UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA
Fifty-fifth meeting
Medellin, Colombia
13 September 2015

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO
STATUTORY ORGANS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Note by the Secretary-General
The present document is submitted to all Regional Commissions for information and appropriate action.
Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies

1. The following information is based on the membership of the Organization as of the date of this document. Any additional candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the meeting of the Commission (i.e. 13th September 2015) on the occasion of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly will be announced in an addendum to this document.

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Nomination of the Officers of the General Assembly during its twenty-first session

2. For the conduct of its business and in accordance with rule 16(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents “on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President”.

3. The Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly should therefore represent the UNWTO regions as follows: two for Africa, two for the Americas, two for Europe, one for East Asia and the Pacific, one for South Asia and one for the Middle East.

4. It is pointed out that, to elect its Vice-Presidents, the Assembly must make allowance for the region represented by the President in accordance with rule 16(3) of its Rules of Procedure. If the Assembly follows the tradition of nominating as President the head of delegation of the host country, there would be 1 post of Vice-President for the region of the Americas.

5. Bearing this in mind, the Regional Commissions are requested to nominate candidates to represent their regions as Vice-Presidents of the twenty-first session of the Assembly.

6. The Officers of the previous sessions of the General Assembly are listed in Annex I to this document.

7. As of the date of this document no candidatures from the Regional Commission for the position of Vice-President have been received at the Secretariat.
II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. Credentials Committee: appointment of members

8. Rule 13(1) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure provides for the appointment by the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, of a Credentials Committee composed of nine delegates chosen from among the Full Members.

9. The Regional Commissions are called upon to suggest to the President of the General Assembly the same number of representatives for the Credentials Committee as they have Vice-Presidents of the Assembly (including two for the Americas). The nine Members of the Committee thus nominated will then elect from among themselves a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman in accordance with rule 13(2) of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure.

10. To assist the Regional Commissions in their deliberations, the offices held by Members at previous sessions of the General Assembly are listed in Annex II.

11. As of the date of this document no candidatures from the Regional Commissions for membership in the Credentials Committee have been received at the Secretariat.

B. Regional Commissions: election of Officers

12. In accordance with rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, as they apply mutatis mutandis to the Regional Commissions, and consistent with the practice followed so far, each Regional Commission should elect one Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen from among its Members for a term of two years, commencing from the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

13. So far as the candidatures presented for the chairmanship are concerned, it should be pointed out that, as of the date of this document, India has informed the Secretariat that it has submitted its candidature for the chairmanship of the Commission for South Asia for the period 2016-2017. The Secretariat invites any other Members from the region who wish to submit their candidatures for the chairmanship/vice-chairmanship of the Commission for the forthcoming biennium to do so in the period leading up to the meeting of the Commission.

14. A list of the Officers of the Regional Commissions since 1976 is given in Annex III.

15. The Regional Commissions are called upon to elect their respective Chairman and Vice-Chairmen accordingly.
III. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: ELECTION OF MEMBERS

16. The General Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council, in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes of the Organization, which reads as follows¹:

“The Council shall consist of Full Members elected by the Assembly in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly, with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution.”

17. Article 15 of the Statutes also stipulates that:

“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...). Election for one-half of the membership of the Council shall be held every two years.”

18. This provision is enlarged upon in rule 55(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, paragraph 4 of which reads:

“The term of office of the Members of the Council shall begin immediately following their election by the Assembly and shall end on the election of their successors.”

19. Article 14(1) of the Statutes provides that the total number of the Organization’s Full Members determines the number of seats on the Council. In order to achieve, so far as possible, fair and equitable geographical representation, the number of seats per region is calculated on the basis of one seat for every five Members out of the total number of Members in each region. By the time the Organization achieved 155 Full Members, the Executive Council was then composed of 31 seats, in addition to Spain as a permanent member.

20. At the date of this document, the total number of Full Members of the Organization is 156. Should the General Assembly approve Samoa’s and Barbados’ candidatures to full membership, the total number would therefore come to 158 Member States (see Annex IV). Consequently, and in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes, the Council may be composed of thirty-one members (as it is today), in addition to Spain as a permanent member, during the period between the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the General Assembly. This would mean, however, that despite the fact that the Organization has 156 Full Members and is expecting the ratification of two more candidates in this session of the General Assembly, the number of seats in the Council remains unchanged. This situation is neither fair nor representative of the membership of the Organization and fails to fulfill the goal of “equitable geographical distribution”.

21. Aligning the number of seats in the Executive Council with the increasing membership of the Organization would preserve its representative character while at the same time it would facilitate the allocation of an extra seat to the regions that aspire to have a greater voice and more effective role for their people.

¹ The same provision is repeated in rule 1(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.
22. The application of the statutory rule of 1/5 to 158 Full Members makes the resulting figure closer to 32 rather than 31. When this situation arises it would seem more logical to round the figure to the highest whole number. This would enable the allocation of one extra seat while fully complying with the Statutes as they do not provide a fixed number of seats. In the event that the General Assembly approves this interpretation of Article 14(1) of the Statutes, the number of seats of the Council for the period 2015-2017 will be 32 instead of 31. Other UN organizations follow a similar practice when adapting the size of non-plenary organs to their increasing membership.

23. This rule may be implemented without having to initiate any amendment process to Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and the Executive Council. Nevertheless, should the Member States wish to adopt this new practice as a consistent rule, an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly should be produced and submitted to the next session of the General Assembly for its approval, along with a report on the practice of other UN organizations in this regard.

24. The current membership of the Executive Council is indicated in Annex V (including Peru and Bahamas, which will replace Argentina and Jamaica until 2017).

25. Annex VI provides a graphical representation of terms of office, broken down by region, since the creation of the UNWTO.

26. The table in Annex VII illustrates the situation, subject to the submission of other possible candidatures for membership, or the possible renunciation of a candidate. In such circumstances, the data given would have to be changed to reflect the modifications.

27. Column 5 of Annex VII shows that the terms of office of sixteen members expire at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. Column 6 shows that fourteen Full Members will have to be elected to the Council in the ratio of one member for every five Full Members, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific (with Samoa)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 14 seats

28. Column 7 shows that to represent the 18 remaining Full Members, four more members should be elected to the Council. Consequently, it is necessary to vote in the General Assembly for the allocation from among all the regions of the seats corresponding to the surplus members (so-called “floating” seats).

29. If the General Assembly decides to allocate one more seat in line with paragraph 22 above, none of the four remaining seats to be allocated by the General Assembly in order to reach the total of 32 seats corresponds to an exact multiple of 5 members from any of the six regions of the Organization; rather, the seats result from the sum of the surplus members from the different regions, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This total gives rise to the right to assign four so-called “floating” seats, as shown in the table in Annex VII. However, one “floating” seat corresponding to the region of South Asia is occupied until 2017, which means that three “floating” seats remain to be distributed at the twenty-first General Assembly.

On various occasions in the past, it has been possible to reach prior consensus on the assignation of the seats of the different regions and those corresponding to the surplus members, based on proposals put forward by the Regional Commissions.

At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, on the date appearing between brackets, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2015-2019:

AFRICA (5 seats to be filled)
Kenya (15 October 2014)
Mozambique (17 December 2014) (re-election)
Zimbabwe (19 December 2014)
Morocco (22 December 2014)
Zambia (8 January 2015)
Ghana (15 January 2015)
Côte d’Ivoire (25 February 2015)
Cameroon (13 April 2015)
Democratic Republic of Congo (27 May 2015)

AMERICAS (1 seat to be filled)
Costa Rica (8 October 2014)
Paraguay (16 October 2014)
Brazil (3 December 2014) (re-election)
Mexico (9 December 2014) (re-election)

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (4 seats to be filled)
Japan (28 May 2014)
China (22 August 2014) (re-election)
Republic of Korea (17 September 2014) (re-election)
Indonesia (23 July 2015) (re-election)

EUROPE (3 seats to be filled)
Portugal (7 July 2014)
Russian Federation (19 September 2014) (re-election)
Slovakia (10 October 2014)
Uzbekistan (23 January 2015) (re-election)
Poland (12 February 2015)
France (28 April 2015) (re-election)
Italy (05 May 2015) (re-election)

MIDDLE EAST (1 seat to be filled)

Iraq (18 February 2014)
Saudi Arabia (18 May 2015) (re-election)

SOUTH ASIA (no seat)

33. It should be recalled that Executive Council decisions 4(XXXIII) and 4(XXXIV) recommend that “...only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council”.

34. The Regional Commissions are called upon to recommend to the Assembly, on the basis of the regional distribution of new Council seats shown in paragraphs 19-30 of this document the seventeen (including floating seats) Council members to be elected for the period 2015-2019.

35. Associate Members are, for their part, requested to nominate their representative to the Executive Council.

36. The Board of Affiliate Members is requested to nominate its representative to serve on the Executive Council. This function is traditionally shouldered by the Chairman of the Board.

IV. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: ELECTION OF MEMBERS

A. Programme and Budget Committee

37. In accordance with decision 5(LXXXIX) taken by the Executive Council at its eighty-ninth session (24-26 October 2010, Kish Island, Islamic Republic of Iran), it has been decided that the Programme and Budget Committee will be composed of:

- 2 full members by region, as follows:
  - 6 members of the Executive Council, one per region, each designated by the Council itself for four years (members elected by the Executive Council have a mandate limited to their Executive Council mandate);
  - 6 members, one per region, designated by their respective regional commission for four years, (If a member elected by a Regional Commission were to become a member of the Executive Council, its term on the Committee would automatically come to an end, with the Regional Commission electing a replacement for the remaining part of the term);
- The representative of the Associate Members in the Executive Council;
- The representative of the Affiliate Members in the Executive Council and another representative of the Affiliate Members.

These regulations entered into force when they were approved by the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.

38. The Regional Commissions are called upon to designate their representative to the Programme and Budget Committee for the period between the twenty-first and twenty-third
sessions of the General Assembly.

39. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the PBC for the period 2015-2019:
   Americas: Argentina
   Europe: Hungary

40. The Associate Members and the Affiliate Members are requested to nominate their representatives to serve on the Committee.

41. The membership of the PBC in 2011-2015 is indicated in Annex VIII to this document.

B. Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)

42. The Committee is composed of nine members, appointed on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions. The Committee shall elect its Chairman and its Vice-Chairman from its members.

43. The term of office of the members of this Committee for the period 2011-2015 will expire at the 101st session of the Council, which will be held prior to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The nominated members of the Committee will be invited to participate, as observers to the meeting of the Committee, which will be convened in the morning of 13 September. The new composition of the Committee will be approved by the 102nd session of the Executive Council.

44. The Regional Commissions are requested to nominate their candidates for the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability for the period between the twenty-first and twenty-third sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

45. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the CTS for the period 2015-2019:
   Europe: Lithuania
            Montenegro

46. The Associate Members and the Affiliate Members are also requested to nominate their representatives to serve on the Committee.

47. The past and the present composition of this Committee is indicated in Annex IX to this document.
Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account

48. The World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism (Nice, June 1999) set up this Committee which is composed of nine members designated by the Regional Commissions, in addition of its chairman and three ex officio members.

49. The term of office of the members of the Committee for the period 2011-2015 will expire at the 101st session of the Council, which will be held prior to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The new composition of the Committee will be approved by the 102nd session of the Executive Council.

50. The Regional Commissions are requested to nominate their candidates for the Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account Committee for the period between the twenty-first and twenty-third sessions of the General Assembly, according to the following distribution for the Member States:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

51. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the CSTSA for the period 2015-2019:

Europe: Austria, Georgia, Italy

52. Moreover, France and Brazil, as host States of World Conferences on Statistics, and Spain, which chaired the Steering Committee of the Ottawa Conference, serve on this Committee as ex officio Members.

53. Once formed, the Committee will have to elect its Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen from among its members.

54. A representative of the Associate Members and four representatives nominated by the Affiliate Members will also serve on the Committee.

55. The Associate Members and the Affiliate Members are also requested to nominate their representatives to serve on the Committee.

56. As also set up by the Conference, the Committee will also include one category of observers, whose total number would not exceed that of eight members. These will consist, on the one hand, of representatives of international institutions, bodies and other entities who participated in the Conference and, on the other, of non-member States. For the first category of observers, these institutions (such as EUROSTAT, OECD and WTTC) will be invited by the Secretary-General to participate in the Committee meetings. The second category, non-member States, whose appreciable experience in the subject will make an important contribution to the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account will be nominated by the Executive Council.
57. **Specific Guidelines:** The Secretary-General has agreed with the suggestion of some countries for a more explicit institutionalization of the ongoing cooperation regarding UNWTO programme of work in tourism statistics. The establishment of the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) to the UNWTO Statistics and TSA Programme has been accepted.

58. The past and present membership of this Committee is indicated in Annex X to this document.

**D. Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC)**

59. This Committee is composed of nine Member States, appointed on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions. The Committee shall elect its Chairman and its Vice-Chairman from its members.

60. According to the Rules of Procedure adopted by the 96th Executive Council (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, August 2013), the membership of this Committee also includes other related experts, entities, institutions and/or organizations invited by the UNWTO Secretary-General, the list of which needs to be approved by the Executive Council.

61. The term of office of the members of this Committee for the period 2011-2015 will expire at the 101st session of the Council, which will be held prior to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The nominated members of the Committee will be invited to participate as observers to the meeting of the Committee, which will be convened in the morning of 13 September. The new composition of the Committee will be approved by the 102nd session of the Executive Council.

62. The Regional Commissions are requested to nominate their candidates for the Committee for the four-year period (2015-2019) intervening between the twenty-first and twenty-third sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

63. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States had communicated to the Secretariat, their intention of presenting their candidatures for membership of the CTC for the period 2015-2019:

- Europe: Croatia, Italy

64. The Associate Members and the Affiliate Members are also requested to nominate their representatives to serve on the Committee.

65. The past and present composition of the Committee is indicated in Annex XI to this document.

**E. Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership**

66. Pursuant to Executive Council decisions 8(XXV), 5(XXVI), 2(XXVII), 16(XXVIII) and

---

2 At the 2010 meeting of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and TSA.
General Assembly resolution 172(VI), and by virtue of Article 19(g) of the Organization’s Statutes, a Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership was established within the framework of the Executive Council. This Committee is composed of six members of the Council, appointed biennially on a regional basis by the Council itself. The Committee elects its own Chair and authorizes the Chair of the Committee of Affiliate Members to participate in its business without the right to vote.

67. Since the two-year term of office of the present members of the Committee expires at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, the Executive Council, at its 102nd session (Medellin, 17 September) will appoint, from among its number, the six new members of the Committee for the period 2015-2017.

68. When formulating their recommendations, Members should take into account the fact that this Committee always meets during Council sessions and that it is therefore essential to propose Members currently serving or required to serve on the Council.

69. In accordance with the established practice for the election of the members of the other subsidiary organs of the Executive Council, the Regional Commissions are each called upon to recommend a representative to the Council for appointment to the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership for the period 2015-2017.

70. The past and present membership of this Committee is indicated in Annex XII to this document.

V. DESIGNATION OF THE HOST COUNTRIES FOR WORLD TOURISM DAY 2016 AND 2017

71. By resolution 470(XV), the General Assembly designated Malaysia and Qatar as host countries of World Tourism Day in 2004 and 2005. By the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Executive Council and decided that the following geographic order would apply to World Tourism Day celebrations beginning in 2006: 2006 in Europe; 2007 in South Asia; 2008 in the Americas; and 2009 in Africa.

72. Noting that previous World Tourism Day celebrations were awarded to:

- WTD 2006: Portugal (Europe)
- WTD 2007: Sri Lanka (South Asia)
- WTD 2008: Peru (Americas)
- WTD 2009: Ghana (Africa)
- WTD 2010: China (East Asia and the Pacific)
- WTD 2011: Yemen (Middle East),
- WTD 2012: Spain (Europe)
- WTD 2013: Maldives (South Asia)
- WTD 2014 Mexico (Americas)
- WTD 2015 Burkina Faso (Africa)

and following the geographic order as decided by the General Assembly, World Tourism Day 2016 would be celebrated in East Asia and the Pacific and World Tourism Day 2017 in the Middle East.

73. In this regard, the Executive Council called upon the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Commission for the Middle East to submit to its 101st session a proposal for recommendation to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly on the host countries for World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017. The Regional
Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Commission for Middle East are thus requested to nominate their candidates for hosting the World Tourism Day in 2016 and 2017 respectively.