DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION

Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Table of contents

Adoption of the agenda CE/DEC/1(XCVIII) ................................................................. 3
Communication of the Chair CE/DEC/2(XCVIII) ......................................................... 5
Report of the Secretary-General ................................................................................... 7
Part I: Current situation and activities ........................................................................... 7
  (a) International tourism in 2013 and 2014 CE/DEC/3(XCVIII) .................................... 7
  (b) Mainstreaming tourism in the global agenda CE/DEC/4(XCVIII) ......................... 9
  (c) Priorities and Management vision for 2014-2015 CE/DEC/5(XCVIII) ................... 11
      General programme of work CE/DEC/6(XCVIII) .................................................. 13
  (g) UNWTO in the United Nations system CE/DEC/7(XCVIII) ..................................... 15
  (h) Report of the Working Group on Official Development Assistance CE/DEC/8(XCVIII) ................................................................. 17
Part II: Administrative and statutory matters ................................................................ 19
  (b) Financial situation of the Organization CE/DEC/9(XCVIII) .................................... 19
  (c) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules CE/DEC/10(XCVIII) .......................................................... 21
  (d) Auditors’ report and administrative accounts for the financial year 2013 CE/DEC/11(XCVIII) ............................................................... 23
  (e) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit CE/DEC/12(XCVIII) ....................................... 25
  (f) Report on the ethics function CE/DEC/13(XCVIII) ............................................... 27
  (g) Report on human resources matters CE/DEC/14(XCVIII) .................................... 29
  (h) Authorizations granted for the use of the UNWTO logo CE/DEC/15(XCVIII) ........ 31
Affiliate Members ......................................................................................................... 33
  (a) Report of the Chair of the Affiliate Members CE/DEC/16(XCVIII) ....................... 33
  (b) Report of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership CE/DEC/17(XCVIII) ........................................... 35
Thematic discussion: The Role of Tourism Routes in Fostering Regional Development and Integration CE/DEC/18(XCVIII) ................................................................. 37
Place and dates of the ninety-ninth and 100th sessions of the Executive Council CE/DEC/19(XCVIII)............. 39
Vote of thanks to the host country CE/DEC/20(XCVIII)........................................................................ 41
Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/98/1 prov. and CE/98/1 prov. suppl.)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the provisional agenda and the supplementary provisional agenda,

Adopts the final agenda of its ninety-eighth session.

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Communication of the Chair

Agenda item 2
(document CE/98/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of the Chair of the ninety-eighth session of the Executive Council, the Honourable Saptar Nirwandar, Vice Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia,

1. Thanks the Chair for his communication to the Executive Council;

2. Endorses the call of the Chair to continue to work towards realizing the mandate of the UNWTO and particularly to commit to making tourism a part of the Sustainable Development Goals of the Post-2015 Agenda;

3. Shares his views regarding the need to increase efforts aiming at facilitating visas, protecting consumers/tourists and ensuring fair taxation on tourism at the national, regional and international levels; and

4. Extends its gratitude and appreciation to the Chair and Vice-Chairs (H.E. Mr. Wykeham McNeill, Minister of Tourism and Entertainment of Jamaica, and H.E. Mr. Carvalho Muária, Minister of Tourism of Mozambique) of the Council for their leadership and for their personal contributions to the successful deliberations of its various agenda items.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part I: Current situation and activities

(a) International tourism in 2013 and 2014

Agenda item 3(I)(a)
(document CE/98/3(I)(a))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Secretary-General on international tourism in 2013 and prospects for 2014 and having discussed it,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for his presentation; and

2. Takes note of the information provided.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part I: Current situation and activities

(b) Mainstreaming tourism in the global agenda

Agenda item 3(I)(b)
(document CE/98/3(I)(b))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Secretary-General on mainstreaming tourism in the global agenda and having discussed it,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the Secretariat in mainstreaming tourism in the global agenda; and

2. Thanks the Members that have joined the Open Letter initiative and encourages those that have not yet joined to do so.

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Report of the Secretary-General

Part I: Current situation and activities

(c) Priorities and Management vision for 2014-2015

Agenda item 3(I)(c)
(document CE/98/3(I)(c))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the priorities and Management vision for 2014-2015,

1. Endorses the priorities presented by the Secretary-General;

2. Takes note of the new management organizational structure, including the internal committees;

3. Welcomes the decision by the Independent State of Samoa to join the Organization and, pursuant to Rule 50(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, requests the Secretary-General to inform the Council before submission to the General Assembly for approval; and

4. Calls upon all Member States to expedite the ratification of all the amendments of the Statutes and the Financing Rules, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 628(XX), including that of the adoption of Chinese as an official language of the Organization, as approved in resolution 521(XVII).

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Executive Council

Ninety-eighth session

Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

CE/DEC/5(XCVIII)
Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part I: Current situation and activities

General programme of work

Agenda items 3(l)(d), 3(l)(e) and 3(l)(f)
(documents CE/98/3(l)(d), CE/98/3(l)(e) and CE/98/3(l)(f))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the general programme of work for 2012-2013, and the report on the implementation of the general programme of work for 2014-2015 and its annexes,

Having before it the different reports on the same topic (documents A/20/5(l)(b), A/20/5(l)(b) Annex and A/20/5(l)(b) Annex Add.) submitted to the General Assembly,

Having also examined the report of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC),

1. Takes note of the substantial amount of work accomplished during the whole biennium 2012-2013, as well as in the first quarter of 2014;

2. Encourages the Secretary-General in further evaluating the activities carried out by the Secretariat;

3. Thanks all the members of (a) the Programme and Budget Committee, (b) the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC), (c) the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS) and (d) the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account (CSTSA) for their valuable work;

4. Approves the proposals by the technical committees’ members that:
   (a) The chairs of the three technical committees attend the meetings of the Programme and Budget Committee as observers; and
   (b) Observers of the CTC and the CTS participate in the online work of their respective committees;

5. Endorses the lists of invited participants for the CTC and the CTS;
6. *Takes good note* of the different events organized by UNWTO Members in 2014 and 2015; and

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a draft survey to determine Members' priorities for the period 2016-2017 and to submit it to the PBC during its 5th meeting for approval.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General
Part I: Current situation and activities
(g) UNWTO in the United Nations system

Agenda item 3(I)(g)
(document CE/98/3(I)(g))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report CE/98/3(I)(g),

1. Notes with interest the Secretariat’s ongoing participation in substantive issues of the UN system and supports the continuation of such participation and involvement in those issues as well as in the CEB and its subsidiary networks;

2. Applauds the unanimous decision taken by the UN General Assembly in adopting the resolution entitled “Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America” (A/RES/68/207) and supports the work of UNWTO in this area;

3. Recognizes and supports the Secretariat in mainstreaming tourism and building upon the outcome document “The Future We Want”, particularly through key initiatives such as the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and ongoing discussions with Member States and stakeholders in developing the programme on sustainable tourism;

4. Welcomes the Secretariat’s proposal to lead the Sustainable Tourism Programme within the 10YFP and encourages the Member States to actively support it;

5. Encourages the Secretariat to continue its active participation in the Open Working Group discussions leading to the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda;

6. Acknowledges with interest the recommendation for UNWTO to lead, with strong support of Member States, the possible launching of an International Year on Tourism for Development and Peace in 2017 and supports the Secretariat in taking the necessary measures to reach this milestone;
7. Supports the Secretariat in its active engagement in the preparations of, and participation in, the Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Samoa in September 2014; and

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it, at its forthcoming sessions, on the participation of the Organization in the UN system’s coordination mechanisms and relevant activities.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part I: Current situation and activities

(h) Report of the Working Group on Official Development Assistance

Agenda item 3(I)(h)
(document CE/98/3(I)(h))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Working Group on Official Development Assistance,

1. Thanks the members and the Chair of the Working Group;

2. Welcomes Spain as a new member of the Working Group;

3. Takes note of the activities of the Working Group on Official Development Assistance in pursuing the objective of achieving full ODA eligibility for UNWTO and mobilizing new resources for the Organization, as set out in decision CE/DEC/4(XCV);

4. Takes note of UNWTO’s status as an eligible organization for bilateral ODA; and

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue exploring alternatives that best fit the specificities of UNWTO in order to achieve the objective of attaining full ODA eligibility for UNWTO.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(b) Financial situation of the Organization

(a) Report of the Programme and Budget Committee – Part II (Budget and Finance)

Agenda items 3(II)(b) and 3(II)(a)
(documents CE/98/3(II)(b), CE/98/3(II)(b) Add.1 and CE/98/3(II)(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization, including the Addendum 1 on IPSAS progress,

Having heard the statements by the Secretariat and having before it the report of the Programme and Budget Committee,

1. Takes note of the level of collection of contributions from Members for the financial year 2014 as of 31 March 2014 amounting to EUR6,725,928.93, and also of the collection of contributions in arrears, amounting to EUR484,812.98;

2. Takes note of the adjustments made by the Secretary-General on the structure of programmes for 2014;

3. Urges the Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2014 thereby averting delays that could hamper programme execution;

4. Takes note of the new salary scale approved by the United Nations and applied by the Secretary-General with effect from 1 January 2014 in accordance with Staff Rule 33(1);

5. Takes note of the implementation of IPSAS by UNWTO with effect from 1 January 2014 and of the recognition given by the External Auditors to the work done in 2013 in the IPSAS project;

6. Takes note of the accounting treatment of UNWTO satellites in UNWTO Financial Statements from 1 January 2014 under IPSAS as presented in the document CE/98/3(II)(b) Add.1;
7. **Endorses** the approach proposed to implement the IT activities in the IPSAS post-implementation phase as presented in document CE/98/3(II)(b) Add.1 and takes note of the decision of the Secretary-General to make an exception to competitive bidding in the recruitment of IT experts on the IPSAS post-implementation phase;

8. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to continue to advance in the IPSAS implementation project;

9. **Takes note** of the intention of the Secretary-General to consider options for the funding of after-service employee benefit liabilities and to present proposals to the Executive Council subsequent to the deliberations of the ASHI Working Group of the UN Finance and Budget Network; and

10. **Endorses** the recommendation of adjusting the budgetary appropriation in accordance with the estimated annual current service costs for employee benefits in forthcoming UNWTO budgets from the biennium 2016-2017 onwards.

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**World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - A Specialized Agency of the United Nations**

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Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(c) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules

Agenda item 3(II)(c)
(document CE/98/3(II)(c))

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 22 Full Members and one Associate Member,

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 General Assembly at its twentieth session,

1. Thanks the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfill their financial obligations despite their internal constraints;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has respected its agreed payment plan up to 2014;

3. Approves the payment plans submitted by the Full Members Burundi and Madagascar and the Affiliate Member Instituto de Turismo Responsible;

4. Reminds Members to pay their contributions to the budget within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations; and

5. Requests the Secretary-General to inform it, at its next session, about the 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.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(d) Auditors’ report and administrative accounts for the financial year 2013

(a) Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Agenda items 3(II)(d) and 3(II)(a)
(documents CE/98/3(II)(d) and CE/98/3(II)(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the Auditors’ report and administrative accounts of the Organization for the financial year 2013,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General and the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC),

1. Notes that in the financial year 2013 the level of budgetary expenditure was maintained within the limit of approved appropriations;

2. Observes that the level of budgetary income received in 2013 made it possible to execute 100.00 per cent of the approved budget, and 2012 budgetary balance by the corresponding transfer of appropriation from different financial years made as per regulations 5.1(a) and 5.3(c) of the Financial Regulations and resolution A/RES/567(XVIII), thus achieving an income/expenditure balance of zero in the financial period 2012-2013 in accordance with the recommendation of the General Assembly in resolution 567(XVIII);

3. 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 (Romania), in accordance with Financial Regulation 5(3) and Detailed Financial Provision 3.07;

4. Recommends to the Secretary-General to continue in 2014 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment;
5. *Recommends* to the General Assembly to approve the administrative accounts for the financial year 2013, as reported by the Auditors;

6. *Welcomes* the proposal of Germany to extend the role of the auditors to include the issues of compliance and performance and requests the Programme and Budget Committee to review such proposal and to formulate a recommendation to the Executive Council, also taking into consideration the recommendations put forward by the JIU Report, with full participation of the three auditing Member States, Germany, India and Spain; and

7. *Thanks* the Chairman of the Programme and Budget Committee (Argentina) and the Auditors (Spain, India and Germany) for the important work carried out.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(e) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

Agenda item 3(II)(e)
(document CE/98/3(II)(e))

The Executive Council

1. Takes note of the report by the Joint Inspection Unit; and

2. Requests the Programme and Budget Committee to review the potential implementation of its recommendations—including the issues of mandate and number of external auditors—and to report back at a future session of the Executive Council before the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(f) Report on the ethics function

Agenda item 3(II)(f)
(document CE/98/3(II)(f))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ethics function at UNWTO and the report of the Ethics Officer, Mr. David Mitchels, on the activities of the Ethics Office in 2013,

Recalling its decision 12(XCIV) by which it decided to establish an ethics function at UNWTO,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the report of the Ethics Officer regarding the activities implemented by the Ethics Office in 2013; and

2. Commends the progress made by the Secretary-General in applying ethical standards and encourages him to continue to implement the ethics function, in particular through the application of the financial disclosure policy.

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The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the human resources situation of the Organization,

1. Takes note of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization; and

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the work currently being carried out by those persons in the service of the Organization and their contribution to its programme of work, especially in view of the rising demands made on the Organization with its limited resources.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Report of the Secretary-General

Part II: Administrative and statutory matters

(h) Authorizations granted for the use of the UNWTO logo

Agenda item 3(II)(h)
(document CE/98/3(II)(h))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Secretary-General on the authorizations granted for the use of the UNWTO signs,

Takes note of the entities to which the Secretariat has, during the period May 2013-April 2014, granted permission to use the UNWTO signs.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Affiliate Members

(a) Report of the Chair of the Affiliate Members

Agenda item 4(a)
(document CE/98/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the Report of the Chair of the UNWTO Affiliate Members,

1. Thanks the Chair for his presentation;
2. Acknowledges the satisfaction expressed by the Affiliate Members for the reforms undertaken;
3. Applauds the proposed Action Plan to strengthen the interaction, synergies and exchange of experience and best practices among Members;
4. Encourages the signing of specific memorandums of understanding offering explicit individual value tailored to each member;
5. Recognizes the important role of research and educational institutions and encourages their proactive integration and participation through the Knowledge Network in the overall UNWTO Programme of Work;
6. Encourages the establishment of a clear and specific roadmap for the Affiliate Member Programme’s proactive integration and participation in UNWTO’s activities;
7. Supports the Secretariat in its efforts aimed at enhancing the geographic scope and sectorial representation of new members; and
8. Encourages Member States to help identify potential Affiliate Members from their countries that could be contacted by the Secretariat, particularly from countries that do not have any company, organization, academic institution or destination management organization as an Affiliate Member.

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Executive Council

Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Affiliate Members

(b) Report of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership

Agenda item 4(b)
(Document CE/98/4(b))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of its Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership, composed of China, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Mozambique and the Russian Federation, which met on 5 June 2014, under the chairmanship of Egypt,

1. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee;

2. Decides to admit provisionally to affiliate membership the following candidates, pending ratification by the twenty-first session of the General Assembly:

- ADVENTURE TRAVEL TRADE (United States)
- ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE NORMALIZACIÓN Y CERTIFICACIÓN (AENOR) (Spain)
- ARENA CS LLC (Ukraine)
- AVIAREPS AG (Germany)
- AYU TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LLC / DBA WEBSITE ALIVE (United States)
- BANCOMEXT (Mexico)
- BASQUE CULINARY CENTER FUNDAZIOA (Spain)
- BASQUE TOUR, TURISMOAREN EUSKAL AGENTZIA- AGENCIA VASCA DE TURISMO, SA (Spain)
- CONSEJO MEXICANO DE LA INDUSTRIA DEL TURISMO MÉDICO A.C. (Mexico)
- EXPRESS ASSIST LTD. (Russian Federation)
- FENITOURCI – FEDERATION NATIONALE DE L’INDUSTRIE TOURISTIQUE DE CÔTE D’IVOIRE (Côte d’Ivoire)
- FOHB FÓRUM DE OPERADORES HOTELEIROS DO BRASIL (Brazil)
- GLOBAL WELLNESS INSTITUTE TRADE (United States)
- GREEN GLOBE (United States)
- GRIFFITH INSTITUTE FOR TOURISM (GIFT), GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY (Australia)
3. **Decides** to admit provisionally the TAT ACADEMY (Thailand), on the understanding that it will provide additional clarifications on the documentation submitted to the Secretariat within a period of 30 days, and pending ratification by the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

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Thematic discussion: The Role of Tourism Routes in Fostering Regional Development and Integration

Agenda item 5
(document CE/98/5)

The Executive Council,

Having held a thematic discussion on The Role of Tourism Routes in Fostering Regional Development and Integration,

1. Recognizes that the development of tourism routes can play a fundamental role in fostering regional development and integration at the national and international levels; and

2. Encourages the Secretary-General to expand the action of the existing UNWTO Special Field Programme (Silk Road) to tourism routes in a broader sense with the aim of defining recommendations, exchange experiences and exploring the potential of working on new international or regional tourism routes.

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Executive Council

Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Place and dates of the ninety-ninth and 100th sessions of the Executive Council

Agenda item 6
(document CE/98/6)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the documents corresponding to the candidatures to host its ninety-ninth and its 100th sessions,

1. Thanks the Governments of the countries mentioned in the relevant document for their generous invitations to hold the next two sessions of the UNWTO Executive Council in the second semester of 2014 and the first semester of 2015;

2. Decides to hold its ninety-ninth session in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on a date to be set by the Secretary-General in consultation with the host Government; and

3. Also decides to hold its 100th session in Rovinj, Croatia, on a date to be set by the Secretary-General in consultation with the host Government.

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Executive Council
Ninety-eighth session
Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 4-6 June 2014

Vote of thanks to the host country
Agenda item 8

The Executive Council,

Having carried out the work of its ninety-eighth session under the excellent conditions placed at its disposal by the Government of Spain,

1. Expresses its most sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Spain and, more particularly, to the Xunta and the people of Galicia for the support extended to the UNWTO and its Members in hosting this session of the Council in the beautiful city of Santiago de Compostela;

2. Also expresses its appreciation for the opportunity provided to delegates to experience the Route of Santiago de Compostela and to participate in the post-Council Seminar on Tangible and Intangible Heritage and Innovative Tourism Products;

3. Deeply thanks H.E. José Manuel Soria López, Minister of Industry, Energy and Tourism of Spain, and Mr. Alberto Núñez Feijóo, President of the Xunta de Galicia, for honouring the opening session with their presence; and

4. Further expresses, in particular, its deepest appreciation to H.E. Isabel Borrego, Secretary of State of Tourism of Spain, Mr. Alberto Núñez Feijóo, President of the Xunta de Galicia, Mr. Ángel Currás, Mayor of Santiago de Compostela, Ms. Nava Castro, Director of Turismo de Galicia, as well as to their team members and staff, for their magnificent hospitality and for their personal involvement and constant support to the organization of the meeting.

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