

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**AT ITS SIXTY-NINTH SESSION**

**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2-4 October 2002**

**CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
1. Agenda .....	2
2. List of decisions .....	3
3. Decisions taken by the Council .....	5
4. List of participants .....	19

## 1. AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chairman
3. Report of the Secretary-General
4. Implementation of the general programme of work of the Organization for the period 2002-2003
5. World Summit on Sustainable Development and tourism's contribution to poverty alleviation
6. Administrative, financial and statutory matters
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation
  - (b) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes
  - (c) Applications for membership
7. Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2004-2005: discussion of approach and choice of procedure
8. Transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations
9. Appointment of the members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics
10. Introduction of the Arabic language
11. Affiliate Members – WTO Business Council
  - (a) Report of the Chairman
  - (b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership
12. Election of the Council's Officers for 2003
13. Place and dates of the seventieth session of the Executive Council
14. Review and adoption of the draft decisions of the sixty-ninth session of the Executive Council

## **2. LIST OF DECISIONS**

<b><u>Decision No.</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1(LXIX)	Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1) .....	5
2(LXIX)	Communication of the Chairman (agenda item 2) .....	5
3(LXIX)	Report of the Secretary-General (agenda item 3).....	6
4(LXIX)	Implementation of the general programme of work of the Organization for the period 2002-2003 (agenda item 4).....	6
5(LXIX)	World Summit on Sustainable Development and tourism's contribution to poverty alleviation (agenda item 5).....	7
6(LXIX)	Administrative, financial and statutory matters (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation (agenda item 6(a)) .....	8
7(LXIX)	Administrative, financial and statutory matters (b) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes (agenda item 6(b)) .....	9
8(LXIX)	Administrative, financial and statutory matters (c) Applications for membership (agenda item 6(c)) .....	10
9(LXIX)	Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 2004-2005: discussion of approach and choice of procedure (agenda item 7) .....	11
10(LXIX)	Transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations (agenda item 8) .....	12
11(LXIX)	Appointment of the members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (agenda item 9) .....	13
12(LXIX)	Introduction of the Arabic language (agenda item 10) .....	14
13(LXIX)	Affiliate Members (a) Report of the Chairman (agenda item 11(a)) .....	14

<u>Decision No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
14(LXIX)	Affiliate Members (b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership (agenda item 11(b)) .....	15
15(LXIX)	Election of the Council's Officers for 2003 (agenda item 12) ..	16
16(LXIX)	Place and dates of the seventieth session of the Executive Council (agenda item 13) .....	17
17(LXIX)	Vote of thanks to the host country .....	18

### 3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LXIX)

#### Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1  
(documents CE/69/1 prov. and CE/69/1 prov.annot.)

The Executive Council

Decides to adopt the agenda of its sixty-ninth session.

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CE/DEC/2(LXIX)

#### Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 2  
(document CE/69/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of its Chairman, H.E. Dr. Taleb Rifai, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan,

1. Is very grateful to the Chairman for his communication, and
  2. Endorses the view of its Chairman concerning transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations that should be ratified by the next session of the WTO General Assembly and the efforts undertaken by the Organization in favour of the Middle East, especially, its plan for the gradual introduction of the Arabic language in the activities of WTO.
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CE/DEC/3(LXIX)

**Report of the Secretary-General**Agenda item 3  
(document CE/69/3)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Secretary-General and having discussed it,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for his presentation;
  2. Takes note with interest of the main activities in progress, and
  3. Notes with satisfaction the information the report contains on world tourism trends following the 11 September crisis and on the major events that have taken place since its last session, in particular the World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec City, the transformation of WTO into a specialized agency of the United Nations and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg.
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CE/DEC/4(LXIX)

**Implementation of the general programme of work of the Organization  
for the period 2002-2003**Agenda item 4  
(document CE/69/4)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 2002-2003, as updated by the Secretariat to reflect the activities carried out since its sixty-eighth session,

1. Recognizes the considerable progress made in implementing the programme during the past three months and the positive results achieved to this end;
2. Notes with satisfaction the execution of field missions and technical cooperation projects, the holding of technical seminars and Regional Commission meetings;
3. Welcomes the setting up of the special programme of assistance for Sub-Saharan Africa, the development of new education and training courses (as part of the GTAT and SIS series) under the Human Resource Development programme and the holding of the second session of the 2002 Practicum;

4. Notes with satisfaction the dissemination of the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism and the development of the ST-EP initiative on sustainable tourism and elimination of poverty announced during the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
5. Welcomes with interest the preparation of reference aids on the GATS agreement and liberalization measures in the tourism sector and the development of a worldwide safety and security network;
6. Further notes the recent holding at Madrid of the First International Workshop on the Tourism Satellite Account, the publication of a special report on the situation of the tourism industry in the first half of 2002, as well as the Tourism Market Trends series and the reports on tourism products;
7. Welcomes the efforts carried out by the Organization through the intensive communication campaign, following the 11 September crisis, under the aegis of the Tourism Recovery Committee, its activities regarding the measurement of the economic importance of tourism, and sustainable development, the new publications and the launching of the Infoshop e-mail service, the development of the Documentation Centre's information system on tourism legislation and the promotion of World Tourism Day 2002, and
8. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat on these numerous achievements.

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CE/DEC/5(LXIX)

**World Summit on Sustainable Development  
and tourism's contribution to poverty alleviation**

Agenda item 5  
(documents CE/69/5 and CE/69/5 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having been informed by the Secretary-General regarding the activities carried out by the WTO during the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa last August-September,

Having taken cognizance of the Plan of Action agreed upon by the representatives of the Member States of the United Nations and other groups that took part in the Summit, and in particular, of the its paragraphs 41, which refers to tourism en general, and 64, which refers to Africa in particular,

1. Expresses its satisfaction over the prominence accorded to the tourism sector at the aforementioned Summit, particularly compared to the previous Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992;

2. Congratulates the Secretary-General on the activities carried out by the Secretariat, not only during the Summit, but also prior to it, which made it possible, on one hand, to raise the level of interest shown by the central governments and the international community in tourism, particularly in terms of its contribution to sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and on the other hand, to highlight the role the World Tourism Organization can play in these processes;
  3. Expresses the need to establish, at the national level of each of the countries, concrete plans of action and work aimed at realizing the recommendations established in the Plan of Action agreed upon at Johannesburg regarding tourism;
  4. Recommends that the governments of the Member States of the WTO carefully study paragraphs 43 and 70 of the Plan of Action, and launch programmes of action to implement them, cooperating with the private tourism sector and informing the General Secretariat of the WTO about such actions and their results;
  5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, as part of the programme of work for the period 2004-2005 an international strategy for the implementation of the recommendations of the Johannesburg Summit, with an estimate of its cost of execution and the additional human and financial resources required to implement it, and to seek other possible sources of financing, and
  6. Decides to consider at its next session the proposals of the Secretary-General in this respect for recommendation to the General Assembly, in the context of the future general programme of work.
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CE/DEC/6(LXIX)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

**(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation**

Agenda item 6(a)  
(documents CE/69/6(a) and CE/69/6(a) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization, presented in accordance with Article 14, paragraph 6, of the Financing Rules,

1. Takes note of the satisfactory level of contributions received for the current year;

2. Notes that, in fulfilment of the recommendation of the Assembly contained in its resolution 433(XIV), it will be possible to maintain a balance between income and expenditure and to execute in full the plan of expenditure for 2002;
  3. Notes with satisfaction that as of the date of this meeting 24 Full Members have paid all or part of their arrear contributions;
  4. Urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2002 as soon as possible and in any case before the accounts for the current year are closed;
  5. Welcomes the fact that the adoption of the euro as the Organization's currency of account, budget and payment is proceeding satisfactorily, in accordance with the approved accounting procedure, since 1 January 2002;
  6. Notes that EUROTER has ceased to be an Affiliate Member of the Organization since the association has suspended all activities since 1999;
  7. Decides consequently that EUROTER's debt corresponding to the period 1999-2002 is to be written off, and
  8. Further decides to cancel the debt of Affiliate Member IRAN AIR amounting to 1,000 US dollars (equivalent to 1,123 euros), corresponding to the 1988 financial year, since it has presented sufficient proof of having paid the amount owed, despite the fact that the Organization's accounting records do not show the receipt of such payment.
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CE/DEC/7(LXIX)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

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

Agenda item 6(b)  
(documents CE/69/6(b) and CE/69/6(b) Add.1)

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 23 Full Members and 51 Affiliate Members,

1. Urges the Members subject to these provisions to fulfil their commitments, if necessary proposing the payment of their arrears of contributions in instalments;

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

2. Notes with satisfaction that, at the date of this meeting, the Full Member **Costa Rica** is no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13, since its debt is henceforth less than the sum of its assessed contributions for the past two years, and that the Affiliate Member **Fédération nationale de l'industrie hôtelière (Morocco)** has paid its debt in full and is up-to-date with the payment of its contributions;
3. Further notes with satisfaction that, at the date of this meeting, the Full Member **Equatorial Guinea** is no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13, considering that it has paid its debt in full and is up-to-date with the payment of its contributions;
4. Notes with regret that the provisions of paragraph 13 once again apply, effective last July, to **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan** and **Togo**, considering that the aforementioned Full Members have not yet paid the amounts they were to have paid in 2001, and
5. Further notes with regret that the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes apply effective 1 October 2002 to **Zambia**, pursuant to Assembly resolution 418(XIV).

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CE/DEC/8(LXIX)

### **Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

#### **(c) Applications for membership**

Agenda item 6(c)

(documents CE/69/6(c), CE/69/6(c) Corr.1, CE/69/6(c) Add.1 and CE/69/6(c) Add.2)

The Executive Council,

1. Notes with satisfaction the announced intention of **Kuwait** to rejoin the Organization,

2. Requests the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) to examine the matter of arrear contributions of former Members of the Organization that wish to regain Membership, and to present a report on the matter at the next session of the Council;
  3. Decides that such countries that decided to rejoin the WTO after the last General Assembly, or that so decide in the future, shall not be subject to the application of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, pending a substantive decision on this matter, based on the proposal of the CBF;
  4. Notes the intention of Montenegro of presenting its candidature as an Associate Member, and
  5. Decides to reconstitute a working group within the Executive Council, whose main task is to deal with the applications submitted for Associate Membership, and any subsequent problems, which could contribute to the modernisation of the Organization, the group being composed of the Members of the former working group, which still sit on the Council and which participated in the meeting of 2 October, and any other Council Members that wish to take an interest in this matter, as well as any Member of the Organization invited by the group, in order to study the different ways of arriving at a fair solution, which is to be proposed at its next session.
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CE/DEC/9(LXIX)

**Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work  
and budget for the period 2004-2005:  
discussion of approach and choice of procedure**

Agenda item 7  
(document CE/69/7)

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 2004-2005, prepared on the basis of the proposals put forward by Members and in the light of the consultation carried out by the Secretary-General with the Strategic Group, at its sixth meeting at Alexandria (Egypt) on 24 June 2002,

Bearing in mind the Organization's vision of a growing tourism sector in a globalized society and the major challenges and opportunities derived from this vision, as identified by the Secretary-General in his report to the fourteenth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization's main functions and forms of action as defined in the draft mission statement, prepared by the Programme Committee and approved by the Council, at its sixty-eighth session,

1. Instructs the Secretary-General to prepare the budget and programme of the Organization for 2004-2005 on the basis of the document CE/69/7;
2. Invites the technical committees, the regional commissions, the Business Council and its Leadership Forum to contribute, in due course, to the preparation of the draft programme of work for the above-mentioned biennium;
3. Notes that in accordance with rule 9(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, the Programme Committee should meet on 7 and 8 November 2002 and again in March 2003, so as to examine the above-mentioned draft programme, before it is submitted to the Committee on Budget and Finance and to the Council at its seventieth session, and
4. Requests Members that would still like their suggestions to be taken into consideration to forward them to the Secretary-General by 10 December 2002, at the latest.

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CE/DEC/10(LXIX)

**Transformation of the Organization  
into a specialized agency of the United Nations**

Agenda item 8  
(document CE/69/8)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report presented by the Secretary-General on this item of the agenda,

1. Welcomes with great satisfaction resolution 2002/24 authorizing the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to negotiate an agreement with the Organization, constituting it as a specialized agency of the United Nations, and to form a Committee to engage in negotiations with the WTO for this purpose;
  2. Confirms its decision 11(LXVIII) regarding the creation of the WTO Committee in charge of negotiating with the UN on this matter, composed of the current Chairman and the three Vice Chairmen at the time of the present decision, the current Chairmen of the Regional Commissions and the host country, and
  3. Decides that the current Chairman of the Executive Council (Jordan) shall chair the above-mentioned committee.
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CE/DEC/11(LXIX)

**Appointment of the Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics**

Agenda item 9  
(documents CE/69/9 and CE/69/9 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report on the appointment of the Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics,

1. Declares elected the following Members of the Committee:
  - *Africa*                      Mr. Mohamed Mounir Ben Miled (Tunisia), member  
Mr. John Ngata Kariuki (Kenya), alternate
  - *Europe*                        Mr. Erich Musyl (Austria), member  
Mr. Mauro di Pietro (Italy), alternate
  - *Middle East*                Ms. Laurice Hlass (Jordan), member  
Ms. Laila Bassiouni (Egypt), alternate
2. Urges the Commissions for the Americas, East Asia and the Pacific, and South Asia, to proceed with the final nomination of a member and an alternate from among the candidates presented by the Members of these regions, before its next session;
3. Acknowledges the nomination by the Associate Members of the following candidates:
  - Mr. Urbain Claeys (Flemish Community of Belgium)
  - Mr. Carlos Alberto Silva (Madeira)
4. Requests the Secretariat to consult them so that they can indicate, before the next session of the Council, which candidate shall be the member and who shall be the alternate;
5. Invites the Committee of Affiliate Members to complete the process for the nomination of members of the Committee as soon as possible, in keeping with the "Guidelines for the nomination of members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics" prepared by the Secretary-General and in strict observance of Resolution 438(XIV) of the General Assembly in order to ensure the participation of representative and independent persons, as well as the balanced composition of the Committee;
6. Thus decides to come to a decision regarding the final composition of the Committee at its next session, and
7. Notes the proposal of the Secretary-General to contact Mr. Diego Cordovez (Ecuador), in order to study the possibility of proposing his Chairmanship, for which he seems to possess the necessary qualities, to the Committee Members, when the time comes to do so.

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CE/DEC/12(LXIX)

**Introduction of the Arabic language**

Agenda item 10  
(document CE/69/10)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item of the agenda,

1. Issues a renewed call for Member States, who have not yet done so, to ratify the amendment of Article 38 of the WTO Statutes adopted by the General assembly at its third session (A/RES/61(III)), and
  2. Accepts the Secretary-General's proposal aimed at progressively introducing the Arabic language beginning on 1 January 2003, considering the increased non-budgeted financial resources available following the admission of new Full Members, as indicated in document CE/69/10.
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CE/DEC/13(LXIX)

**Affiliate Members****(a) Report of the Chairman**

Agenda item 11(a)  
(document CE/69/11(a))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Chairman of the WTO Business Council - Affiliate Members on the activities carried out by the WTOBC since the last session of the Council,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his report;
2. Expresses its satisfaction over the activities carried out, considering their growth in terms of volume and diversity within the short span of time since the previous session of the Council;
3. Applauds the growing presence of the Business Council at international forums convened by other notable organizations and associations of the private sector;
4. Recognizes its valuable participation in congresses, assemblies and conferences organized by the Member States;

5. Welcomes the fact that the three important projects announced by the Chairman in his report at the previous session of the Council are already in progress:
  - The study on "Factors Affecting Tourism 2002," which will be presented next 30 January in Madrid,
  - The meeting of the Leadership Forum of Advisers, which will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece on 1 and 2 November,
  - The joint in-depth study by the Canadian Tourism Commission and the Business Council concerning public-private cooperation as well as partnership in the private sector;
6. Congratulates the Business Council on the success of the Seminars on "E-Commerce and Tourism" held in Lima, Peru and Quito, Ecuador, and
7. Encourages the holding of the new seminars announced on public-private cooperation in Istanbul, on new technologies in Mauritius and on business and incentive travel in Moscow.

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CE/DEC/14(LXIX)

### Affiliate Members

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

Agenda item 11(b)  
(document CE/69/11(b))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of its Sub-Committee, which met on 3 October 2002, for the review of applications for affiliate membership,

1. Endorses the Sub-Committee's recommendations, and
2. Decides to submit to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly applications for Affiliate Membership:
  - 2.a. Complete applications
    1. AMIN TOUR AND TRAVEL (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
    2. CARPATHIAN TOURIST BOARD (Ukraine)
    3. COMITÉ DU TOURISME DE LA RÉUNION (France)
    4. COSTA DAURADA (Spain)

5. FEDERAÇÃO NACIONAL DE HOTÉIS, RESTAURANTES, BARES E SIMILARES (Brazil)
6. GLOBALIA CORPORATION EMPRESARIAL, S.A. (Spain)
7. MAHARASHTRA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (India)
8. TOWNLAND CONSULTANTS LIMITED (Hong Kong, China)

2.b. Applications to be submitted to the Sub-Committee on receipt of the necessary documents

1. CHN TOURIST MANAGEMENT (Netherlands)
2. GLOBAL TOURISM SOLUTIONS (UK) Ltd (United Kingdom)

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CE/DEC/15(LXIX)

**Election of the Council's Officers for 2003**

Agenda item 12  
(document CE/69/12)

The Executive Council,

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

1. Decides to elect the Russian Federation as its Chairman for the year 2003, Jordan as its First Vice-Chairman, and Mexico and Cameroon as its Second Vice-Chairmen;
  2. Thanks Mr. Strzhalkovskiy for announcing his intention to personally assume the chairmanship in 2003, in light of the interest he brings to the Organization and to its activities;
  3. Requests these Full Members, in accordance with rule 5(4) of its Rules of Procedure, to inform the Secretary-General of the persons designated to perform these functions;
  4. Pays special tribute to H.E. Dr. Taleb Rifai, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan, for the exceptional manner in which he fulfilled his functions as Chairman of the Council, and
  5. Also pays tribute to the outgoing Vice-Chairmen for their competent work in performing the duties of Vice-Chairmen for the benefit of the Organization.
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CE/DEC/16(LXIX)

**Place and dates of the seventieth session of the Executive Council**

Agenda item 13  
(documents CE/69/13, CE/69/13 Add.1 and CE/69/13 Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having received the invitations presented by **Sri Lanka, Cyprus** and the **Dominican Republic** to host its seventieth session,

Having received the invitation presented by **India** to host its seventy-third session during the second quarter of 2004,

Having heard Spain and France recalling that the Council should meet at the Headquarters at regular intervals,

1. Recalls Article 8.2 of the Statutes, according to which:

*“Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise.”;*

2. Thus decides to hold its next session at the Headquarters in Madrid, on dates to be determined, with the support of the Spanish Government;

3. Confirms its 1999 decision to hold a Council session in Sri Lanka and decides to do so as soon as conditions allow;

4. Further decides to hold in 2003 in Sri Lanka an international seminar, which should contribute to the peace process in the country, and

5. Takes note of the invitations of Cyprus, the Dominican Republic and India to host a future session, and decides to consider them at the appropriate time.

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CE/DEC/17(LXIX)

**Vote of thanks to the host country**

The Executive Council,

Having completed the proceedings of its sixty-ninth session in conditions of outstanding efficiency and comfort, thanks to the facilities generously provided by the Committee of Tourism of the Administration of Saint Petersburg,

1. Conveys its deepest gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for its support to WTO and its Members;
2. Expresses its warmest congratulations to Mr. Vladimir Strzhalkovskiy, Vice-Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and Mr. Alexandre Prokhorenko, Vice-Governor of Saint Petersburg, as well as the gratitude of the Council Members that have witnessed at first hand the hospitality of the Russian people who have welcomed them to the historic city of Saint Petersburg on the eve of its three hundredth anniversary;
3. Thanks the Russian authorities for having taken the initiative of organizing a Seminar on *Future challenges for cultural tourism*, and
4. Also thanks Ms. Natela Shenguelia, Chief of Department of Tourism at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and Mrs. Marina Beskrovnaya, Chairperson of the Committee for Tourism and Development of Resorts of Saint Petersburg, and their team for their outstanding collaboration with the WTO Secretariat to ensure the success of the meetings.

#### **4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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

- 1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Andorra, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, Ukraine and United Republic of Tanzania;
- 2) the Chairmen of the Regional Commissions for Europe (Switzerland), Middle East (Egypt) and South Asia (Bangladesh);
- 3) the Permanent Observer to WTO (Holy See);
- 4) the representative of the Associate Members (Macao, China) ;
- 5) the representative of the Affiliate Members [International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO)] ;
- 6) the representatives of the following WTO Members: Greece, Sri Lanka, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia and the Flemish Community of Belgium, as observers, and
- 7) the representatives of the following non-member States: Belgium and Latvia.