

UNWTO COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifty-first meeting
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 6 June 2011

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

In the attached document, the Secretary-General reports to the Commission on the organization of work for the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 19TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. PLACE AND DATES

1. At its last session, the General Assembly unanimously decided to accept the generous invitation of the Government of the Republic of Korea (resolution 581(XVIII)), and its next session will be held in Gyeongju, from 8 to 14 October 2011, in accordance with rule 1(2) of its Rules of Procedure.

II. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

2. The Secretariat is still considering the structure of the next session, which will be finalized soon taking into account the benefits of the last structure and the observations received from the Members.

A. Ministerial Round Table

3. In order to enhance the technical nature of the General Assembly and to take advantage of the participation of Ministers and other top-ranking authorities, a Ministerial Round Table will be organized in the framework of the Assembly on a highly topical subject.

B. Connected statutory meetings

Joint meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) and the Programme Committee (PC), and ninety-first and ninety-second sessions of the Executive Council

4. The joint CBF and PC meeting will take place on the first day of the session, 8 October, and the ninety-first session of the Council will be held on 9 October, on the eve of the first plenary session of the General Assembly, for transmission to the Assembly of items on which an Executive Council recommendation is required. The ninety-second session of the Council will be held immediately after the last plenary session of the Assembly for the election of its Officers for 2012 and the filling of vacant seats on certain subsidiary organs of the Executive Council for the period 2011-2015.

Regional Commissions

5. All Regional Commissions will hold a meeting in the framework of the Assembly. Their agendas will include the designation of their respective representatives for the various General Assembly offices, which should be approved by the Assembly. Each Commission will also be required to designate its representatives to serve on those subsidiary bodies of the Council whose membership is to be renewed. Finally, they will be required to put forward candidates for the vacant seats on the Executive Council, for which elections will be held during the Assembly.

Affiliate Members

6. The Affiliate Members will have one full afternoon for their deliberations. Both the General Meeting of the Affiliate Members which will deal with administrative matters, and the meeting of their Board will take place in the afternoon of 11 October.

C. General Assembly session

7. Members will be informed, within the prescribed time-limits, of the provisional agenda of the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.

8. In view of the volume of work that the provisional agenda can be expected to entail, the General Assembly, unless otherwise decided by its President, will need to hold seven plenary sessions between 10 and 14 October.

Opening meeting and opening ceremony

9. The official opening ceremony will be held in the presence of high-ranking authorities of the Republic of Korea, followed by a welcome reception.

III. FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE ORGANIZATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

10. The authorities of the Republic of Korea have already taken all necessary measures to host this session in optimum conditions in the facilities of Hotel Hyundai in Gyeongju (http://www.hyundaihotel.com/gyeongju_en/), and to provide all kind of appropriate services to the delegates of UNWTO Members. They will also facilitate the entry into their territory of Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of the UNWTO, as well as of the other participants invited by the Secretary-General.

11. The Agreement between the Organization and the host Government will be finalized shortly.

12. This Agreement establishes in particular the obligations and costs that the Government has generously agreed to meet in convening and conducting the proceedings of the nineteenth session of the General Assembly and the other related meetings, in accordance with the Statutes, rules and practices of the Organization.

IV. INVITATIONS AND WORKING DOCUMENTS

13. The corresponding invitations by the Secretary-General to all Members, together with the provisional agenda prepared in accordance with rule 5(1) of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure, the annotated provisional agenda and an information note, will be sent by e-mail within the prescribed time-limits, i.e., ninety days before the opening of the session, and posted in electronic format on UNWTO website.

14. The working documents necessary for the General Assembly's discussions and decisions on the various agenda items will also be sent by e-mail to Members within the time-limits prescribed in rule 8 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, and posted in electronic format on UNWTO website.

15. The United Nations and the international organizations with which the Organization has concluded agreements or working arrangements or that have a working relationship with the Organization for a specific project will also receive an invitation to participate in the nineteenth session of the Assembly.

V. LANGUAGES OF THE ASSEMBLY

16. The five official languages will be used for the Assembly and the other connected meetings, in part or in totality, as each meeting requires.

Members of UNWTO Regional Commission for Africa are encouraged to participate in this session of the Assembly.