

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 22 November 2007

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3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LXXXI)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/81/1 prov. and CE/81/1 prov.annot.)

The Executive Council

Adopts the agenda of its eighty-first session as proposed.

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CE/DEC/2(LXXXI)

Applications for membership

Agenda item 2
(documents A/17/19 a)I) and A/17/19 a) II))

The Executive Council,

Having been informed of the documents prepared by the Secretary-General on this subject,

Decides to transmit them to the General Assembly for approval.

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CE/DEC/3(LXXXI)

Candidatures for the posts of Auditor for the period 2008-2009

Agenda item 3
(documents A/17/9 and CE/81/3 Rev.)

The Executive Council,

Expressing its appreciation to the Auditors appointed for the current biennium, i.e. India, (Ms. Rita Mitra and Mr. Manish Kumar) and Spain, (Mr. Fernando Casas Guillén and Mrs. Mercedes Lebrancón Cortés) for their efficient work,

1. Thanks them for their contribution;

Having regard to Article 12(g) and 26 of the Organization's Statutes,

Noting that, for the period 2008-2009, the Secretariat has received expressions of interest from three countries, France, India and Spain;

Mindful of the observations made by the Secretary-General on this subject,

2. Decides to recommend the General Assembly to designate France and Spain as the Auditors for the period 2008-2009, and to entrust to India the function of special Auditor in charge of inspecting the accounts relating to the activities carried out by the UNWTO in its capacity as an executing agency of the UNDP, with the funds coming from this Programme.

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CE/DEC/4(LXXXI)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation**
- (b) Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance**

Agenda item 4(a)(b)
(documents A/17/5(a) and A/17/5(a) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

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

Having heard the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Notes with satisfaction that, by the date of the present session some 90 per cent of the total contributions receivable from Members for the current year and 107 per cent of the estimated income from contributions had been received;
2. Takes cognizance that, in fulfilment of the recommendation of the General Assembly at its sixteenth session, a balance between expenditure, which have been kept under control, and income has been maintained;
3. Observes that income from arrear contributions to date amounts to 1,157,481 euros, representing 165 per cent of the amount estimated for 2007;
4. Expresses its gratification at the favourable financial situation of the Organization and, recalling its decision CE/DEC/6 (LXXX) on this subject, proposes to the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to constitute a fund of 100,000 euros from this year's budget to anticipate the expenditure necessary for implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

Having noted the considerable amount of arrears owed to the Organization by certain Members,

5. Urges Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to discharge the outstanding amounts as soon as possible.
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CE/DEC/5(LXXXI)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

- (c) Suspension of membership in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes**
(d) Requests for temporary exemption from the application of paragraph 13
of the Financing Rules

Agenda item 4(c)(d)
 (documents A/17/6(a)(b) and A/17/6(a)(b) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the application to the Members mentioned in the above documents of the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes,

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

Having heard the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Notes with satisfaction that the People's Democratic Republic of Korea is no longer subject to the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules respectively, since it has paid part of its arrears;
2. Welcomes the fact that Costa Rica is complying scrupulously with its payments plan and has reduced the sum to an amount lower than its contributions for the past two years thus continuing to be free from the application of the provisions of paragraph 13;
3. Decides, in view of their compliance with the agreed payment plans, to propose to the General Assembly to renew the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules as they apply to Full Members Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mali, Mongolia, and Nicaragua;
4. Also decides to recommend the General Assembly to maintain the temporary exemption of Georgia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Peru, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Rwanda and Yemen from the provisions of paragraph 13, albeit making it clear that these provisions will be reapplied to these Members if they are not up to date with their payment plans by 1 April 2008;

Recalling its decisions CE/DEC/7(LXXVIII), CE/DEC/5(LXXIX) and CE/DEC/8(LXXX),

5. Notes with satisfaction that Iraq has paid as a sign of goodwill its 2007 contribution to UNWTO;
6. Proposes to the General Assembly that it grant Iraq temporary exemption from the application of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules subject to discharge of its regular contributions in 2008 and 2009;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue his negotiations with Iraq concerning that country's contribution arrears, and to prepare, within a grace period of two years, a jointly agreed payment plan containing concrete proposals relating both to the amount due and the modalities of repayment ;
8. Notes that although Burundi had in March 2006 ruled out withdrawing from the Organization, no payment plan had yet been submitted by that country which, accordingly, is once again subject to suspension of its membership in accordance with Article 34 of the Statutes;
9. Decides to submit to the General Assembly the payment plans submitted by the following Full Members and already approved by its 78th, 79th and 80th sessions; Burkina Faso, Cambodia and Uruguay; as well as the payment plans submitted by Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia and Mauritania at its present session;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its 83rd session on the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by Members with a view to deciding whether to maintain the exemptions or reapply the provisions of paragraph 13;

Having taken note of the list of Members currently subject to the measure of suspension provided for in Article 34 of the Statutes,

11. Observes that the following Members have accumulated arrears equal to or exceeding their contributions for four financial years and that, consequently, the measure of suspension provided for in Article 34 of the Statutes could be applicable to them within a year, in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of General Assembly resolution 217(VII):

FULL MEMBER

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

1. ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE GASTRONOMIA - ABRESI
2. A.T.S.
3. EL MEJABAAT EL KOUBRA TOURS
4. FACULTY OF TOURISM & HOTELS, CAIRO UNIVERSITY, - AL FAYOUM BRANCH
5. FUNDACION ESCUELA DE NEGOCIOS MBA
6. MAHARASHTRA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
7. ÉCOLE HOTELIÈRE ET RESTAURATION - PROMHOT
8. TOURISMPAN
9. UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES – CENTRE FOR HOTEL AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT
10. VAO "INTOURIST"

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CE/DEC/6(LXXXI)

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

Agenda item 5
(documents CE/81/5 and CE/81/5 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the document setting out suggested themes for World Tourism Day in 2008 and 2009,

1. Agrees to the concepts expressed by the themes and;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to finalize the wording of both themes in order to ensure the widest possible repercussion of these editions of World Tourism day.

Having considered the candidatures received to host World Tourism Day,

3. Requests the Regional Commission for the Americas to nominate a host country from the two Full Members that volunteered to host World Tourism Day in 2008 and to communicate their nominee to the General Assembly; and
4. Proposes to the General Assembly to nominate Ghana the host of World Tourism Day in 2009.

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CE/DEC/7(LXXXI)

Procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General

Agenda item 6
(document CE/81/6)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its resolution 512(XVI) of the General Assembly whereby, among other things, it requested the Executive Council to study the matter of the procedure for the appointment of the Deputy Secretary-General,

Having taken cognizance of the documents prepared by the Secretary-General on this subject, as well as of the report of the Working Group created by the Executive Council to deal with this matter, chaired by Tunisia,

1. Notes that in a very wide majority of the organizations of the United Nations, the Deputy Secretary/Director-General is appointed by the Chief of the Secretariat after consultation with or approval by a policy-making organ;
2. Shares the opinion of the Working Group that the following three principles should be observed in this matter:
 - an increased role should be conferred to the General Assembly in the appointment process,
 - the procedure should be in line with the practice followed in this matter by the United Nations and the specialized agencies,
 - the Secretary-General should be allowed to select his/her Deputy, so as to make it possible to form a cohesive team;

3. Is of the opinion that inspiration should be drawn from the proposals set out in said report, subject to their review by the Legal Adviser, and taking into account the proposals made by Spain with respect to Paragraph 13 of the report; and
 4. Transmits these recommendations to the General Assembly.
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CE/DEC/8(LXXXI)

Adjustment to the budget and assessment of Members' contributions for the period 2008-2009

Agenda item 8
(documents A/17/8 and CE/81/8)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognisance of document A/17/8 prepared in accordance with the established formula for the calculation of contributions, using the data provided by the United Nations and the Members,

Having considered the recommendations made by the Committee on Budget and Finance at its forty-eighth meeting,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for having carried out, in accordance with its request, a downward revision of the budget based on economic assumptions allowing such revision;
2. Is of the opinion that the bulk of the resources allocated to the Programme of Work should be maintained, in accordance with the recommendation of the Programme Committee, and wishes that the Assembly would express its position regarding a revised proposal making it possible to make a further slight reduction in the level of the budget and to limit even more the contributory effort of the Members;

Taking into account that the level of the budget approved for 2008 and 2009 will be of 25,110,000 euros,

3. Decides that the part of the budget that should be covered by the contributions of the Full and Associate Members amounts to 11,048,023 euros for 2008 and 11,213,743 euros for 2009;
 4. Decides further that the balance should be financed by the contributions of the Affiliate Members and the other sources of funding referred to in A/17/8;
 5. Recommends the Assembly to fix the contribution of the Affiliate Members for the period 2008-2009 at 2,400 euros per year, of which 1,400 euros will be allocated as a contribution to the Organization's budget and 400 euros for free annual access to UNWTO's E-library and 600 assigned to their own activities; and
 6. Decides that the contributions of the Associate Members will be divided into two separate categories, each being 10% lower than the contribution of the Full Members in groups 13, and 9 respectively;
 7. Recommends the Assembly to adopt the corresponding scale of contributions for the biennium 2008-2009.
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CE/DEC/9(LXXXI)

Affiliate Members:
Report of the Committee for the review
of applications for affiliate membership

Agenda item 9
(document CE/81/9)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of its Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 22 November 2007,

1. Decides to submit to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly the following applications for affiliate membership:
 1. ADVENTURE TRAVEL TRADE ASSOCIATION (United States of America)
 2. AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL (Australia)
 3. CENTRO DE ESTUDOS E INVESTIGACIONES TURISTICA – CETUR – UNIVERSIDAD DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (Spain)
 4. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE DEDOCANESE (Greece)
 5. CORPORACIÓN COMUNICACION IBEROAMERICANA BARCELÓ Y ASOCIADOS (Spain)

6. DNIPRO HOTEL (Ukraine)
 7. FEDERATION OF TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS OF NIGERIA (FTAN) (Nigeria)
 8. FISAVET-AOC – FEDERATION INTER-ETAT DES SYNDICATS D'AGENCES DE VOYAGES ET DE TOURISME POUR L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET DU CENTRE
 9. GEOS (France)
 10. JORDAN APPLIED UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM (Jordan)
 11. KOHL & PARTNER TOURISM CONSULTANCY INTERNATIONAL (Austria)
 12. RAINFOREST ALLIANCE (United States of America)
 13. RENFE (Spain)
 14. THE FUTURE FOUNDATION (United Kingdom)
 15. THE SCHOLARSHIP (United States of America)
 16. THE TOURISM COMPANY (United Kingdom)
 17. TOUR OPERATORS' INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT (TOI)
 18. TOURISM KWAZULU-NATAL TOURISM AUTHORITY OR TOURISM KWAZULU-NATAL (South Africa)
 19. TOURISMROI LLC (United States of America)
 20. TRALLIANCE CORPORAION (United States of America)
 21. MONDIAL ENERGY INC (Canada)
2. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee with regard to its future meetings.

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CE/DEC/10(LXXXI)

Place and date of the eighty-second session of the Executive Council

Agenda item 10

The Executive Council

Decides to hold its eighty-second session in Cartagena de Indias, on 29 November 2007 immediately after the closure of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.

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4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The eighty-first session of the Executive Council was attended by:

- 1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Argentina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Portugal, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, 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 Europe (Croatia);
- 5) the representative of the Associate Members (Madeira);
- 6) the representative of the Affiliate Members (Group RCI);
- 7) the representatives of the following member States: Burkina Faso, Colombia, Egypt, France, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Monaco, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand and Ukraine, as observers;
- 8) the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina), and
- 9) the Chairperson of the Programme Committee (Austria).