

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AT ITS EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION

Jeju, Republic of Korea, 13-14 June 2008

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3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LXXXIII)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/83/1 prov. and CE/83/1 prov. annot.)

The Executive Council,

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

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CE/DEC/2(LXXXIII)

Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 2
(document CE/83/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of its Chairperson, H.E. Ms. Ambika Soni, Minister of Tourism of India,

1. Thanks her for it;
2. Expresses together with its Chairperson its anguish, its profound sorrow, and its most heartfelt condolences to the two countries, China and Myanmar, that have recently suffered natural calamities;
3. Endorses her opinions regarding the UNWTO's action concerning crisis management and travel advisories;
4. Agrees with her on the need for a balanced strategy to address the phenomenon of climate change;

CE/DEC/2(LXXXIII)

5. Welcomes the commitment of the UNWTO to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and supports the action of the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation aimed at poverty reduction and employment generation through sustainable tourism;
 6. Shares her gratitude to the Secretary-General and his team for drawing up the new programme of work and receives favourably the study on the feasibility of a legal instrument aimed at facilitating tourist travel; and
 7. Joins its Chairperson in expressing gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this session of the Council.
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CE/DEC/3(LXXXIII)

Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 3

(documents CE/83/3, CE/83/3 Add.1 and CE/83/3 Add.2)

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 about the situation of international tourism and the action of the Organization;
2. Agrees with the Secretary-General's analysis regarding the world economic situation being faced by our industry, which has nevertheless augmented its resilience against these new obstacles;
3. Favourably receives the proposal of the Secretary-General to entrust to Prof. Peter Keller the preparation of a study that would make it possible to propose to the Members the necessary actions in the event of a severe and prolonged economic and financial crisis;
4. Takes satisfaction of the good financial situation of the Organization and of the prudent management by the Secretary-General during the current financial period;

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5. Draws the attention of the Members to the importance of the forthcoming events organized by the UNWTO between now and the end of the year, such as the Workshop on Destination Management (Bordeaux, September), the Sixth International Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities (Cebu, Philippines, October), and that on tourism and space (Strasbourg, November), as well as the Fifth Conference on Tourism Statistics to be held in Bali, in early 2009;
6. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enlarge the composition of the Organization with several potential candidates, including the United States of America;
7. Notes with interest the principal activities and major events that have marked the life of the UNWTO over the past months;
8. Takes note of the changes that have taken place and of those that are planned in the structure of the Secretariat in order to continue to advance along the path of effectiveness;
9. Welcomes the ratification by two-thirds of the Member States of the amendment to Article 38 of the Statutes adopted by the third session of the General Assembly in 1979 (resolution 61(III)), takes note with satisfaction that Arabic has become one of the official languages of the UNWTO; and encourages Members to ratify other pending amendments;
10. Approves the request of the Staff Association to report to it once every two years under the terms indicated in document CE/83/3 Add.1.

* * *

Having been informed by the Secretary-General of his intention to leave office at the beginning of 2009, prior to the expiration of his term, with a view, in particular, to allowing a smooth transition at the head of the Secretariat,

Respecting this decision,

11. Takes note of it,
 12. Decides to adopt at its next session the necessary arrangements to cover the interim period corresponding to the latter part of the term of office to which the Secretary-General had been elected, and at the same time, to establish the calendar and the details of the procedure to be followed for the nomination of the Secretary-General for 2010-2013.
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CE/DEC/4(LXXXIII)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation and plan of expenditure for 2008

Agenda item 4(b)
(documents CE/83/4(b) Rev. 1 and CE/83/4(a))

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 taken cognizance of the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance on its 49th meeting, presented by its Chairman (Argentina),

1. Takes note of the report on the plan of expenditure for execution of the programme of work in 2008, 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 sixteenth General Assembly in resolution 496(XVI) and the financial stipulations of the Organization;
3. Takes note of the satisfactory level of the collection of Member contributions for 2008, which amounts to 7,890,695.62 euros, representing 69 per cent of assessed contributions; and of the contribution arrears received whose amount, 629,399.38 euros, already represents a figure close to the estimate for the entire year;
4. Considers nevertheless that it would be advisable to be vigilant during the rest of 2008 owing to the existence of unfavourable economic factors: the inflation level in the host country of the Organization and its repercussions on its operating costs, and the strength of the euro relative to the currencies of certain Member countries, which makes paying their assessed contributions more costly for these countries;

Having heard the statement of the delegate from Germany and those of the representatives of other countries calling for an increase in the share of UNWTO funding addressed to programme activities, and reflecting this strategy in a "white paper" to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session,

CE/DEC/4(LXXXIII)

Having taken cognizance of the explanations provided by the Secretary-General pointing out the substantial efforts made to increase efficiency and the savings already achieved, and expressing his intention to continue them,

5. Shares this common observation;
6. Decides to entrust its two subsidiary organs, the Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance, with the task of drawing up a guidance document to be submitted to it at its eighty-fifth session, containing concrete proposals aimed at better controlling the fixed costs of the Secretariat and ensuring continued productivity gains in the activities and the life of the Organization;
7. Urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2008, thereby averting delays that could hamper programme execution; and
8. Takes note, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Staff Rules in force and with the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission, of the adoption effective 1 January 2008 of the new salary scale applicable to staff of the professional and higher categories, whose base salary has been adjusted upwards by 1.97 per cent in accordance with the “no loss-no gain” principle.

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CE/DEC/5(LXXXIII)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(c) Auditors' report and administrative accounts for the financial year 2007

Agenda item 4(c)
(documents CE/83/4(c) and CE/83/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the Auditors' report and administrative accounts of the Organization for the financial year 2007,

Having considered the explanations by the Secretariat and the report of the 49th meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance, presented by its Chairman (Argentina),

CE/DEC/5(LXXXIII)

1. Congratulates the Committee for having undertaken a reflection on the evolution of its role and the new tasks it may possibly assume;
 2. Notes that in the financial year 2007 the level of budgetary expenditure, namely euros 12,135,814.96, was maintained within the limit of approved appropriations;
 3. Notes that a budget surplus in 2007 (euros 629,359.90) was recorded;
 4. Observes that the level of budgetary income received in 2007 made it possible to execute 96.95 per cent of the approved budget;
 5. Approves the transfers of appropriations made with the prior authorization of the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina) and the Chairman of the Executive Council (India), in accordance with Financial Regulation 5(3)(a) and Detailed Financial Provision 3.07;
 6. Recommends, nevertheless, that, so far as possible, transfers between different sections of the budget be limited to exceptional cases;
 7. Endorses the call issued by the Auditors for the Secretary-General to continue in 2008 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment;
 8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly, with the favourable opinion of the Council, the administrative accounts for the financial year 2007;
 9. Thanks the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina) and the Auditors (India and Spain) for the important work carried out; and
 10. Notes that the work of the Auditors from Spain and India on the administrative accounts for 2007 constituted an opportunity to set out the conditions under which the Auditors for the period 2008-2009 (Spain and France) and the Special Auditor in charge of reviewing the accounts of funds received from UNDP (India) are to harmonize their work in the future.
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CE/DEC/6(LXXXIII)

Administrative, financial and statutory matters**(d) Application of the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes
and of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes**

Agenda item 4(d)
(documents CE/83/4(d), CE/83/4(d) Add. 1 and CE/83/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Having before it resolution A/RES/523(XVII) of the seventeenth General Assembly,

Observing that the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes are applied to 22 Full Members, including Guinea and Guinea-Bissau effective 1 April 2008, one Associate Member, and 42 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 seventeenth 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 Georgia has paid its contribution arrears in full, thus complying with its payment plan, and welcomes with satisfaction the meritorious efforts thus undertaken by this country;
3. Also notes that Niger has presented a new plan for the payment of its contribution arrears, which was approved by the Committee on Budget and Finance at its 49th meeting, and which is to be reconsidered after ten years.
4. Notes with satisfaction that Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mauritania, have respected their agreed payment plans up to 2008;
5. Notes that Mali, Peru, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Rwanda and Yemen have partially respected their agreed payment plans up to 2008;
6. 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;

CE/DEC/6(LXXXIII)

7. 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 of the Financing Rules that they were granted by the General Assembly or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments; and
 8. Takes note of the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and of Article 34 of the Statutes granted to Iraq, subject to the payment of its contributions during the 2008 and 2009 financial years.
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CE/DEC/7(LXXXIII)

New membership

Agenda Item 5
(document CE/83/5)

The Executive Council,

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

1. Notes the interest expressed by **Norway** and **New Zealand** in joining the Organization and entrusts the Secretary-General with continuing with the necessary steps in order for them to do so;
 2. Encourages in particular the Secretary-General to continue his efforts vis-à-vis non-member States, including the United States of America, with a view to their possible membership; and
 3. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up actions taken at its next session.
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CE/DEC/8(LXXXIII)

Participation in the United Nations system's coordination mechanisms

Agenda item 6
(documents CE/83/6 and CE/83/6 Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having considered document CE/83/6,

1. Welcomes the UNWTO's increased participation in the different coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system, in particular, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the annual meeting of the Legal Advisers of the System, as well as in the meetings of other bodies of the United Nations system;
2. Takes note with interest of the participation of the UNWTO in various meetings organized by bodies belonging to the United Nations system, which makes it possible to better obtain recognition of tourism's contribution at the international level in favour of sustainable development, the fight against global warming and poverty reduction;
3. Welcomes with satisfaction the progress accomplished in the implementation of the initiative adopted by the Chief Executives Board of the United Nations for the compilation, led by the UNWTO, of all the activities being undertaken by the other organizations of the system in the field of tourism and is gratified by the launch of the United Nations Tourism Exchange Network (UNTEN) web portal; and
4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to it, at its forthcoming sessions, on any new developments that may arise in the participation of the Organization in the system's coordination mechanisms.

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CE/DEC/9(LXXXIII)

Participation in the United Nations system's coordination mechanisms

Acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies

Agenda item 6
(document CE/83/6 Add.1)

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,

1. Welcomes the approval, on 29 April 2008, by the United Nations Economic and Social Council of the draft annex relative to the Organization concerning the privileges and immunities of the specialized agencies;
2. Notes furthermore that this acceptance is not prejudicial to the regime of privileges and immunities provided for in the agreements already concluded between the Organization and Spain; and
3. Approves the text of the annex and authorizes the Secretary-General to notify the United Nations of this approval, pursuant to the mandate he received from the General Assembly through resolution 545(XVII).

.....
CE/DEC/10(LXXXIII)

Participation in the United Nations system's coordination mechanisms

Internal environmental measures in line with the "Greening the UN" initiative

Agenda item 6
(document CE/83/6 Add.3)

Agenda item 6

The Executive Council,

Having considered the efforts advocated by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to ensure that UN System practices are more carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable,

CE/DEC/10(LXXXIII)

Having taken notice of the measures taken by the UNWTO Secretary-General on waste management, reduced paper consumption and greenhouse gas reduction (Internal Circular NS.673),

1. Notes with satisfaction the growing awareness of the UNWTO Secretariat on internal environmental matters and welcomes the work undertaken so far in line with the "Greening the UN" initiative;
 2. Recognizes that this work is consistent with the UNWTO position regarding global warming and encourages the Secretariat to reinforce all actions leading to more sustainability in its work and internal procedures;
 3. Welcomes the initiative by the Secretariat to progressively limit paper consumption in its communications with its Members, by giving preference to the use of electronic media and e-mailing for any documents regarding meetings of the Executive Council, the General Assembly and the Regional Commissions;
 4. Entrusts the Secretary-General to carefully take into account the digital divide in implementing this initiative; and
 5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Executive Council, at its forthcoming sessions, on the progress achieved in this regard.
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CE/DEC/11(LXXXIII)

General programme of work

(a) Report of the Programme Committee

(b) Report on the implementation of the general programme of work for the period 2008-2009

Agenda Items 7 (a) and 7(b)
(documents CE/83/7(b) and CE/83/7(b) Corr.)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Programme Committee, held on 29 January 2008, and that on the implementation of the general programme of work of the Organization for the period 2008-2009,

CE/DEC/11(LXXXIII)

1. Notes with satisfaction the number and quality of the activities in progress corresponding to the four strategic objectives of the programme;
 2. Welcomes favourably the mechanisms established by the Secretary-General that make it possible to ensure more selective, and at the same time, better coordinated implementation of the programme of work of the Organization;
 3. Approves the draft calendar of activities as proposed by the Programme Committee for 2008-2009, as well as the different evaluation instruments that make it possible to better judge the results of the UNWTO's activities;
 4. Encourages the Secretary-General to carry out all the actions necessary for the introduction of results-based management techniques; and
 5. Thanks the Chairman and the Members of the Programme Committee for their constant cooperation with the Secretariat.
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CE/DEC/12(LXXXIII)

General programme of work

(c) Preparation of the general programme of work for the period 2010-2011

Agenda Item 7(c)
(document CE/83/7(c))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the information on the procedure for the preparation of the general programme of work for the period 2010-2011, presented by the Secretary-General,

Having also considered the results of the survey conducted among the Member States regarding the priority actions they wish to be reflected in the general programme of work for the period 2010-2011,

1. Notes with satisfaction the high level of responses on the part of the Members to the survey on programme priorities for 2010-2011;
2. Entrusts the Secretary-General with taking these responses into account, as well as the conclusions of the debates held at the meetings of the different Regional Commissions, in order to establish a programme of work that corresponds as closely as possible to global and regional needs as expressed by the Members;

CE/DEC/12(LXXXIII)

3. Recalls that the Organization must continue its action in the areas in which it already plays a leading role;
 4. Invites the Secretary-General to take especially into account the needs of the least developed countries, and in particular those which have not yet benefited from UNWTO development assistance, in the preparation of the programme of work for 2010-2011;
 5. Recommends the Secretary-General, within the framework of the United Nations' "Delivering as One" initiative and that of the Tourism Exchange Network (UNTEN) of the UNWTO, to continue his programme-coordination efforts with the other agencies of the United Nations system;
 6. Reaffirms its wish to pursue the objective of limiting the number of activities included in the programme of work of the Organization; and
 7. Invites all the Members to help the Secretariat in its effort to raise funds for specific technical cooperation activities as well as for the ST-EP programme.
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CE/DEC/13(LXXXIII)

ST-EP Programme

(a) Progress Report on the programme

Agenda item 8(a)
(document CE/83/8(a))

The Executive Council,

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

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the Secretariat to implement the ST-EP Programme, in particular, with regard to the capacity building activities, and the execution of 51 on-going ST-EP projects;
2. Welcomes the efforts to raise awareness on the relation between tourism and poverty alleviation and mobilize resources for the ST-EP Programme;

CE/DEC/13(LXXXIII)

3. Warmly thanks the Government of the Republic of Korea for its continuing support for the ST-EP Foundation;
4. Applauds the continued financial support from the Italian Government for the implementation of ST-EP projects in West Africa and Central America, and the renewed in-kind support from the French Government;
5. Expresses its appreciation for the new three years partnership established with the Netherlands Development Organisation SNV and the ST-EP Foundation;

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

6. Underlines the central role that the ST-EP Foundation's Board of Directors should play to provide guidance to the ST-EP Programme and raise funds for ST-EP activities;
7. Approves the contribution by the UNWTO of 500,000 dollars from the surpluses generated from its technical cooperation activities as a contribution to the abovementioned partnership;

Having further examined the part related to the execution of the ST-EP projects,

8. Appreciates the swift expansion and wide geographical and thematical distribution of the ST-EP project portfolio;
9. Expresses its satisfaction at the new support obtained from Governments and development organisations for individual ST-EP projects and encourages the Secretariat to continue identifying organisations that can co-finance ST-EP projects.

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CE/DEC/14(LXXXIII)

ST-EP Programme**(b) Attributions of the Committee on Poverty Reduction**

Agenda item 8(b)
(document CE/83/8(b))

The Executive Council,

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

Considering that this Committee was created, as a subsidiary organ of the Council, for activities relative to poverty reduction (CE/DEC/11(LXXX)),

1. Takes note that the following Member States of the Board of Directors of the ST-EP Foundation, elected by the respective regional commissions: Ecuador, India, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Saudi Arabia and Senegal also sit on the Committee on Poverty Reduction, as well as the Republic of Korea, as the host country of the ST-EP Foundation;
2. Decides that the mandate of the Members of the Committee shall be renewed at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly;
3. Further decides that the countries that provide substantial contributions to the ST-EP Programme shall sit by right on the Committee and that the other Members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, indicated below, may participate in the meetings of the new Committee as observers:

The Chairman of the Executive Council
One representative of the host country of the Foundation
The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation
One representative of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics
4. Takes note of the functions of the Committee, which shall assist it in the definition and implementation of a strategy for sustainable tourism development that contributes to poverty elimination and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and
5. Entrusts the Committee with coordinating the search for the necessary funds from international financial institutions, from States and from the private sector, which are to be allocated to the ST-EP Foundation or to the UNWTO budget in the form of voluntary contributions, for the benefit of the ST-EP programme.

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CE/DEC/15(LXXXIII)

Status report on the quality policy of destinations and establishment of the World Centre of Excellence for Destinations of Montreal

Agenda item 9
(document CE/83/9)

The Executive Council,

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

1. Notes with interest the progress already accomplished since the seventeenth session of the General Assembly, with respect to the activities of the CED, and in particular with regard to the establishment of the System for Measuring Excellence in Destinations (SMED);
2. Takes note of the development phase of the SMED and appreciates the efforts of the Members and the tourism destinations that are contributing to this process by enabling the CED to test the receptivity and feasibility of the System;
3. Expresses the intention of following carefully the dissemination of results of the CED's evaluation exercises and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that these results are also transmitted to the Member States of the corresponding destinations;

Having further examined the CED By-laws, Rules of procedures and Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding,

4. Decides to establish a Committee composed of a limited number of Member States, which would review in detail the proposed By-laws, Rules of procedures and Addendum, and submit a detailed report to the Executive Council for consideration, in order to guarantee complete transparency; and
 5. Encourages all Member States to play an active role in this, reflecting the concerns of the Executive Council in respect of the financial implications and communications of the CED, making it compatible with UNWTO's work and with any national quality assurance systems.
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CE/DEC/16(LXXXIII)

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

Agenda Item 10
(document CE/83/10)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing the conclusions of the third meeting of the Working Group, which was held at Headquarters on 30 May 2008,

Aware that the subject of facilitation of movements may depend on the sovereignty of States and that the UNWTO involvement should take account of this and be of a principally technical character,

1. Notes the consensus that emerged during the above-mentioned meeting with a view to the preparation of a non-legally binding Declaration of Principles;
 2. Requests that the text, if approved by the Working Group, should be circulated to the Organization's Members to obtain their reactions;
 3. Takes note of the summary of conclusions of the third meeting of the Working Group and entrusts the Secretary-General with carrying out the pertinent follow-up actions, in particular, proceeding as necessary with the preparation of a preliminary draft Declaration on the facilitation of tourist travel that could be submitted to the next General Assembly;
 4. Underlines the interest of technical support by UNWTO to countries in fields such as travel advisories, modalities of visa issuance and travel of disabled people; and
 5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it on this matter at its next session.
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CE/DEC/17(LXXXIII)

Affiliate Members

(a) Report of the Chairman

Agenda item 11(a)
(document CE/83/11(a))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report of the Chairman of the UNWTO Affiliate Members,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his presentation;
2. Expresses its satisfaction that the Affiliate Members are consolidating their role within the Organization, which will be reflected in the next programme of work of the three Councils;
3. Welcomes the new orientation of the activities of the Affiliate Members, which encourages public-private partnerships in order to create a sustainable and competitive base that will contribute to the objectives of the United Nations; and the initiative launched by the Business Council in close collaboration with the Global Compact of the United Nations with the goal of launching the first sectoral initiative concerning tourism.
4. Takes note of the Seminars organized by the Business Council in Cotonou and Madrid on the themes "Public-Private Partnership in the Tourism Sector: The Way Forward" and "World Tourism Facts and Trends: E-Marketing in Tourism – Keeping Pace with the New Challenges" and of the studies in progress such as that focusing on best partnership practices for the development of sustainable and competitive tourism as well as the coordination of a joint research project to show the economic impact of business tourism;
5. Takes note of the progress of the negotiations of the Business Council with the European Commission regarding the project funding proposal amounting to more than one million euros over two years, aimed at improving the energy efficiency of the accommodation and SME sectors;
6. Notes that a major challenge for the Business Council is to successfully implement its tasks in a manner that is compatible with the human and financial resources available to it;

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7. Notes further that the activities planned in the programme of work of the Education Council: its annual meeting and the annual UNWTO.Ulysses Prize ceremony, as well as the annual Ulysses Conference on the theme "Education and Knowledge Management: Meeting Future Challenges" have already been launched;
 8. Takes satisfaction in the fact that the Education and Science Council has among its immediate priorities greater integration of its programme of work with the principal areas of work of the UNWTO, and most especially, with its major strategic lines of action such as development, poverty alleviation, climate change and governance;
 9. Also underlines the interest of the programmes undertaken with the aim of facilitating access on the part of the establishments and institutes of the Education and Science Council to the UNWTO's quality standards for education and innovation in the field of tourism;
 10. Notes likewise the publication in January 2008 of "A Practical Guide to Tourism Destination Management" by the Destination Council and that the preliminary work for the launching of the SMED "System for Measuring Excellence in Destinations" is in progress; and
 11. Congratulates the Secretariat for the new strategy and for its efforts aimed at attracting new Affiliate Members, with particular attention to the countries that are least represented within it, such as those belonging to the regions of Africa, Latin America or Asia-Pacific.
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Affiliate Members

(b) Revision process of the Rules of Procedure of the Affiliate Members

Agenda item 11(b)
(document CE/83/11(b))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject and of the draft text of the Rules of Procedure of the UNWTO Affiliate Members,

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1. Shares the opinion of the Secretary-General regarding the need to revise the Rules of Procedure of the Affiliate Members in order to adapt them to the evolution of the sector and to the current structure of the Affiliate Members;
2. Takes note of the draft text of the Rules of Procedure and entrusts the Secretary-General with circulating it once again among the Members of the Board of the Affiliate Members in order to gather possible further comments and to generate a consensus on this text;
3. Recalls that the draft text of the Rules of Procedure of the Affiliate Members will have to be adopted by the Affiliate Members at their next general meeting before being submitted to the General Assembly for approval; and
4. Requests therefore the Secretary-General to report it on this subject at its eighty-fifth session.

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Affiliate Members

(c) Report of the Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership

Agenda item 11(c)
(document CE/83/11(c))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of its Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 13 June 2008, under the chairmanship of San Marino,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee; and
2. Decides to admit provisionally to affiliate membership the following candidates, pending ratification by the eighteenth session of the General Assembly:
 - ABRAHAM PATH INITIATIVE (United States of America)
 - ATHENS TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (CITY OF ATHENS) (Greece)
 - CAPE TOWN TOURISM (South Africa)
 - CENTER FOR TOURISM AND SERVICES RESEARCH - VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (Australia)

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- CICTOURGUNE (Spain)
 - CONCORDE DE LUXE RESORT (Turkey)
 - CONSEJO FEDERAL DE TURISMO DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA (Argentina)
 - CONSORCIO PARA LA GESTIÓN Y EXPLOTACIÓN DEL PALACIO DE CONGRESOS DE LA COSTA DEL SOL (Spain)
 - DESTINO PUNTA DEL ESTE (Uruguay)
 - ECOTOURISM KENYA (Kenya)
 - EXPOMEDIA GROUP PLC (United Kingdom)
 - FEDERACIÓN HOTELERA GASTRONÓMICA DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA (FEHGRA) (Argentina)
 - GREEN GLOBE (United States of America)
 - INHOLLAND UNIVERSITY (Netherlands)
 - INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS DE LA EDUCACIÓN (ICE) UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID (Spain)
 - MOONSHINE MARKETING SL (Spain)
 - OPINION LEADER RESEARCH (United Kingdom)
 - SOL MELIÁ HOTELS AND RESORTS (Spain)
 - UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION (United States of America)
 - UNIVERSIDAD DE BRASÍLIA - CENTRO DE EXCELENCIA EN TURISMO (Brazil)
 - UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA – FACULTY OF ECONOMICS (Slovenia)
 - WATCH - WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT (Italy)
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Place and dates of the eighty-fourth session of the Council

Agenda Item 12
(documents CE/83/12 and CE/83/12 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

1. Decides to hold its eighty-fourth session at the UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid, on a date to be set by the Secretary-General in consultation with the host Government; and
 2. Takes note of the interest of Mali to host its eighty-fifth session and that of India to host one of its following sessions.
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Vote of thanks to the host country

The Executive Council,

Having successfully concluded the proceedings of its eighty-third session under the excellent conditions placed at its disposal by the host country,

1. Expresses its most sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for this new show of support to the UNWTO and to its Members in hosting this session of the Council at this prestigious tourism destination of Jeju;
2. Warmly thanks H.E. Mr. Yu In-Chon, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr. Shin Yong-Eon, Director-General of the Tourism Industry Bureau, Mr. Kim Chul-Min, Director of the International Tourism Division, and all of their staff for their friendly hospitality towards the delegations present at this session of the Council and for giving them the opportunity to appreciate the tourism attractions of the island of Jeju;
3. Conveys its gratitude to H.E. Mr. Kim Tae-hwan, Governor of Jeju Island, for his hospitality and his contribution to the success of this session; and
4. Pays special tribute to H.E. Mrs. Dho Young-shim and to her staff for having hosted at the offices of the ST-EP Foundation the fifth meeting of the Board of Directors of the Foundation on the eve of the Council session, and for the personal support she has provided to the meetings organized on this occasion in the Republic of Korea.

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4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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

- (1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Spain, and Tunisia;
- (2) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for Africa (Cameroon);
- (3) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for the Americas (Colombia);
- (4) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for Europe (Cyprus);
- (5) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for South Asia (Iran);
- (6) the representative of the Affiliate Members (Group RCI);
- (7) the representatives of the following UNWTO Member States: Andorra and Niger, as observers, and
- (8) the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina).