of contributions of the Member States

Agenda item 5(d)
(documents CE/59/5(d), CE/59/5(d) Add.1, CE/59/5(d) Add.1 Corr.1,
CE/59/5(a)(II) and CE/59/5(a)(II) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Considering the instructions it had given at its fifty-eighth session to resume the revision of the formula for fixing the contributions of member States, if necessary seeking external advice, and to inform it of the outcome through the Committee on Budget and Finance,

Having noted the information contained in documents CE/59/5(d) and CE/59/5(d) Add.1 on the revision of the scale of assessments of the member States,

Having further noted the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance, which is based in particular on the "Report of the Special Group on the revision of the scale of assessments of the member States", and having heard the explanations provided by the Secretariat,

1. Decides to recommend to the General Assembly, subject to the results of the studies mentioned in paragraph 2 below:

(a) Maximum and minimum shares

that the maximum share of a member State be maintained at 5.0000 per cent if its share of world gross national product (GNP) exceeds 20 per cent and at 3.2000 per cent for any other member State of the first group of countries with the greatest capacity to pay;

that the minimum share of a member State be fixed at 0.2000 per cent, representing a ratio between the highest and lowest contributions of 1 to 25;

that there is no need to adjust the contributions of member States of the last group with low populations due to the application of the threshold fixed in the above paragraph;

(b) Capacity to pay

that gross national product (GNP), adjusted by the repayment of the principal of the countries' foreign debt, should be one of the economic factors to be taken into account, instead of national income, in assessing the capacity to pay of member States;

(c) Weighting coefficients

that the ratio of GNP = 70 per cent, per capita GNP = 10 per cent and tourism receipts (TR) = 20 per cent should be applied to each of the factors;

(d) Transitional mechanism

that the modifications that will be adopted to calculate the scale of assessments should include a transitional mechanism limiting to 15 per cent increases or decreases in the percentage shares payable by some member States;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to its next session studies presenting the comparative advantages and disadvantages of the hypotheses presented in annexes I, II and III to document CE/59/5(a)(II) without losing sight of the possibility in the long term of employing a continuous contributions scale as currently in force in most international organizations;
3. Decides that, in case a contributions scale based on groups will be maintained, the Secretary-General should review before each financial period the proposed scale, taking account of possible changes in membership and propose suitable modifications resulting from such review; and

4. Decides furthermore to propose to the General Assembly that the percentage share fixed to calculate the contribution of Associate Members shall be 10 per cent lower than the minimum contribution of Member States.
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CE/DEC/8(LIX)

**Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work
and budget for the period 2000-2001:
discussion of approach and choice of procedure**

Agenda item 6
(documents CE/59/6 and CE/59/6 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the guidelines submitted by the Secretary-General for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2000-2001, the results of the consultation carried out by the Secretary-General with the Business Council Leadership Forum and the Strategic Group, the suggestions put forward by Members in this regard as well as the recommendations made by the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination at its seventeenth meeting held on 1 December 1998,

Having held a discussion concerning the broad lines of the future programme,

Bearing in mind that the options taken with regard to the future programme of work will represent a new and major step in the building up of a partnership strategy between the public and private sectors within the Organization, as recommended by the General Assembly at its twelfth session,

1. Approves the programming principles proposed by the Secretary-General, as well as the major thrust proposed for the Organization's programme for the biennium 2000-2001;
2. Encourages the Secretary-General to select, as priorities in the future programme areas, such as specialized market research that appear to be of common concern to all the Members of the Organization from the public and private sectors alike;

3. Decides that the draft programme to be prepared by the Secretary-General will be organized under the following seven areas:
 - cooperation for development (linking development assistance to investment and financing and encompassing cooperation between different levels of tourism administrations and regional agendas and action plans)
 - human resource development
 - environment and planning
 - quality of tourism development
 - statistics and economic measurement of tourism
 - research, marketing and promotion
 - communications, publications and documentation
 4. Requests Members that would still like their suggestions to be taken into consideration to forward them to the Secretary-General by 31 January 1999 at the latest;
 5. Invites the various specialized technical committees and ad hoc working groups, the Regional Commissions and the Business Council to contribute, as soon as possible, to the preparation of the detailed draft programme of work to be prepared by the Secretary-General;
 6. Approves the Secretary-General's proposals with a view to undertaking a reform of the Programme Committee, in implementation of General Assembly resolution 364(XII) and based upon the recommendations made by the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination; and
 7. Requests the enlarged Programme Committee, in accordance with rule 9(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to meet again in the first half of 1999 so as to examine the draft general programme of work for 2000-2001 before it is submitted to the Committee on Budget and Finance and to the Council at its sixtieth session.
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CE/DEC/9(LIX)

Affiliate Members – WTO Business Council**(a) Report of the Chairman**

Agenda item 7(a)
(documents CE/59/7(a), CE/59/7(a) Add.1 and CE/59/7(a) Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report of the Chairman of the WTO Business Council - Affiliate Members - on the activities of the WTO Business Council within the context of its programme of work for 1998-1999,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his report;
 2. Expresses its satisfaction at the activities carried out;
 3. Considers the conclusions and suggestions of the "Leadership Forum of Advisers" for the WTO Business Council of great value for orienting the new programme of work, and encourages the implementation of new focused services specifically tailored to the needs of the private sector;
 4. Appreciates the new window of opportunities that was opened with the World Bank Group as a result of the joint meeting of the WTO Business Council Advisers Group and the various World Bank Agencies co-chaired by the President of the Bank and the Secretary-General of the Organization;
 5. Takes note of the strengthening of the resources allocated to the WTO Business Council since the last session of the Executive Council, and encourages all the Members of the Organization, following the example set by the Government of Spain, to contribute to this development;
 6. Welcomes the continuing trend of increase in the number of applications for affiliate membership of the Organization; and
 7. Welcomes the main decisions taken at the last Board meeting of the WTO Business Council that took place in London (United Kingdom) on 16 November 1998.
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CE/DEC/10(LIX)

Affiliate Members – WTO Business Council

(b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership

Agenda item 7(b)
(document CE/59/7(b))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of its Sub-Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 2 December 1998,

1. Endorses the Sub-Committee's recommendations; and
2. Decides to submit to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly the following applications for affiliate membership:
 - (a) Complete applications:
 1. Academservice Corporation (Russian Federation)
 2. Agencia de Promoción Turística de la Diputación de Barcelona (Spain)
 3. Barrington International Hospitality Inc. (United States of America)
 4. Bright Focus Co. for Tourism Services and Investment (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
 5. Bureau Veritas Ecuador S.A. (Ecuador)
 6. Cámara Provincial de Turismo del Guayas (Ecuador)
 7. Doxa – Istituto per le Ricerche Statistiche E l'Analisi dell'Opinione Pubblica (Italy)
 8. Egyptian Hotel Association (Egypt)
 9. Hebra, Promoción e Inversiones, S.A. Unipersonal (Spain)
 10. Federturismo/ Confindustria (Italy)
 11. INATEL – Instituto Nacional Aproveitamento Tempos Livres dos Trabalhadores (Portugal)
 12. International Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism (Russian Federation)
 13. Kiev Institute of Tourism, Economics and Law (Ukraine)
 14. Nouvelle association pour la formation hôtelière et touristique (AMFORHT)
 15. Thomas Cook (India) Limited
 16. University of Guam - International Tourism Program (United States of America)
 17. Winzrik Tourism Services Co. (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

(b) WTO Educational Centres

1. James Cook University - School of Business (Tourism Program) Australia)
2. University of Hawaii at Manoa - School of Travel Industry Management (United States of America)

The following two institutions became “de facto” Affiliate Members with retroactive effect as from 1 January 1998.

(c) Applications to be submitted to the Sub-Committee on receipt of the necessary documents:

1. Cape Metropolitan Tourism (South Africa)
2. Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (India)
3. Grupo Viajes Marsans (Spain)
4. International Tourism Institute (Switzerland)
5. Municipio de San Juan - Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Turismo (Puerto Rico)
6. Pro-Margarita - Fondo de Inversión Turística (Venezuela)
7. Trav-L-World (United States of America)
8. World Trade Centres Association

In the case of the *Municipio de San Juan – Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Turismo (Puerto Rico)* it will be checked whether this candidate corresponds well with the definition of Affiliate Member.

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CE/DEC/11(LIX)

Election of the Council's Officers for 1999

Agenda item 8
(document CE/59/8)

The Executive Council,

Having regard to the provisions of rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure,

1. Elects Sri Lanka as Chairman of the Council for 1999;
 2. Pays special tribute to Mr. Vitor Cabrita Neto, Secretary of State for Tourism of Portugal, who served as Chairman of the Council with dedication and merit during 1998 and whose unselfishness enabled the Chairman of the Council for 1999 to be designated in a climate of consensus and solidarity by its Members;
 3. Designates Argentina as first Vice-Chairman and Philippines as second Vice-Chairman; and
 4. Requests the Full Members elected to the chairmanship and vice-chairmanships to designate the persons to perform these duties.
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CE/DEC/12(LIX)

**Designation of the country entrusted with the official celebration
of World Tourism Day in 1999**

Agenda item 9
(documents CE/59/9 and CE/59/9 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Recalling that, by resolution 376(XII) adopted at its twelfth session (Istanbul, October 1997), the General Assembly chose the following theme for World Tourism Day 1999 on the recommendation of the Executive Council: *"Tourism: preserving world heritage for the new millennium"*,

Recalling also that, by the same resolution, the General Assembly approved a proposal to designate each year a host country as the Organization's partner for commemorating this world event, choosing Mexico as the host country for 1998,

Having taken cognizance of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the designation of the country to be officially entrusted with the celebration of World Tourism Day in 1999,

Having noted that World Tourism Day (27 September) will coincide next year with the date of the official opening of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, to be held at Santiago, Chile, at the invitation of the Chilean Government,

Having also taken note that nine Members of the Organization have submitted their candidatures for hosting World Tourism Day in 1999, viz.: Aruba (Associate Member), China, India, Macau (Associate Member), Malaysia, Niger, South Africa, Turkey and Uzbekistan,

1. Expresses its deep gratitude to the Mexican Government for having celebrated World Tourism Day 1998 with great generosity;
 2. Designates Chile as the host country for 1999 and invites all the countries that have submitted their candidatures, to be partners for this member State in a satellite link-up commemorating World Tourism Day 1999;
 3. Invites Chile to inform the partner countries concerning the technical conditions for establishing the satellite link-up; and
 4. Encourages the Secretary-General to determine with the Director-General of UNESCO the joint activities that could be carried out, under the existing cooperation agreement with that body, to promote still further this annual event of world scope, given the interest to the two Organizations of the theme for World Tourism Day 1999.
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CE/DEC/13(LIX)

Place and dates of the sixtieth session of the Council

Agenda item 10
(document CE/59/10)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note with gratitude of the invitation extended by the Malaysian Government,

Decides to hold its sixtieth session at Kuala Lumpur or Penang, Malaysia, in mid-May 1999.

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CE/DEC/14(LIX)

Vote of thanks to the host country

The Executive Council,

Having completed the proceedings of its fifty-ninth session in conditions of outstanding efficiency and comfort, thanks to the facilities generously provided by the Argentine Government,

1. Expresses its deepest gratitude to the Government of Argentina for this fresh proof of its cooperation;
 2. Expresses its particular appreciation to Mr. Francisco Mayorga, Secretary for Argentine Tourism, for his loyalty to the Organization, being the only Minister of a member State to have successively performed the duties of President of the General Assembly and Chairman of the Executive Council;
 3. Thanks Mr. Carlos Gutierrez, National Director for Tourism Economics and Institutional Relations at the Secretariat for Tourism, and his team for their outstanding collaboration with the WTO Secretariat to ensure the success of the meetings; and
 4. Thanks the host country for the opportunity given to the Council Members to discover the symbolic city of Ushuaia, the region of Tierra del Fuego and the remarkable experiences of sustainable tourism development carried out in Argentina.
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CE/DEC/15(LIX)

Declaration on Antarctic Tourism

The Executive Council,

Having organized during its Ushuaia session a Seminar during which high-level international experts presented their experiences at Antarctic Tourism,

Recalling the communications concerning Antarctic Tourism presented during the *Ministerial Conference on Oceans and New Tourism Dimensions* (Lisbon, Portugal, June 1998),

Convinced that the Antarctic offers an example of peaceful international cooperation aimed at preserving the resources of the White Continent for the benefit of all humanity,

Also convinced that the States signatories of the Antarctic Treaty must redouble their efforts to safeguard said resources,

Having considered the attached Declaration on Antarctic Tourism presented by the Delegation of Argentina,

1. Warmly congratulates the Argentine delegation on its initiative;
2. Adopts the Declaration;
3. Considers that governments, tourism enterprises and tourists themselves should pool their efforts; and
4. Decides unanimously to submit the Declaration on Antarctic Tourism to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly for information and consideration.

A N N E X**DECLARATION ON ANTARCTIC TOURISM****1 December 1998**

The Executive Council met in the city of Ushuaia, Argentine Republic, the main departure point for tourist flows to Antarctica, for its fifty-ninth session,

CONSIDERING

That the Antarctic ecosystems are, owing to their special characteristics, unique in the world,

That, because of its vast landscapes of spectacular beauty, the richness of its fauna, the praiseworthy and efficient research carried out by scientists in exacting climatic conditions, the vigour of its eventful history and its position at the southernmost confines of the world, the Antarctic, the Sixth Continent, is a tourist attraction of singular importance and outstanding features,

That the signatory countries of the Antarctic Treaty have formulated a set of recommendations on the need to control tourism activity in the Continent, specifically by means of the Protocol on Environmental Protection,

DECLARES

That, if properly controlled, tourism contributes effectively to fostering awareness of the pressing need to conserve and improve the environmental conditions that constitute the mainstay of the industry;

That already in 1950 the International Union of Official Travel Organisations (IUOTO), WTO's predecessor, invited the countries with a tourism vocation to give careful consideration to all that relates to the environment, warning that any negligence in this respect would have irreparable consequences;

That, reflecting this concern and among other actions, WTO has concluded agreements of cooperation with UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Programme and, moreover, participated in the "Earth Summits" of Rio de Janeiro and New York;

That it is the responsibility of the States whose national enterprises organize tourism trips to the Antarctic to ensure that the necessary precautions are taken to avert any occurrence or action that could disrupt the Antarctic environment and its dependent ecosystems;

That, in accordance with the foregoing, the Executive Council reiterates the need to redouble efforts to preclude an irrational exploitation of the Antarctic's resources, which could irreparably impair the quality of life of the present and future populations;

Taking as a reference the incomparable scenery of the White Continent - the Antarctic - which stands as a lasting symbol of and testimony to the concern of the World Tourism Organization for environmental protection, this Declaration is made by which the Executive Council

REQUESTS

All the Governments of States members and non members of the World Tourism Organization to continue and to intensify, at all levels, the tasks being undertaken in order to:

- (1) universally conserve the natural wonders of Antarctica;
- (2) adopt ecologically sustainable policies in all areas being developed as a substantive contribution to the protection of nature throughout the world; and
- (3) increase efforts to develop and promote ecological tourism and thereby enhance awareness of the vital importance of protecting the environment of planet Earth.

4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The fifty-ninth session of the Executive Council was attended by:

- (1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan;
- (2) the Chairmen of the following Regional Commissions: Americas and South Asia;
- (3) the representatives of the following member States: Chile, Poland and Ukraine, as observers;
- (4) the Holy See as Permanent Observer;
- (5) the Chairman of the WTO Business Council – Affiliate Members (IFTO);
- (5) the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Germany);
- (6) the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (Argentina);