DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AT ITS SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION

Hyderabad, India, 8-9 July 2004

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This working document will be considered during the Executive Council session. Delegates are requested to bring their copies with them to the meetings.
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3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LXXIII)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/73/1 prov., CE/73 prov. Add. 1, CE/73/ prov. comp.
and CE/73/1 prov.annot.)

The Executive Council

Decides to adopt the agenda of its seventy-third session with the addition of a new
item:

"15. Proposal for the rotation of the chairmanship of the Executive Council
on a geographical basis."

CE/DEC/2(LXXIII)

Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 2
(document CE/73/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of its Chairman, Mr. Vyacheslav Fetisov, Head of the
Federal Agency for Physical Education, Sports and Tourism of the Russian Federation,

1. Thanks him for it;

2. Shares the Chairman’s views regarding tourism’s recovery in the world
following the many crises it has had to face;

3. Endorses his positive assessment regarding the implementation of the
programme of work;

4. Thanks the Russian Federation for the support it provides to the Organization;
and

5. Also expresses its gratitude to the Vice-Chairmen for their valuable contribution
to its work.
Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 3
(documents CE/73/3, CE/73/3 Corr. and CE/73/3 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the reports presented by the Secretary-General and having discussed them,

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

2. **Notes with interest** the information provided with regard to the analysis of the situation of the world tourism industry and the lessons that can be learned from its evolution over the past three years and the emerging trend towards recovery;

3. **Welcomes** the activities in progress and the efforts undertaken to increase the number of members;

4. **Takes note** of the measures taken at the Secretariat to respond to the increasing volume and diversity of technical cooperation activities;

5. **Notes with interest** the progress made in the effort to address the problem posed by the proliferation of "travel advisories" and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its next session a proposal aimed at counteracting this phenomenon and attenuating the drawbacks it causes to many destinations;

6. **Notes with satisfaction** the positive accounting results obtained and the good financial situation of the Organization; and

7. ** Approves** the Secretary-General's proposals to undertake a revision of the long-term world tourism forecasts, to introduce the planning of activities over four-year intervals, covering two financial periods, and to prepare a new "white paper" to make it possible to formulate the Organization's medium-term actions up to 2009 in the form of an "Agenda 2010", and requests that the results of these efforts be submitted to it at its seventy-sixth session, so that they can be submitted to the General Assembly.
CE/DEC/4(LXXIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

(a) Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance

Agenda item 4(a)
(document CE/73/4(a))

The Executive Council,

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

Recalling the recommendation made by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session, [A/RES/483(XV)] to stabilize the 2005 budget at the 2004 budgetary level or to reduce it taking into account the rate of increase of the consumer price index in Madrid during 2003 and possible incorporations of new Full Members,

1. **Notes** with satisfaction that the increase in the consumer price index registered in Spain in 2003 was 2.6 per cent, 0.5 percentage points lower than the 3.1 per cent used in the preparation of the 2004-2005 budget;

2. **Considers** realistic the Secretary-General's proposal to set the amount of the budget for the 2005 financial year at 11,438,000 euros, representing a reduction of 61,000 euros with respect to the budget foreseen;

3. **Adopts** the above-mentioned amount and decides that the total amount of contributions to be paid by the Full and Associate Members in the 2005 financial year shall be reduced by the same amount as the budget, from 9,450,000 euros to 9,389,000 euros.

Having been informed that the Committee on Budget and Finance carefully studied the financial and legal aspects of the return to membership of former Full and Associate Members, and especially the practices of other United Nations Specialized Agencies in this regard,

4. **Accepts** the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance that former Full and Associate Members wishing to return be promptly informed of the amount of their arrears and be granted within a policy of flexibility a reasonable period of time to present a payment plan for their outstanding debt.; and

5. **Thanks** the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina) and the Auditors (India and Spain) for their report and for the important work carried out.
Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation and plan of expenditure for 2004

Agenda item 4(b)
(documents CE/73/4(b), CE/73/4(b) Add.1)

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 considered the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Takes note of the report on the plan of expenditure for execution of the programme of work in 2004, 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. Observes that the expenditure forecast for the current financial year is limited to 84 per cent of approved credits, so as to maintain the necessary budgetary equilibrium, in accordance with the recommendation made by the General Assembly in resolution 463(XV);

3. Urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2004, thereby averting delays that could hamper programme execution;

4. Thanks the Committee on Budget and Finance for the study it carried out on the accumulation of contribution arrears, and takes note of the recommendations made;

Having taken cognizance of the information provided regarding the salary survey for General Services staff stationed in Madrid, conducted in April 2004 in collaboration with officials from the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC),

Considering that the Secretary-General made an accounting provision of 107,563.40 euros in the 2003 financial year for possible salary increases deriving from the survey and not provided for in the 2004 budget,

5. Authorizes the Secretary-General to apply to the General Services staff effective April 2004 the new salary tables established by the United Nations once the ICSC adopts the corresponding decision at its forthcoming session in July 2004 at the United Nations headquarters;
Taking into account the favourable financial situation and the increase in the Regional Representation and Technical Cooperation activities,

6. **Authorizes** the Secretary-General to increase the staff by two additional General Services posts over the total number of posts approved for the 2004-2005 budget and **requests** that these two posts be included in the draft budget for 2006-2007.

CE/DEC/6(LXXIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

(c) **Auditors’ report and administrative accounts of the Organization for the financial year 2003**

Agenda item 4(c)
(document CE/73/4(c))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the Auditors’ report and the administrative accounts of the Organization for the financial year 2003,

Having heard the explanations by the Secretariat and having considered the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance, submitted by its Chairman (Argentina),

1. **Notes** that in the financial year 2003 the level of budgetary expenditure, namely euros 9,423,112.89, was maintained within the limit of approved appropriations;

2. **Notes** with satisfaction that the amount of the surplus in 2003 (euros 625,184.45) was due to the high level of arrear contributions received and the measures adopted by the Secretary-General to limit expenditure;

3. **Observes** that the level of budgetary income received in 2003 made it possible to execute 88.9 per cent of the approved budget;

4. **Approves** the transfers of appropriations made with the prior authorization of the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Chairman of the Executive Council, in accordance with Financial Regulation 5(3)(a) and Detailed Financial Provision 3.07;

5. **Recommends** the Secretary-General to pursue in 2004 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment; and

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to transmit to the next session of the General Assembly, with the favourable opinion of the Council, the audited administrative accounts for the financial year 2003.
Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(d) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes

Agenda item 4(d)
(documents CE/73/4(d), CE/73/4(d) Add.1)

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 twenty-six Full Members, one Associate Member and thirty-three 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 fifteenth session of the General Assembly,

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

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Full Members Costa Rica, Guinea, Kazakhstan and Nicaragua have respected their agreed payment plans up to 2004;

3. Notes that the Full Members Nicaragua and Uruguay have each presented a plan for the payment of their arrears, beginning in 2004;

4. Notes that the Full Members Bolivia, El Salvador, Mali and Yemen have partially respected their agreed payment plans up to 2004;

5. 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; and

6. 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.
Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(e) Linguistic diversity

Agenda item 4(e)
(documents CE/73/4 (a) and CE/73/4 (e))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on this matter, as well as the opinion of the Committee on Budget and Finance with regard to the financial consequences of the development and possible inclusion of the Portuguese language as a working language of the WTO,

1. Agrees with the Secretary-General's opinion that the practice of other organizations in this matter should be followed;

2. Decides to pursue and develop in a pragmatic manner WTO's policy with a view to translating into Portuguese certain of its publications, including its foundational documents, without significant costs to WTO; and

3. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the Portugése-speaking countries regarding the possibility of financing interpretation costs at General Assemblies and other important meetings.

Applications for membership

Agenda item 5
(document CE/73/5)

The Executive Council,

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

1. Approves with satisfaction, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly at its last session, the application for membership submitted by Oman;

2. Notes with interest the forthcoming accession of Belarus;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of the steps undertaken by the Secretary-General with regard to non-member states with a view to their joining the Organization; and

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts aimed at the return of the United States, carried out pursuant to decision 10(LXX) of the Executive Council.
Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations

(a) Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms

Agenda item 6(a)
(documents CE/73/6(a), CE/73/6 (a) Add.1 Rev. and CE/73/6 (a)(b) Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of document CE/73/6(a),

Convinced of the benefits deriving from closer cooperation between WTO, as a new Specialized Agency, and other Agencies and programmes of the United Nations,

Aware that coordination mechanisms serve, in particular, the important function of eliminating duplication and promoting complementarity between WTO’s programmes and those of other institutions,

1. Encourages the Secretary-General to participate actively in the United Nations system’s coordination mechanisms under the aegis of ECOSOC while keeping it informed of the lessons to be drawn from this policy in particular with respect to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the international community in 2000;

Having taken cognizance of document CE/73/6(a) Add.1 Rev.,

Mindful of WTO’s central coordination leadership role in the field of tourism statistics,

Desirous of establishing a new framework for international cooperation and coordination which adequately reflects WTO’s new responsibilities in the UN system,

2. Endorses the Secretary General’s proposals for revising the mandate and responsibilities of WTO’s Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism so as to reflect WTO’s status as a UN Specialized Agency;

3. Agrees that it would be desirable to postpone the updating process of the current international recommendations on tourism statistics (Recommendations on Tourism Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework), until the currently ongoing revision processes of other standards (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), the Central Product Classification (CPC), the System of National Accounts (SNA93) and the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5)) are completed; and

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to its seventy-fourth session concerning progress in this area.
CE/DEC/11(LXXIII)

Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations

(a) Participation in the system's coordination mechanisms

Creation of a joint headquarters committee

Agenda item 6(a)
(documents CE/73/6(a), CE/73/6(a) Add.1 CE/73/6 (a) Add.1 Rev. and CE/73/6 (a)(b) Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having been informed of the Secretary-General's conversations with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as with the General Secretariat for Tourism of Spain, with a view to the creation of a joint headquarters committee aimed at facilitating the functioning in Madrid of the Organization in its new capacity as a specialized agency of the United Nations,

1. Welcomes the agreement in principle received from the Spanish Government; and

2. Requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the actions taken with regard to this subject.

CE/DEC/12(LXXIII)

Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations

(b) Ratifications following from the Agreement between WTO and the United Nations

Agenda item 6(b)
(document CE/73/6 (b))

The Executive Council,

Considering that, following the entry into force on 23 December 2003 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, it became necessary for WTO to comply with certain provisions of the Agreement which called for specific action on its part,
Having taken cognizance of document CE/73/6(b),

Notes with satisfaction that the Secretary-General has on 14 May 2004 informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations of WTO's acceptance of the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission, the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and the jurisdiction of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal in the event of alleged non-observance of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and takes note of the response dated 10 June 2004 received from the United Nations.

CE/DEC/13(LXXIII)

Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations

(c) Accession to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies

Agenda item 6(c)
(document CE/73/6 (c))

The Executive Council,

Convinced of the desirability of unifying as far as possible the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies,

Aware that WTO 's conversion into a United Nations Specialized Agency, effective since 23 December 2003, raises the question of its acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947,

Desirous of allowing the Organization to benefit from a coherent body of rules which are well established, proven and operational,

Persuaded of the need to make the content of Article 32 of the Statutes more specific, while preserving the exclusive application of the Headquarters Agreement concluded between Spain and the Organization in the latter's relations with the host State,

1. Deems that it is in the interest to WTO to extend the application of the Convention to the Organization, in accordance with the modalities described in document CE/73/6(c);

2. Considers that the provisions of the Convention cannot override those of the Headquarters Agreement with Spain, whose provisions shall continue to apply in an exclusive manner, pursuant to section 39 of the Convention;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of the Legal Adviser, a draft annex in accordance with the guidelines indicated in Annex 2 of document CE/73/6(c), and to submit it to the United Nations Economic and Social Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of section 35 of the Convention; and

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it for review the recommendation of United Nations Economic and Social Council, prior to its consideration by the General Assembly, pursuant to Article 12(1) of the WTO Statutes.

CE/DEC/14(LXXIII)

Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations

(d) Acronym of the World Tourism Organization

Agenda item 6(d)
(docket CE/73/6(d))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the Secretary-General's report concerning the acronym of the Organization,

1. Shares the opinion of the Secretary-General that it is advisable to avoid the confusion of the Organization's acronym in English and Russian with that of the World Trade Organization;

2. Agrees that a decision in this matter should be taken within the framework of WTO's new status as a specialized agency of the United Nations;

3. Takes note of the favourable opinion of the Legal Adviser of the United Nations on this subject and of the appreciation expressed by the WTO/OMC for this initiative by the Secretary-General with a view to avoiding the drawbacks resulting from the current confusion of designations;

4. Considers it advisable to avoid adopting solutions that diverge in their application to the official languages of the Organization; and

5. Decides to remain seized of the matter and requests the Secretary-General to present a supplementary report at its next session.
Follow-up of the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations

(e) Updating of the Staff Rules

Agenda item 6(e)
(documents CE/73/6(e) and CE/73/6(e) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined document CE/73/6(e) containing the proposed revisions to the Organization’s Staff Rules,

Bearing in mind that as a result of the Organization’s transformation into a specialized agency of the United Nations, as approved by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session (A/RES/453/(XV)), the Organization has accepted the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission,

Recognizing the need for the Organization’s norms and procedures governing staff issues to be in harmony with those of the United Nations common system and for such harmonization not to represent a significant additional cost for the functioning of the Institution,

Noting with satisfaction that, as requested by the Executive Council at its seventy-first session, the staff representatives have been consulted and have provided the Secretary-General with valuable input in the revision of the Staff Rules,

1. Takes note that these proposed amendments are part of an initial review that does not exclude future additional revisions;

2. Approves the proposed amendments to the Staff Rules, such amendments to enter into force effective 1st January 2005; and

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, as needed and in consultation with staff representatives, with the review of the Staff Rules.
CE/DEC/16(LXXIII)

General programme of work

(a) Report on the implementation and on the evaluation of the general programme of work for the period 2004-2005

Agenda item 7(a)
(document CE/73/7(a))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 2004-2005, as submitted to the Programme Committee at its twenty-sixth meeting in May 2004 and updated by the Secretariat to reflect the activities carried out since the said meeting,

Expresses its appreciation of the broad range of activities carried out by the Secretariat and thanks the Secretary-General and the WTO staff for the large volume of work completed.

CE/DEC/17(LXXIII)

General programme of work

(b) Preparation of the general programme of work for the period 2006-2007

Agenda item 7(b)
(document CE/73/7(b))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the background information on the procedure for the preparation of the general programme of work for 2006-2007, submitted by the Secretary-General, as well as the preliminary comments and suggestions made by the Programme Committee, at its twenty-sixth meeting (Madrid, 25-26 May 2004), regarding programming principles and strategic priority issues,

1. Approve the Programme Committee's recommendations;

2. Notes that the Programme Committee will further consider the issue at its twenty-seventh meeting, tentatively scheduled for the first half of November 2004, in the light of additional inputs to be provided by the Regional Commissions, the Technical Steering Committees, the Strategic Group and the Affiliate Members, the Education Council's Policy Forum and Business Council's Leadership Forum; and
3. **Entrusts** the Secretary-General with taking the said recommendations into account in preparing proposed guidelines for the general programme of the Organization for the period 2006-2007, for submission at its seventy-fourth session.

CE/DEC/18(LXXIII)

**World Committee on Tourism Ethics**

Agenda item 8
(document CE/73/8)

The Executive Council,

**Having taken cognizance** of the report on the World Committee on Tourism Ethics,

1. **Acknowledges with satisfaction** the election, by the Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, at the suggestion of the Secretary-General, of Mr. Diego Cordovez for the position of Chairman of the Committee;

2. **Takes note** of the several issues identified by the Committee as requiring priority attention in its current programme of work, and **welcomes** its decision to launch an international campaign to raise awareness on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;

3. **Urges** all Members of the Organization –Full, Associate and Affiliate- to participate in the WTO Survey on the Implementation of the Code of Ethics, and **invites** them to assist the Committee in promoting and disseminating the Code worldwide;

4. **Notes with interest** the draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee discussed at its first meeting, and **requests** the Committee to communicate to it the text of the final version once it is completed;

5. **Requests** the Committee to present, after consultation with the Secretary-General, a revised draft mechanism for the settlement of disputes at its next session;

6. **Thanks** the Italian Government for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the Committee during its first meeting held in Rome;

7. **Receives with gratitude** the proposal of the Italian Government relative to the establishment in Italy of a permanent secretariat of the Committee, and **requests** the Secretary-General to report to it at its next session on the administrative and financial arrangements related to such establishment; and

8. **Welcomes** the proposal of the Tunisian Government to host a forthcoming meeting of the Committee, in connection with the adoption of a national code of ethics for tourism inspired by the Global Code of Ethics.
World Committee on Tourism Ethics

Draft additional Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the protection of children against sex tourism

Agenda item 8
(document CE/73/8)

The Executive Council,

Having been informed of a proposal by Brazil on this subject,

Recalling the activity of WTO in the fight against sex tourism, and in particular, against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism, including among others, the Resolution of the eleventh session of the General Assembly (Cairo) on the prevention of organized sex tourism of 22 October 1995 and the Stockholm Declaration against the commercial sexual exploitation of children of 28 August 1996;

Bearing in mind the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and especially Article 2, paragraph 3, which states:

"The exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual, especially when applied to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and is the negation of tourism; as such, in accordance with international law, it should be energetically combated with the cooperation of all the States concerned and penalized without concession by the national legislation of both the countries visited and the countries of the perpetrators of these acts, even when they are carried out abroad",

1. Takes note with particular interest of the proposal of Brazil for the drafting of an additional Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the protection of children against sexual tourism; and

2. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the World Committee on Tourism Ethics regarding this matter at its next meeting and to report on this subject to it at its next session.
ST-EP Initiative

Agenda item 9

(documents CE/73/9 and CE/73/9 Corr.)

The Executive Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution A/RES/471(XV),

Having examined the report on this subject submitted by the Secretary-General and having heard the presentation of his Special Adviser proposing a "road map" which will be submitted for action to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly,

Informed of the offer of the Republic of Korea to make a start-up contribution to the ST-EP initiative,

1. Takes note of the positive development of the ST-EP initiative in general;

2. Thanks warmly the Republic of Korea for its decisive and generous contribution to a major cause;

3. Approves, subject to paragraph 6 below, the provisional agreement signed on 25 March 2004 between WTO and the Republic of Korea concerning the initial funding of the ST-EP Foundation amounting to 5 million US$ over four years and the establishment of the headquarters of the Foundation in that country, which will enjoy the appropriate international status, as well as the creation of a Preparatory Committee chaired jointly by a representative of the Republic of Korea and the Secretary-General;

4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to accept the first tranche of ST-EP funding from the Republic of Korea, amounting to 2 million dollars and to hold such funds available as voluntary contributions, in accordance with Regulation 10.3 of the Financial Regulations;

5. Welcomes the interest of certain European governments that wish to make a contribution to the Foundation’s assets and encourages the Secretary-General to seek further contributions; and

6. Approves the proposal of the Secretary-General to allocate in 2004, 500,000 US$ of the surplus from the execution of technical cooperation projects to new projects having a sustainability and poverty-alleviation dimension, which prefigure the possible activities of the future ST-EP Foundation.
CE/DE/21(LXXIII)

Liberalization of trade in tourism services

Agenda item 10
(documents CE/73/10 and CE/73/10 Corr.)

The Executive Council,

Having regard to General Assembly resolution A/RES/455(XV) on liberalization of trade in tourism services activities,

Having considered the report together with the updated position paper on this subject submitted by the Secretary-General,

Having heard the statements by the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on WTO’s contribution to the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 14-18 June 2004),

1. **Endorses** said position paper;

2. **Welcomes** the actions undertaken by the Secretary-General in implementing resolution A/RES/455(XV), in particular through the convocation of the international symposium held in Madrid in March, the contribution to the public symposium of the World Trade Organization held in May, and to UNCTAD XI, aiming at implementing the strategy of "liberalization with a human face" in tourism activities, as well as collaboration with ICAO on air services expansion in poor countries;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue cooperation with the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD, ICAO and other relevant Organizations to explore and bring to fruition the potential of liberalization of trade in tourism services in the current and future negotiations and to prepare to this effect appropriate tools and policy recommendations; and

4. **Further requests** the Secretary-General to continue to be involved in the currently ongoing multilateral negotiations on trade in tourism services and requests him to keep it informed of their progress and of the developments regarding this subject.
CE/DEC/22(LXXIII)

Protection of hotels and tourism attractions during times of armed conflict

Agenda item 11
(document CE/73/11)

The Executive Council,

Having been informed of a proposal issued by Colombia on this subject and supported by the Commission for the Americas,

Having examined the preliminary note by the Legal Adviser on this matter,

Aware that the proposal of Colombia is meant to remedy a deficiency that exists in international law in the tourism industry sector and in international humanitarian law,

Entrusts the Secretary-General with carrying out, with the assistance of the Legal Adviser, a preliminary study to be submitted to it at its next session.

CE/DEC/23(LXXIII)

Report of the Working Group for the preparation of amendments to Articles 6 and 7 of the Statutes

Agenda item 12
(document CE/73/12)

The Executive Council,

1. Takes note of the fact that the Group constituted pursuant to decision CE/DEC/4(LXXII) of the Executive Council met on 27 January 2004 in Madrid and on 8 July 2004 in Hyderabad, immediately prior to the present Council session;

2. Approves the main orientations contained in the report presented to it by the Chairman of the Group;

3. Invites the Group to present to it a final report at its next session, guided by the following principles:

- reaffirmation of the WTO's role as an instrument of economic and social development thanks to the active and concrete engagement of all its Members, regardless of category;
- reaffirmation and reinforcement of the Organization's intergovernmental nature and of the exclusive decision-making role played by sovereign States within it;

- limitation of decision-making capacity to Members States only, through the right to vote and the right to speak in the General Assembly and in the Executive Council;

- conservation of the possibility for tourism bodies of entities other than sovereign States, private-sector actors, and private-law international associations to participate in the implementation of the ideals, projects and means of the Organization, which implies a status that is limited to a non-decision-making role;

- presentation in writing of candidatures of non-state entities by the States they belong to;

4. **Further invites** the Group to meet before this coming 15 October to finalize its proposals on this basis; and

5. **Thanks** France (Chairman) for its coordination of the Group's work, and the countries that provided written contributions to this work.

CE/DEC/24(LXXIII)

**Scheduling of conferences**

**Agenda item 13**

**(document CE/73/13)**

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report of the Secretary-General on the scheduling of conferences in 2004 and 2005,

1. **Takes note** of the calendar of meetings of the WTO organs and of technical meetings scheduled for 2004 and 2005;

2. **Agrees** to the holding in 2005, in addition to the periodic meetings of WTO organs and technical meetings, the major events indicated below:

   - Follow-up events to the first TOURCOM - World Conference on Tourism Communications, in which Jordan and Nigeria have expressed their interest, and which could be held insofar as the Organization's material means permit;

   - The fourth edition of the World Congress on Snow and Winter Sports Tourism in Andorra in April 2005;
- The world conference provided for in the general programme of work on statistics and the tourism satellite account expected to be held in September 2005 at Iguazu, on the joint invitation of Argentina and Brazil, with the support of Paraguay;

- Conferences on sport and tourism to be held in Tunisia and the Russian Federation, in the framework of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education;

- Meeting on the role of tourism in the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe, in Serbia and Montenegro.

3. Thanks the States that presented their candidatures to host these conferences, and requests the member countries that wish to host such events to make their proposals known as soon as possible so that a balanced schedule can be drawn up in due time and be reflected in the general programme of work.

CE/DEC/25(LXXIII)

**Affiliate Members**

**(a) Report of the Chairman**

Agenda item 14(a)
(document CE/73/14 (a))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Chairman of the Affiliate Members regarding the activities carried out since the fifteenth session of the General Assembly,

Having heard the statements made by the Chairman,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his report;

2. Expresses its satisfaction with regard to the activities carried out and the growth in their volume and diversity;

3. Commends the increasing presence of the Affiliate Members in international forums organized by other notable organizations and associations of the private sector;

4. Acknowledges its valuable participation in congresses, assemblies and conferences held in the Member States;
5. **Welcomes** the fact that work on the following important studies and seminars is already under way:

- Manual on congestion management at sites of interest, in collaboration with the Sustainable Development of Tourism Department,

- Study on business travel and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) tourism, in collaboration with Reed Exhibitions, ICCA and other Affiliate Members,

- Programme for the comparative evaluation of tourism websites.

- Strategic action plan on affiliation, in collaboration with Tourisme Montréal and the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (CIFORT),

- Leadership Forum of Advisers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 30 September-1 October 2004,

- Tourism Policy Forum in Washington, United States, on 19-21 October 2004,

- Conference on new models for management destination structures and marketing in Cyprus on 21-22 October 2004;

6. **Congratulates** the Committee of Affiliate Members on the success of the following seminars: "Changes in Market Behaviour: Consequences for Businesses and Destinations" in Beijing, China, "First World Seminar of Tourism Associations" in Rhodes, Greece, "Tourism Sector Associations in the Development and Management of Destinations" in Guilin, China, in collaboration with the Regional Representation for Asia, "E-Tourism: The Route for Competitive Success" in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, in collaboration with the Regional Representation for the Middle East, and "Applying New Technologies to Tourism" in Bogota, Colombia; and

7. **Encourages** the Affiliate Members to continue their reflection on their new structures corresponding to their three areas of interest—the business, education and destination sectors— which make up a single Committee of Affiliate Members, and the continuation of the preparations for the holding of a possible seminar on security and air transport, tentatively in cooperation with IATA.
Affiliate Members

(b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership

Agenda item 14(b)
(document CE/73/14 (b))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the report of its Sub-Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 8 July 2004,

1. **Endorses** the recommendations of the Sub-Committee; and

2. **Decides** to submit to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly the following candidates for affiliate membership:

1. ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE EXPERTOS CIENTÍFICOS EN TURISMO (AECIT) (SPAIN)
2. AZIENDA AUTONOMA DI CURA, SOGGIORNO E TURISMO DI NAPOLI (ITALY)
3. CENTRO ITALIANO DI STUDI SUPERIORI SUL TURISMO E SULLA PROMOZIONE TURISTICA DI ASSISI (CST) (ITALY)
4. ECONOMIC UNIVERSITY IN WARSAW (POLAND)
5. EUROGITES – EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FARM AND VILLAGE TOURISM
6. DELUXE VISION, S.L. (SPAIN)
7. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS & CONVENTION ASSOCIATION - ICCA
8. MASTER IN TOURISM AND ECONOMICS – UNIVERSITÀ L. BOCCONI (ITALY)
9. PROVINCIA DI AVELLINO (ITALY)
10. RISING STAR EXHIBITIONS, LTD. (UNITED KINGDOM)
11. RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR TOURISM (RIAT)
12. SERGAT ESPAÑA, S. L. (SPAIN)
13. TOURISM BUSINESS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
14. TOURISM ENTERPRISE AND MANAGEMENT (TEAM) (UNITED KINGDOM)
15. WORLD LEISURE AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION
CE/DEC/27(LXXIII)

Proposal for the rotation of the chairmanship of the Executive Council on a geographical basis

Agenda item 15
(document CE/73/15)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the document on this question, prepared on the basis of the communication of the Secretary of Tourism of India,

Having noted that, since the creation of WTO, the different regions have assumed the chairmanship of the Council in a relatively equitable fashion, considering the differences in the number of countries in each region,

1. Affirms the principle of the desirable geographical rotation of the chairmanship among the regions, which should be applied with the necessary flexibility with a view to the smooth functioning of this organ; and

2. Thanks India for its constant interest in involving itself in the work of the WTO's organs.

CE/DEC/28(LXXIII)

Place and dates of the seventy-fourth session of the Executive Council

Agenda item 16
(document CE/73/16)

The Executive Council,

1. Decides to accept the generous offer of Brazil to host its seventy-fourth session in Salvador de Bahia, on 2 and 3 December 2004, in the framework of the World Tourism Forum for Peace and Sustainable Development, to which WTO is providing support as part of its current programme of work; and

2. Takes note with satisfaction of Bulgaria's invitation to host its seventy-fifth session and decides to consider the matter at its next session.
CE/DEC/29(LXXIII)

**Vote of thanks to the host country**

The Executive Council,

Having successfully carried out the work of its seventy-third session under the favourable conditions provided to it by the host country of the session,

1. **Expresses its sincerest gratitude** to the Government of India for this new show of support for the WTO and its Members;

2. **Thanks in particular** H.E. Ms. Renuka Choudhary, Minister of Tourism of India, and H.E. Dr. Geeta Reddy, Minister of Tourism of the State of Andhra Pradesh, and their collaborators, for the gracious hospitality they have shown to the delegations attending this session of the Council in Hyderabad which enabled them to appreciate the cultural traditions and tourist attractions of this State; and

3. **Extends its warmest thanks** to H.E. the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, for having honoured the opening ceremony of this session with his presence.
4. **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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

(1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Andorra, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey;

(2) the Chairman of the Regional Commission for Africa (Angola);

(3) the Permanent Observer to WTO (Holy See);

(4) the representative of the Associate Members (Macao, China);

(5) the representative of the Affiliate Members (Tourisme Montréal);

(6) the representatives of the following WTO Members: Angola, Oman, Nepal, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine, as observers.