

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS EIGHTIETH SESSION

Hammamet, Tunisia, 12-13 June 2007

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3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LXXX)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/80/1 prov. and CE/80/1 prov. annot.)

The Executive Council,

Adopts the agenda of its eightieth session as proposed.

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CE/DEC/2(LXXX)

Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 2
(document CE/80/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of its Chairman, H.E. Mr. Tijani Haddad, Minister of Tourism of Tunisia,

1. Thanks him for it;
2. Shares the views of the Chairman regarding the importance of tourism and its contribution to the process of economic and social development, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations;
3. Endorses his opinions regarding the new challenges facing the sector, such as crisis management and the role of communications media;
4. Agrees with him that tourism constitutes one of the key factors for the establishment of a dialogue among cultures;

CE/DEC/2(LXXX)

5. Takes note of the suggestions of the Chairman regarding the creation, under the aegis of the UNWTO, of suitable cooperation mechanisms, which would enable States that may have such need, to benefit from the expertise of other States in the area of tourism development;
 6. Warmly thanks Tunisia for the support it provides to the Organization, which it is set to demonstrate once again by hosting an important Forum; and
 7. Expresses its gratitude likewise to the Vice-Chairmen of the Council, Argentina and Hungary, for their valuable contribution to its work.
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CE/DEC/3(LXXX)

Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 3
(documents CE/80/3 and CE/80/3 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

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

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for his presentation aimed at keeping the Members of the Council informed of the situation of international tourism and the life of the Organization;
2. Takes note with satisfaction of the positive growth rates of tourism in all parts of the world in 2006, which are expected to continue this year and welcomes the transformation the sector is undergoing, which should lead to growth that is more solid and responsible, albeit at a more moderate pace;
3. Favourably receives the measures taken to implement the orientations proposed during the last session for the new structure of the Secretariat;

Having heard the reservations expressed by the Chairman of the Regional Commission (Croatia) and several delegations from Europe and, indicating the wish that the concurrent holding by a single person of the posts of Regional Representative for Europe and Regional Representative for the Middle East be as rapidly ended as possible, and that a decision on this point be taken at Cartagena de Indias,

4. Takes note of the continued autonomy of the Regional Commissions and secretariats and of the Secretary-General's assurance that the current arrangement whereby one person is holding more than one office at the same time is only of a temporary nature;
 5. Endorses the changes introduced at the level of the activities of the programme organized around five departments, one service and one coordination office;
 6. Notes with satisfaction that 47 projects are currently in progress within the framework of the ST-EP initiative;
 7. Agrees to reflect during this session on the strategy of the Organization with regard to the interrelation between tourism and climate change, and on the positions it should take in this matter;
 8. Expresses its positive appreciation of the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Destinations in Montreal in the face of the growing importance of destinations in international tourism competition;
 9. States its satisfaction with the considerable volume of activities carried out in 2006 and in the start of 2007;
 10. Is pleased to observe the excellent financial situation and takes note of the proposal to set a target level of slightly lower than "zero growth" in income and expenditure in real terms for 2008 and 2009; and
 11. Takes note of the major events planned between now and the end of 2007 and of the role that the UNWTO is called upon to play within the collective action of the United Nations system concerning climate change.
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CE/DEC/4(LXXX)

Report on the implementation of the general programme of work for the period 2006-2007 and on its evaluation

Agenda Item 4
(document CE/80/4)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report on ongoing activities submitted by the Secretary-General on the Organization's general programme of work for the period 2006-2007, approved by the Programme Committee at its thirty-second meeting held on 30 and 31 May 2007,

1. Notes with satisfaction the considerable progress made in implementing the programme during the current biennium and the positive results achieved to this end; and
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat on these achievements;

Taking into consideration the first evaluation carried out regarding the degree of progress made toward the achievement of the Agenda 2010 targets,

3. Agrees that the effort should be to create an evaluation system that satisfies both the United Nations, in line with the harmonization of evaluation procedures across all agencies, and UNWTO; and
4. Urges all Members of the Organization to respond to the survey that the Secretariat will send to this purpose.

.....
CE/DEC/5(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation and plan of expenditure for 2007

Agenda item 5(a)
(documents CE/80/5(a), CE/80/5(a) Add. 1 and CE/80/5(b))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization,

Having heard the statements by the Secretariat and having before it the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance, presented by its Chairman (Argentina),

1. Takes note of the report on the plan of expenditure for execution of the programme of work in 2007, in accordance with the expected level of income, and the measures taken by the Secretary-General in financial and personnel matters to maintain prudent management and make expenditures proportional to the income actually received during the year in progress;
2. Approves the preparation of an expenditure forecast for the current financial year up to a limit of 85 per cent of approved credits, so as to maintain the necessary budgetary equilibrium, in accordance with the recommendation made by the General Assembly in resolution 496(XVI);

3. Urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2007, thereby averting delays that could hamper programme execution;
 4. Takes note, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Staff Regulations and Rules and the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission of the adoption effective 1 January 2007 of a new salary scale applicable to staff of the professional and higher categories; and
 5. Thanks the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina) and the Auditors (India and Spain) for the important work carried out.
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CE/DEC/6(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(c) Auditors' report and administrative accounts for the financial year 2006

Agenda item 5(c)
(documents CE/80/5(c), CE/80/5(c) Corr.1 and CE/80/5(b))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the Auditors' report and administrative accounts of the Organization for the financial year 2006,

Having heard the explanations by the Secretariat and having considered the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance, presented by its Chairman (Argentina),

1. Notes that in the financial year 2006 the level of budgetary expenditure, namely 11,014,523.68 euros, was maintained within the limit of approved appropriations;
2. Notes that a budget surplus in 2006 (201,633.60 euros) was recorded;
3. Observes that the level of budgetary income received in 2006 made it possible to execute 94.56 per cent of the approved budget;
4. Approves the transfers of appropriations indicated in the document and which were made with the prior authorization of the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina) and the Chairman of the Executive Council (Tunisia), in accordance with Financial Regulation 5(3)(a) and Detailed Financial Provision 3.07;

5. Recommends, however, that so far as possible transfers between difference sections of the budget be limited to exceptional cases;

Having been informed of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/283 approving the system-wide adoption of the international public sector accounting standards (IPSAS) and taking note of the recommendation made by the Committee on Budget and Finance in the report of its forty-seventh meeting,

6. Requests the Committee on Budget and Finance to submit to its eighty-first session a timetable for the introduction of IPSAS and a budget for its implementation;
7. Agrees that UNWTO should take steps to adopt, by 1 January 2010, the new accounting standards concerned;
8. Recommends the Secretary-General to pursue in 2007 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment;
9. Takes note of India's declaration of its intention to continue its mandate as Auditor; and
10. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly, with the favourable opinion of the Council, the administrative accounts for the financial year 2006.

.....
CE/DEC/7(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(d) Closing of the audited administrative accounts of the fifteen financial period (2004-2005)

Agenda item 5(d)
(documents CE/80/5(d) and CE/80/5(b))

The Executive Council,

Considering the report of the Secretary-General on the financial results of the audited accounts of the fifteenth financial period (2004-2005) and taking note of the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance referring thereto,

1. Observes that on closing the accounts for the period on 31 December 2005 there was a surplus balance of 647,249.52 euros;

2. Welcomes the high level of collection of contribution arrears; and

Having noted the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the use of the available surplus from the financial period 2004-2005, be used to strengthen the activities of the Organization's programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009,

3. Requests the General Assembly to decide on how to use this surplus to reinforce programme activities, in accordance with established practice, with the understanding that resources thus obtained are not to be used to permanently fund normal operating expenses.

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CE/DEC/8(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(e) Application of the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes

Agenda item 5(e)
(documents CE/80/5(e), CE/80/5(e) Add. 1 and CE/80/5(b))

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-four Full Members, one Associate Member and forty-three Affiliate Members,

Having been informed of the Members benefiting from temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, granted by the Sixteenth General Assembly,

1. Applauds the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations despite their internal constraints;
2. Notes that Lebanon has paid its contribution arrears and is therefore no longer liable to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules, and that Kuwait is no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 since it has cancelled the bulk of its arrears, and welcomes the meritorious efforts thus undertaken by these two countries;
3. Also notes that Cambodia is no longer liable to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules since the Executive Council at its 79th session approved a payment plan for the payment of its arrears;

4. Notes with satisfaction that Cambodia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mongolia, have respected their agreed payment plans up to 2007;
5. Notes that Burkina Faso, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mali, Peru, Uruguay and Yemen have partially respected their agreed payment plans up to 2007 and agrees to the new payment plan in twenty years submitted by Uruguay for the settlement of its arrear contributions;
6. Takes note of Mauritania's desire to settle its contribution arrears and asks the Secretary-General to propose to it a payment plan taking into account the situation and prospects of the country;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to remind Members that have not yet fulfilled their agreed plans or have done so only partially that temporary exemption from the aforementioned provisions is subject to their full observance of those plans; and
8. Also requests the Secretary-General to inform it at its next session of Members' compliance with the agreements made with a view, as the case may be, to maintaining the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 that they were granted by the General Assembly or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments.

Recalling its decisions CE/DEC/7(LXXVIII) and CE/DEC/5(LXXIX),

Aware that Iraq remains subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and Article 34 of the Statutes,

9. Encourages that country to pursue its negotiations with the Secretariat concerning its contribution arrears so as to regularize Iraq's financial situation as soon as possible.
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CE/DEC/9(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters**(f) Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General**

Agenda item 5(f)
(documents CE/80/5(f) and CE/80/5(f) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Recalling resolution A/RES/512(XVI) whereby the Assembly requested the Council to carry out an in-depth study of the question of the procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General and invited the Full Members to transmit to the Secretariat their suggestions and comments on this matter,

Having taken cognizance of the documents prepared on this subject, based on the responses received from the Members,

Accepting the proposal of its Chairman,

1. Decides to continue its reflection on this subject and to constitute a Working Group to deal with this matter, which shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Council, and be composed of one representative from each regional commission designated by its Chairman; and
2. Agrees that this Working Group shall meet in Tunisia prior to the General Assembly, to which it shall present a report.

.....
CE/DEC/10(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters**(g) Linguistic diversity**

Agenda item 5(g)
(document CE/80/5(g))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the document prepared by the Secretary-General on this item,

Noting the request for the amendment of Article 38 of the Statutes presented by the Government of China, for the introduction of Chinese as an official language of the Organization,

Having heard the favourable opinion of the Secretary-General regarding the introduction of the Chinese language through an amendment to be made to the Statutes, given China's considerable and growing importance in world tourism,

1. Takes note that this draft amendment will be submitted to the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, scheduled to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, next November;

Having been also informed of the request of the Government of Kazakhstan to consider Russian as an official language of the meetings of the Commission for Europe and having noted the declaration of the Spanish delegation on the use of the Spanish language in this Commission,

Aware that the Regional Commissions are subsidiary organs of the Assembly,

2. Decides that it shall be up to the latter to take a decision, if it so wishes, regarding this matter at its next session; and
3. Requests the Secretary-General to evaluate the costs and benefits of these two possible decisions and of other developments in progress relative to the question of linguistic diversity.

.....
CE/DEC/11(LXXX)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(h) Restructuring of the Technical Committees

Agenda item 5(h)
(document CE/80/5(h))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the document prepared by the Secretary-General on this item,

1. Agrees with the proposal of the Secretary-General to reorganize the Technical Committees with a view to ensuring better correspondence with the new structure of the programme;
2. Decides, consequently, that the subsidiary organs shall be constituted as listed below:

- Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account
 - Market and Competitiveness Committee
 - Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee
 - Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership
 - Committee on Poverty Reduction (Board of Directors of the ST-EP Foundation)
3. Notes that the latter Committee becomes both a subsidiary organ of the Council for activities relative to poverty reduction and an organ of the Foundation responsible for its own operations;
 4. Considers that the composition and attributions of all the technical committees should be reviewed at the next Assembly; and
 5. Recalls that its two principal Committees, the Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance, remain unchanged.
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CE/DEC/12(LXXX)

New membership

Agenda Item 6
(document CE/80/6)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on this matter,

1. Welcomes with satisfaction the candidature of **Tajikistan** and strongly recommends the General Assembly to approve it at its next session;
 2. Notes with interest the expectation that the candidature of **Brunei Darussalam** could be formalized shortly;
 3. Takes note of the contacts maintained by the Secretariat with the countries that have shown interest in joining the Organization, as well as the demarches carried out with non-member States with a view to their possible membership; and
 4. Entrusts the Secretary-General with actively continuing these demarches and to report on follow-up actions taken at its next session.
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CE/DEC/13(LXXX)

Cooperation with the United Nations system

(a) Participation in the system's coordination mechanisms

Agenda item 7(a)
(document CE/80/7(a) Rev. 1)

The Executive Council,

Having considered document CE/80/7(a),

1. Celebrates the official visit on 5 June 2007, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to the headquarters of the Organization;
 2. Notes with satisfaction the regular participation of the UNWTO in the different coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system, particularly in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), as well as in the meetings of other bodies of the United Nations system;
 3. Takes note with interest of the fact that annual meetings of bodies belonging to the system have been held at the headquarters since the UNWTO became a specialized agency, such as that of the Working Group of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, that of the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions (ACPAQ) and that of the Legal Advisers of the United Nations System; and
 4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform it, at its forthcoming sessions, regarding the participation of the Organization in the coordination mechanisms of the system and of the implementation of the Tourism Exchange Network, UNTEN.
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CE/DEC/14(LXXX)

Cooperation with the United Nations system**(b) Acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies**

Agenda item 7(b)
(document CE/80/7 (b))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the document relative to the acceptance of the draft annex to the Convention relating to the World Tourism Organization,

Having heard the statements of various Members of the Executive Council and of Japan on this subject,

1. Observes that it does not have the ability to modify a draft adopted by consensus by the General Assembly;
 2. Recommends notwithstanding that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Legal Adviser, prepare a new draft taking into account the concerns expressed by certain Members of the Executive Council and by Japan;
 3. Requests the Secretary-General to gather the possible observations of the Full Members of the Organization before proposing a final draft that will be submitted again for approval to the United Nations Economic and Social Council in accordance with Section 35 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations; and
 4. Notes that this new text will have to be submitted again for approval to the next session of the UNWTO General Assembly.
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CE/DEC/15(LXXX)

Cooperation with the United Nations system

(c) Joint Headquarters Committee

Agenda item 7(c)
(document CE/80/7(c))

The Executive Council,

Having been informed of the developments that have occurred regarding this matter since the last session of the Council,

1. Takes note with interest of the follow-up provided by the Spanish authorities with regard to the identity cards of the staff and their family members;
 2. Notes that the Headquarters Committee was unable to meet during the early part of the year and entrusts the Secretary-General to see to it, in liaison with the Government of the host country, that at least one meeting can take place prior to its next session in order to deal with pending matters, in particular, relative to the security and capacity of the headquarters building; and
 3. Requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the results of these meetings.
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CE/DEC/16(LXXX)

General programme of work and budget for the period 2008-2009

(a) Draft programme of work and budget prepared by the Secretary-General

Agenda item 8(a)
(documents CE/80/8(a), CE/80/8(b) and CE/80/8(c))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the draft general programme of work and budget of the Organization for the period 2008-2009, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 23(2) of the Statutes and on the basis of the policy guidelines and programming principles adopted by the Council at its seventy-ninth session in decision CE/DEC/11 (LXXIX),

Having before it the reports of the Programme Committee and of the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Notes with satisfaction that the draft programme builds upon the Organization's achievements by focusing upon both strategic and specific objectives that respond to Members' needs;
2. Shares the Programme Committee's view that the draft programme shows greater coherence and clustering, ensures a better coordination, creates the necessary synergies, facilitates evaluation of results and addresses the concerns of Members within the context of the Organization's Agenda 2010;
3. Emphasizes the importance of:
 - (a) Ensuring continuous improvement of competitiveness, analysis of market trends, crisis preparedness and evaluation of the economic contribution of tourism,
 - (b) Promoting sustainable development of tourism and reinforcing technical assistance activities, so as to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals,
 - (c) Ensuring that Governments and other stakeholders establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure training, partnership, governance, and finance of tourism,
 - (d) Encouraging the search for quality and competitiveness at the destination level, and
 - (e) Supporting UNWTO Members in Information Technology, Documentation, enhancing the image of tourism and that of the Organization,
4. Approves the draft programme of work as recommended by the Programme Committee;
5. Takes note of the recommendations of the Programme Committee regarding evaluation procedures and entrusts the Secretary-General with carrying out the appropriate follow-up actions;
6. Takes note of the proposal submitted to it by the Secretary-General, established on the basis of a zero growth in real terms, through the Committee on Budget and Finance, according to which the contributions due from Full and Associate Members will be apportioned progressively between the two years, i.e., 11,117,000 euros in 2008 and 11,440,000 euros in 2009.
7. Recommends the General Assembly to adopt a draft programme and budget for 2008-2009 not exceeding the amount of 25,516,000 euros, while entrusting the Committee on Budget and Finance at its forty-eighth meeting with reviewing the budget and studying the possibility, depending upon the economic situation at the Headquarters of cost-savings that could be achieved;

CE/DEC/16(LXXX)

8. Agrees that limited appropriations should be included in this budget to give the least developed States access to the programme for evaluating the excellence of their destinations ;
 9. Entrusts the Secretary-General with making provision for the necessary resources for the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, within the proposed draft programme-budget for 2008-2009; and
 10. Commends the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Programme Committee and their Chairpersons for their valuable contribution to the preparation of the Organization's draft programme of work for 2008-2009.
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CE/DEC/17(LXXX)

Risk assessment and management status report

Agenda item 9
(document CE/80/9)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decision 14(LXXVIII) whereby it approved the action plan for risk assessment and management as prepared by the Working Group,

Having considered the report prepared by the Secretary-General on the implementation of this Action Plan,

1. Takes note of the different activities that form part of the action plan whose implementation has already begun, in particular with regard to preparedness for a human avian influenza epidemic and especially the simulation exercise for Europe and the Middle East organized in Paris, France, on 28-29 March 2007, as well as the two others planned in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24-25 July 2007, for the Asia/Pacific region, and in Mexico City, Mexico, on 18-19 September 2007, for the Americas;
2. Encourages the further development of its portal sos.travel that has been established;
3. Welcomes the extension of these Avian Flu related activities to include other types of emergency situations affecting tourism;
4. Appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to seek external public and private partnerships to complement the resources allocated by the Organization for risk prevention and management; and

5. Takes note of the request from the Members of the Working Group (RAM) to ensure the continuity of the work they have achieved, given the enormous increasing importance of this area for the tourism sector worldwide.
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CE/DEC/18(LXXX)

Progress Report on the ST-EP Programme

Agenda item 10
(documents CE/80/10 and CE/80/10 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the activities carried out by the Secretariat within the framework of the ST-EP programme, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Welcomes the progress made in this area, in particular, with regard to the identification and implementation of ST-EP projects, and capacity building and training initiatives;
2. Appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to raise awareness of the ST-EP programme and the ST-EP Foundation and to seek further external support for its activities;

Having also considered the activities of the ST-EP Foundation, which were likewise enumerated in the abovementioned report,

3. Expresses its satisfaction with the financing of seven projects benefiting Gambia, Honduras, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, as approved by the Board of Directors of the Foundation at its last meeting in Madrid;
4. Notes further that the General Directorate for Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy and SNV (the Netherlands Development Organisation) were invited to become members of the ST-EP Foundation's Board of Directors;

Having further examined the details relative to the execution of the ST-EP projects,

5. Appreciates the results obtained, in particular through:
 - (a) the elaboration of detailed work programs for proposals approved by the ST-EP Foundation,

- (b) the efforts made towards establishing links with private sector and development organisations that can support individual ST-EP projects; and
6. Thanks the countries and development organisations contributing to the ST-EP initiative, and in particular the Republic of Korea, Italy, France and the SNV, and calls upon other countries and development organisations to join them.
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CE/DEC/19(LXXX)

Tourism and climate change

Agenda Item 11
(documents CE/80/11 and CE/80/11 Add. Rev. 1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the document relative to tourism and climate change and its addendum,

1. Shares the views expressed in the document with regard to the growing awareness about the phenomenon of climate change on the part of public opinion and about the problem of the interaction between tourism and climate warming;
2. Appreciates the actions that the Secretariat has been undertaking since the Djerba Conference in 2003 with a view to taking effective measures of adaptation and mitigation of the effects of warming in the tourism sector;
3. Subscribes to the approach proposed by the Secretary-General in order to make it possible for the tourism industry to adapt to the consequences of warming, to reduce tourism's contribution to climate change and to ensure that this twofold objective is not carried out to the detriment of countries where tourism is an instrument of economic development and of poverty reduction;
4. Suggests broadening the approach to the evaluation of tourism's impact on a country or destination so that the focus will no longer be on economic and financial considerations alone but extend to such factors as sustainability and the contribution to climate warming ;
5. Calls for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities in order to sensitize and educate consumers and governments about the challenges this issue presents;

6. Takes note with satisfaction of the convening, by the UNWTO, of a second international conference on tourism and climate change, scheduled to be held in Davos, Switzerland next October, whose conclusions will be presented at the ministerial summit that will be held in London on the occasion of the World Travel Market, as well as at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly in the month of November this year; and
 7. Underlines the central role that should belong to the UNWTO in this tourism-climate change issue, within the framework of the global commitment of the international community and in view of the meetings of the United Nations family on the subject of warming, in New York in September and in Bali in December.
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CE/DEC/20(LXXX)

Report of the Working Group entrusted to study the feasibility of a legal instrument to deal with the facilitation of tourist travel

Agenda Item 12
(document CE/80/12)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decision 3(LXXIX) whereby it approved the creation of a Working Group entrusted to study the feasibility of an appropriate legal instrument to deal with the facilitation of tourist travel,

1. Notes that the first meeting of the Working Group was held at Headquarters on 25 April 2007, with the participation of 36 Member States, under the co-chairmanship of Algeria and Croatia;
 2. Takes note of the summary of conclusions of this first meeting and entrusts the Secretary-General with giving it the necessary follow-up, and in particular, carrying out an inventory of the existing international instruments relative to facilitation and preparing a questionnaire to send to States Members and non-members of the Organization and to interested international organizations; and
 3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it on this subject at its next session.
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CE/DEC/21(LXXX)

**World Tourism Day:
themes for 2008 and 2009 to be proposed to the General Assembly,
and the selection of the host countries**

Agenda Item 13
(document CE/80/13)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the Secretary-General's report regarding the celebration of World Tourism Day 2006 and 2007, and the procedure for the selection of themes for World Tourism Day 2008 and 2009,

1. Notes that suggestions of themes related to timely subjects for the 2008 and 2009 editions will be submitted to its eighty-first session for transmission to the General Assembly;

Recalling that, through its resolution 470(XV), the General Assembly decided that the host country of World Tourism Day should be chosen based on the principle of geographic rotation,

2. Takes note that the 2008 edition corresponds to the Americas and that of 2009 to Africa; and
3. Entrusts the next meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas, which will be held at the end of June 2007, with submitting its proposal regarding the Host State for World Tourism Day 2008 at the eighty-first session of the Council, which will submit it for information to the seventeenth session of the Assembly.

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CE/DEC/22(LXXX)

Affiliate Members

(a) Report of the Chairman

Agenda item 14(a)
(document CE/80/14(a))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the Chairman of the UNWTO Affiliate Members,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his presentation;
 2. Expresses its satisfaction over the appointment of the new Executive Director of the Affiliate Members and the impetus that he is providing to the Affiliate Members Secretariat under the new structure;
 3. Welcomes the rapid implementation of the new Strategic Plan of the Affiliate Members;
 4. Reiterates its support for greater participation of the Affiliate Members in the programme of work of the Organization;
 5. Especially notes the holding in a joint manner, on the part of the three Councils, of the conference on “Public-Private Partnership for Development through Tourism”, held in the context of the World Tourism Summit that took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil;
 6. Observes with satisfaction the activities carried out by the three Councils since the last session and the activities and projects planned for 2007 in a more coordinated and more effective manner on their part;
 7. Decides to accept the proposal of the Board of the Affiliate Members to add to their contribution, effective 1 January 2008, an assessment of €400 for the funding of access on the part of the Affiliate Members to the UNWTO's e-library, due to the enormous added value this service represents for the Members;
 8. Decides to accept the proposal of offering to the Affiliate Members the possibility of obtaining such access to the UNWTO's virtual library on an individual basis, starting in the second half of 2007, upon payment of €200, which is to be considered as a voluntary payment; and
 9. Congratulates and encourages the Secretariat of the Affiliate Members in its efforts aimed at implementing the new strategy with a view to reinforcing the recognition, the representativity and the innovative image of the Members in the world tourism sector, as well as the efforts aimed at attracting new members.
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CE/DEC/23(LXXX)

Affiliate Members

(b) Establishment of the World Centre of Excellence on Tourist Destinations in Montreal

Agenda item 14(b)
(document CE/80/14 (b))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report presented by the President of Tourisme Montréal, Mr. Charles Lapointe, on the World Centre of Excellence for Destinations (CED) and of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and the CED,

1. Appreciates the support offered to UNWTO by the Canadian Federal Government and the Quebec Provincial Government for this important initiative, in collaboration with a group of Affiliate Members;
 2. Welcomes the concept of “destination excellence measurement system” and recommends that the CED together with a network of experts develop a comprehensive set of indicators to measure excellence and to enable the destinations to achieve quality performance;
 3. Entrusts the Secretary-General to sign the agreement which will be provisionally put in force pending its approval by the General Assembly in accordance with Article 12 of the Statutes; and
 4. Considers that, in future, the Organization should exercise certain caution in the establishment of decentralized institutions, so as to maintain the coherence of its action and avoid the emergence of duplicated efforts.
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Affiliate Members**(c) Report of the Sub-Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership**

Agenda item 14(c)
(document CE/80/14(c))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of its Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 12 June 2007, under the chairmanship of San Marino,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee; and
 2. Decides to submit to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly the following candidates for affiliate membership:
 - AMADEUS IT GROUP (Spain)
 - AMBROSETTI, S.p.A. (Italy)
 - AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (Jordan)
 - ASOCIACIÓN CATALANA DE AGENCIAS DE VIAJES (ACAV) (Spain)
 - ASOCIACIÓN DE HOTELES DE TURISMO DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA (Argentina)
 - AUTHENTREX, S.A. (visithuelva.com) (Spain)
 - AVIEMORE AND THE CAIRNGORMS DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (United Kingdom)
 - CAMARA DE PERIODISTAS Y COMUNICADORES DE TURISMO (Spain)
 - CAPGEMINI ESPAÑA, S.L. (Spain)
 - GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY (Australia)
 - ELITE TRAVELER (United States of America)
 - ENTE BILATERALE NAZIONALE TURISMO (Italy)
 - ESCOLA DE HOTELERIA DE LES ILLES BALEARS (Spain)
 - FUNDACIÓN EMPRESARIAL COMUNIDAD EUROPEA CHILE - EUROCHILE (Chile)
 - FUNDACIÓN IBIT, ISLAS BALEARES PARA LA INNOVACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA (Spain)
 - GIT CONSULTORES (Spain)
 - INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM (Croatia)
 - MEDITERRANEAN TRAVEL ASSOCIATION - META (France)
 - NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY (United States of America)
 - NON-COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM INTEGRATION "THE WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS" (Russian Federation)
 - ROTEIROS DE CHARME HOTEL ASSOCIATION (Brazil)
 - SECRETARÍA DE TURISMO DE FORTALEZA (Brazil)
 - THE INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURISM SOCIETY (United States of America)
 - THE SUN CHANNEL TOURISM TELEVISION, C.A. (Venezuela)
 - TOURISMTRADEMARK (Spain)
 - TURISMO Y COMUNICACIÓN DE SALAMANCA, S.A.U. (Espagne)
 - UNION HOTELERA DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS (Spain)
 - UNIVERSIDAD PEDRO DE VALDIVIA (Chile)
 - WEST AFRICA TOURISM UNION (WATU) (Ghana)
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CE/DEC/25(LXXX)

Report on the preparation of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly

Agenda Item 15
(document CE/80/15)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Takes note with satisfaction that the agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Organization was signed on 31 January 2007;

Having heard the statement by the delegation of Colombia concerning the preparation of the General Assembly,

2. Thanks the Colombian authorities for the efforts already made to ensure the success of this session of the General Assembly;
3. Takes due note of the new structure of the Assembly and of the eight-day duration of the proceedings and related activities, including two round table meetings, the Seminar organized by the Affiliate Members and the Conference prepared by the Education and Knowledge Management Department; and
4. Thanks Kazakhstan for its generous offer to host the 2009 General Assembly and takes note of the ability of this country to host such an event.

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CE/DEC/26(LXXX)

Place and dates of the eighty-first session of the Council

Agenda Item 16

The Executive Council,

1. Decides to hold its eighty-first and eighty-second sessions in conjunction with the seventeenth session of the General Assembly at Cartagena de Indias, on 22 and 29 November 2007; and
2. Confirms the intention expressed at its last session of meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in conjunction with the meeting of the Board of Directors of the ST-EP Foundation.

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CE/DEC/27(LXXX)

Vote of thanks to the host country

The Executive Council,

Having successfully carried out the proceedings of its eightieth session in the favourable conditions placed at its disposal by the host country of the session,

1. Expresses its most sincere gratitude to the Government of Tunisia for this new show of support to the UNWTO and to its Members for having hosted this session of the Council, which will be followed by the Fifth International Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities placed under the high patronage of H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic;
 2. Feels honoured by the interest taken by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi, Prime Minister of Tunisia, who will honour the opening ceremony of the Forum with his presence; and
 3. Cordially thanks H.E. Mr. Tijani Haddad, Minister of Tourism, Mr. Mouldi Mhadbi, Chief of Staff, Mr. Fethi Belhabib, Director of International Cooperation, and all of their collaborators for their warm hospitality towards the delegations present at this session of the Council and for giving them the opportunity to appreciate the cultural traditions and attractions of the tourism destination of Yasmine Hammamet.
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4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The eightieth session of the Executive Council was attended by:

- (1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey;
- (2) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for Africa (Nigeria);
- (3) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for the Americas (Brazil);
- (4) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (China);
- (5) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for Europe (Croatia);
- (6) the Permanent Observer to UNWTO (Holy See);
- (7) the representative of the Affiliate Members (Group RCI);
- (8) the representatives of the following UNWTO Member States: Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Poland, Russian Federation, Togo, and Ukraine, as observers, and
- (9) the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina).