DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AT ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

Tozeur, Tunisia, 15-16 November 1996

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CE/DEC/1(LIV)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/54/1 prov. and CE/54/1 prov.annot.)

The Executive Council

Adopts the agenda of its fifty-fourth session.

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CE/DEC/2(LIV)

Solemn tribute to Mr. Antonio Enríquez Savignac

Agenda item 2

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decision 12(LIII), in which it took note of the decision of Mr. Antonio Enríquez Savignac to relinquish the post of Secretary-General on 1 September 1996,

Recalling also the proposal of its Chairman, H.E. Mr. Slaheddine Maâoui, that solemn tribute should be paid to Mr. Enríquez Savignac at its fifty-fourth session in Tunisia,

Having heard numerous delegations manifest their warmest sentiments towards him in statements of gratitude and admiration, as well as the Secretary-General’s proposal that Mr. Enríquez Savignac be called upon to represent the Organization in its external relations,
Recognizing the personal and professional qualities that made him an exceptional Secretary-General,

1. Expresses its deepest appreciation of the work he accomplished during his six years of office at the head of the Organization; and

2. Decides to confer upon Mr. Enríquez Savignac the title of Honorary Secretary-General and the function of Ambassador Extraordinary of the Organization.

CE/DEC/3(LIV)

Declaration of loyalty by the Secretary-General
(Staff Regulation 6(a))

Agenda item 3
(document CE/54/3)

The Executive Council,

Meeting in public session in accordance with Staff Regulation 6(a),

Takes note of the solemn declaration of loyalty made and signed by Mr. Francesco Frangialli as Secretary-General of the Organization, following his appointment by the Council at its fifty-third session in accordance with Article 20 of the Statutes.
The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Secretary-General,

1. Thanks him for the information in his report on the present situation of the Organization;

2. Welcomes in particular the announcement by the Republic of Panama of its return to the Organization;

3. Agrees with the Secretary-General’s analysis of the challenges that the Organization will have to meet squarely in order to cope with the changes occurring in its environment; and

4. Accepts his proposals to organize for the General Assembly a “summit” debate on the future of the Organization and to prepare this discussion with the aid of a Secretariat “White Paper” and the meeting of a select working group of eminent persons from the public and private sectors.
The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 1996-1997,

1. Takes note of the development of technical cooperation activities, globally and by region, as well as of the results recorded at 30 September 1996 concerning the progress of field missions and project execution;

2. Welcomes the growth recorded in the Organization's technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Middle East;

3. Encourages the Secretary-General to persevere in his approaches to UNDP to mitigate the consequences of the developments affecting technical cooperation activities within the United Nations system, as well as in his efforts to diversify the financial resources made available to the Organization for the execution of technical cooperation projects and to optimize their use;

4. Notes with interest the conclusions of the Second International Forum of parliamentarians and local authorities, held in Bali from 24 to 27 September 1996;

5. Endorses the Bali Declaration on Tourism and decides to transmit it to the twelfth session of the General Assembly for information;

6. Notes with satisfaction the progress made since its previous session in implementing the various activities of the programme in the field of education and training, as well as the outcome of the fifth meeting of the Organization's Network of Centres;

7. Takes note of the conclusions of the international seminar on urban tourism, ecotourism and fragile ecosystems held at Tozeur on 13 and 14 November 1996, as well as of the recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Environment Committee and requests the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of that Committee;
8. Takes cognizance of the progress made in implementing the WTO recommendations on tourism statistics and in the preparation of the draft "satellite account for tourism";

9. Approves the report of the second meeting of the Quality Support Committee, held at Madrid on 28 and 29 October 1996 and, in particular, its recommendations concerning the future work of the Organization in this field;

10. Commends the setting up of a Tourism and Child Protection task force; and

11. Notes with satisfaction the development of the programme for the electronic dissemination of WTO's information and, in particular, the creation of an on-line statistical information service through the Internet.

Administrative, financial and statutory matters

(a) Report of the Secretary-General

(I) Financial situation of the Organization

Agenda item 6(a)
(documents CE/54/6(a)(I) and CE/54/6(a)(I) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization,

1. Notes that, at 12 November 1996, expenditure for the financial year 1996 matched the level of income;

2. Notes with satisfaction that income from contributions exceeded by 8 per cent the income received by the same date last year;

3. Urges Members of the Organization that have not yet paid their contributions for the current financial year to comply with their financial obligations before the end of this year;
Having been informed of Eritrea’s request for exemption from the payment of its contributions to the Organization,

4. **Agrees** that, while expressing sympathy with this country for the economic problems it faces, it cannot accede to this request, since the payment of contributions is an obligation of membership and no statutory provision exists for exemption from their payment;

5. **Nevertheless reminds** Eritrea of the established practice of settling contribution arrears by means of a plan for their payment in instalments over a given period agreed with the Secretary-General;

**Having heard** the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish detailed administrative and financial procedural arrangements to ensure better internal control and strict financial administration,

6. **Agrees** on the need for such arrangements; and

7. **Entrusts** the Committee on Budget and Finance with examining this project and reporting back to it thereon.

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**CE/DEC/7(LIV)**

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

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

Agenda item 6(b)
(document CE/54/6(b))

The Executive Council,

**Having before it** the report of the Secretary-General,

**Having been informed** that, as of the date of this session, the Full Members **ANGOLA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** and **ZAMBIA** are no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, since they have reduced their arrears to less than two years’ contributions,
Having considered the situation of Members benefiting from suspension of the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and/or paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes,

1. Notes with satisfaction that the Full Members COSTA RICA, RWANDA and SENEGAL have paid their contributions for the current year, together with the corresponding instalment on their arrears, in accordance with their payment plans;

2. Reminds the Full Member PERU of the obligation to pay its contributions for 1995 and 1996 and the balance of the instalment on its arrears in order to comply with the agreed payment plan;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, if by 1 January 1997, a year has passed without compliance with the terms stipulated in their payment plans, the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules and/or Article 34 of the Statutes are reapplied to the Full Member MALI and the Affiliate Members Confederación de Cámaras Nacionales de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo, Federación Hotelera-Gastronómica de la República Argentina and Tourconsult/International S.A.; and

4. Entrusts the Secretary-General with steadily pursuing his approaches to Members in arrears with their contributions so as to secure agreements for discharging their debts.

CE/DEC/8(LIV)

Guidelines for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 1998-1999: discussion of approach and choice of procedure

Agenda item 7
(documents CE/54/7 and CE/54/7 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the guidelines submitted by the Secretary-General for the preparation of the draft programme of work and budget for the period 1998-1999, the results of the consultation carried out by the Secretariat among the Members, as well as the suggestions put forward by the Members in this regard and the recommendations made by the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifteenth meeting held on 7 October 1996,
Having taken cognizance of the suggestions formulated by both the Quality Support Committee and the WTO University Centres at their recent meetings,

Having held a fruitful and wide-ranging discussion concerning the broad lines of the programme and the budgetary resources that could be deployed for its execution,

1. **Requests** Members that would still like their suggestions to be taken into consideration to forward them to the Secretary-General to reach him by 31 December 1996 at the latest;

2. **Decides** that, in a concern for continuity, the new programme will focus on the six areas already chosen for the years 1996 and 1997, viz.:
   - cooperation for development;
   - education and training;
   - environment and planning;
   - statistics and market research;
   - quality of tourism development;
   - communications, publications and documentation;

3. **Agrees** that the programme budget for 1998-1999 should apply the same strict financial principles (zero growth in real terms and limitation of fixed costs) as the programme of the current biennium;

4. **Entrusts** the Secretary-General, bearing these principles in mind, with determining in what conditions the budgetary surplus from 1994-1995 could be used, consulting for this purpose with the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) and the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination (TCPC);

5. **Requests** the TCPC, in accordance with rule 9(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to meet again in April 1997 to examine the draft general programme of work for 1998-1999 before it is submitted to the Committee on Budget and Finance and the fifty-fifth session of the Council; and

6. **Reaffirms** the principle expressed in its decisions 17(XXXIV) and 20(XXXV), according to which the CBF and TCPC should work in close cooperation on the preparation of the Organization's programme of work.
Affiliate Members

(a) Report of the Chairman

Agenda item 8(a)
(document CE/54/8(a))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Chairman of the Affiliate Members,

1. Thanks him for his report;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the execution of the activities of the Affiliate Members and at the new studies undertaken and considers of special interest the constitution of an Advisory Council which will help to enhance the work of the Committee of Affiliate Members and to extend its influence;

3. Welcomes the steady increase in the number of Affiliate Members and their presence in countries where they were not hitherto represented; and

4. Takes note of the desire of the Affiliate Members to amend the present rules concerning the situation of Affiliate Members with contribution arrears.

Affiliate Members

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

Agenda item 8(b)
(document CE/54/8(b))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of its Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership, which met at Tozeur on 15 November 1996 in conjunction with its fifty-fourth session,
1. **Endorses** the recommendations of the Sub-Committee;

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

   1. ANB Ltd - Tourist Enterprises Planning, Development and Operation (Israel)
   2. Asociación Gremial de Empresarios Hoteleros de Chile
   3. Consejo Superior de Turismo de Chile - CONSETUR (Chile)
   4. Consell Municipal de Turisme de Calpe (Spain)
   5. Empresa de Turismo e Desenvolvimento Econômico do Salvador - EMTURSA (Brazil)
   6. Federación Española de Empresarios de Camping y C.V. (Spain)
   7. Institut panafricain des arts et métiers - IPAAM (Côte d'Ivoire)
   8. International Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Research - Bournemouth University (United Kingdom)
   9. IRTISH-SERVICE Co. (Kazakhstan)
   10. MABOQUE - Gestao de Empreendimentos (Angola)
   11. MasterCard International (United States of America)
   12. Office for Studies and Finance - OSAF (Egypt)
   13. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador
   14. SETUR - Tourism Authority of the State of Ceará (Brazil)
   15. TEKSER - Tourism and Travel Inc. (Turkey)
   16. Vivid Travel Network (VTN) (United States of America)
   17. Walt Disney Attractions, Inc. (United States of America)
3. **Decides in principle also to submit to the General Assembly the application of Civil Aviation Authority (Uganda) subject to the receipt of further details of its legal status, as well as formal acceptance by the applicant of the obligations of affiliate membership and endorsement from the Government of Uganda.**

CE/DEC/11(LIV)

**Procedure for the election of the Secretary-General of the Organization for the period 1998-2001**

**Agenda item 9**

(documents CE/54/9 and CE/54/9 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

**Having examined** the documents submitted on this subject by the Secretary-General,

1. **Considers** that the rules and procedures adopted by the Council at its twenty-third session in May 1984 (decision 17(XXIII)), supplemented by those adopted at its thirty-fourth session in November 1988 (decision 19(XXXIV)) and at its forty-fourth session in November 1992 (decision 19(XLIV)), should also be followed at its fifty-fifth session;

2. **Decides** that, for the interpretation of the statutory rules governing the election of the Secretary-General and the decisions mentioned in paragraph 1 above, reference shall be made to the contents of documents CE/54/9 and CE/54/9 Add.1 attached to the present decision;

3. **Invites** the member States to propose candidates for the post of Secretary-General for the period 1998-2001, ensuring that their nominations reach the Organization's Headquarters by 20 March 1997 at the latest;

4. **Requests** candidates to submit, together with biographical and career information, a statement of policy and management intent, expressing their views on the manner in which they would perform the functions of Secretary-General; and

5. **Confirms** that it is at its fifty-fifth session that the Council will decide on the nominee it should recommend to the twelfth session of the General Assembly for the post of Secretary-General for the period 1998-2001.
ANNEX


1. The term of office of the Secretary-General ad interim expires on 31 December 1997. It is therefore incumbent on the General Assembly to appoint his successor at its twelfth session, to be held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 17 to 24 October 1996.

2. Consequently, the Executive Council will be required at its fifty-fifth session (spring 1997) to recommend to the General Assembly a nominee for the post of Secretary-General.

3. For purposes of this nomination, strict observance is proposed of the rules, timetable and practice adopted in the past and as recalled in the report submitted to the Council at its forty-fourth session with a view to the nomination of the Secretary-General in 1993. The rules, procedures and timetable were set forth as follows in that report:

I. "The election of the Secretary-General of the Organization is governed by Article 22 of the Statutes, which reads:"

   'The Secretary-General shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority of Full Members present and voting in the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council, for a term of four years. His appointment shall be renewable.'"

   ... 

II. "It is recalled that, at its twenty-third, thirty-fourth and forty-fourth sessions, held in May 1984, November 1988 and November 1992, respectively (decisions 17(XXIII) 19 (XXXIV) and 19 (XLIV)), the Council adopted the following rules and procedures for the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General:

   '(a) only nationals of States Members of WTO may be candidates;"
(b) candidates shall be formally proposed to the Council, through the Secretariat, by the governments of the States of which they are nationals, and these proposals should be received not later than 6 March 1985, the postmark providing proof thereof;

(c) voting shall be conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot attached to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;

(d) the vote shall be decided in accordance with Article 30 of the Statutes and Rule 28 of the Council’s Rules of Procedure, by simple majority, defined as fifty per cent plus one of the valid ballots cast;

(e) the selection of one nominee by the Council shall be conducted, in accordance with Rule 29 of the Council’s Rules of Procedure, during a private meeting, part of which shall be a restrictive meeting, as follows:

(i) discussion of candidates shall be conducted during a restrictive private meeting at which only voting delegations and interpreters shall be present; there shall be no written record and no tape recording of the discussions;

(ii) during the balloting Secretariat staff necessary to assist with the voting shall be admitted;

(f) the Executive Council decides not to recommend a candidate proposed by the government of a member State in unjustified arrears (paragraph 12 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes);

(g) the Council shall select only one nominee to recommend to the Assembly.”

4. In view of the foregoing, the Council is requested to decide on the rules and procedures that will govern the selection of a nominee for the post of Secretary-General for the period 1998-2001, as well as on the time-limit for the receipt of nominations.
5. In 1984, 1989 and 1992 the time-limit set for the receipt of nominations was two months before the session at which the Executive Council was required to select a nominee. In this instance also, it is again proposed that the time-limit for their actual receipt by the Secretariat should be set at two months before the Council's fifty-fifth session, the date of which should be decided by the Council under item 11 of the provisional agenda of this session. The Secretariat will inform all the Members by note verbale of the receipt of each nomination.

6. As on the occasion of the 1992 nomination, it is proposed that the communication of each nomination should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a statement of policy and management intent, expressing the nominee's views on the manner in which he or she would perform the functions of Secretary-General. These particulars will be compiled in the form of a Council document and communicated to its Members within the prescribed time-limits.

7. In the interest of maintaining equality between the nominees and to ensure that their documents are readable, it is suggested that curricula vitae be confined to, say, two pages and statements of policy and management intent to six pages. The nominations will be presented in alphabetic order in the Council document.
ANNEX

PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Addendum 1

VOTING PROCEDURES FOR FULL MEMBERS WITHIN THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE ELECTION OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Note prepared by Professor Alain Pellet
Legal Adviser to the World Tourism Organization

1. The rules for voting within WTO’s organs are set out in Articles 28 to 30 of its Statutes:

Article 28

“Each Full Member shall be entitled to one vote."

Article 29

“1. Subject to other provisions of the present Statutes, decisions on all matters shall be taken in the Assembly by a simple majority of Full Members present and voting.”

“2. A two-thirds majority vote of the Full Members, present and voting, shall be necessary to take decisions on matters involving budgetary and financial obligations of the Members, the location of the Headquarters of the Organization, and other questions deemed of particular importance by a simple majority of the Full Members present and voting at the Assembly.”
Article 30

“Decisions of the Council shall be made by a simple majority of Members present and voting except on budgetary and financial recommendations which shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting.”

2. These provisions are interpreted and supplemented, for voting in the General Assembly, by rules 37 to 43 of its Rules of Procedure and by the “Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot” attached thereto and, for voting in the Executive Council, by rules 27 and 28 of the Council’s Rules of Procedure.

3. Referring more specifically to the election of the Secretary-General, Article 22 of the Statutes provides as follows:

“The Secretary-General shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority of Full Members present and voting in the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council, for a term of four years.”

4. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly confirm that the decision on the appointment of the Secretary-General may only be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Full Members present and voting (rule 38, paragraph 2 (e)), and rule 43 provides that the appointment of the Secretary-General shall be made by secret ballot, the procedures for which are spelled out in the Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot.

5. Paragraph 2 of rule 29 of the Council’s Rules of Procedure specifies that the Council’s recommendation to the Assembly for the appointment of the Secretary-General “shall be made at a private meeting of the Council”, but it does not override the general principle laid down in rule 28, whereby:

“Subject to provisions to the contrary in the Statutes of the Organization, the Council’s decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the Members present and voting.”

Article 30 of the Statutes derogates from this rule only for “budgetary and financial recommendations”.

In accordance with the constant practice of the Organization, recalled in decision 17 (XXIII) of 1984, a simple majority is “defined as 50 per cent plus one of the valid ballots cast”. This rule was confirmed in 1988 and 1992 (decisions 19(XXXIV) and 19(XLIV).
6. It may occur that none of the candidates in question obtains that majority in
the first round of voting. Neither the Statutes nor the Rules of Procedure of the
Council make any provision on how to proceed in such a case.

7. It does not appear legitimate to apply the provisions of rule 5(2) of the Rules
of Procedure, which concern only the election of the Council’s Officers. The only
logical solution therefore is to hold as many rounds of voting as are necessary for
achieving the required majority. That is, moreover, the practice followed by the
General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations for the election of
judges to the International Court of Justice (Article 10 of the Statute of the Court) and
by the Security Council for the recommendation of the Secretary-General (Article 97
of the Charter).

8. It may be inferred from these provisions that the following procedure should
be observed for the appointment of the Secretary-General:

(a) The Executive Council shall recommend to the General Assembly a
nominee for the post of Secretary-General at a private meeting and by a simple
majority of 50 per cent plus one of the valid ballots cast; and

(b) On the basis of that recommendation, the General Assembly shall
appoint the Secretary-General by a two-thirds majority and by secret ballot.

The recommendation of the Council is a legal precondition, and the General
Assembly may not take a decision in the absence of that recommendation; nor may
it oppose the way in which the Council vote has gone (cf. International Court of
Justice, advisory opinion of 3 March 1950, Competence of the General Assembly for
the admission of a State to the United Nations, Rec. 1950, pp 4-10, not. pp. 9-10).

9. In both the Executive Council and the General Assembly, only the votes of
Full Members “present and voting” may be taken into account.

Rule 39 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedures and rule 27 (2) of the:
Council’s Rules of Procedure concur in that:

“Under these Rules of Procedure, the term ‘Full Members present and voting’
shall be understood to mean ‘Full Members present and voting for or against’.
Full Members which abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.”
10. It stands to reason that, in both organs, only those Members entitled to vote may participate in the voting and invited Members or observers are excluded.

11. Similarly, Members that are suspended "from exercising the rights and enjoying the privileges of membership" under the terms of Article 34 of the Statutes may not benefit from the right to vote, this being one of the "rights and privileges of membership".

The same applies to Members in arrears by more than two years in the payment of their contributions, which are "deprived of the privileges enjoyed by the Members in the form of services and the right to vote in the Assembly and the Council" by virtue of paragraph 13 of the Organization's Financing Rules, unless the Assembly has permitted these Members to participate in the voting pursuant to the last sentence of this provision. It should be pointed out that, in this regard, in 1988, the Executive Council completed the rules and procedures for the election of the Secretary-General as follows:

"The Executive Council decides not to recommend a candidate proposed by the government of a member State in unjustified arrears (paragraph 12 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes" (CE/DEC/19(XXXIV)).

In these two cases, however, it is undoubtedly possible to be guided by the practice followed in other international organizations, the United Nations in particular, whereby a Member that is deprived of its right to vote because it is in arrears with its contributions is barred from voting only if another Member entitled to vote raises a formal objection (cf., with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, the comments on this provision by Christian Shricke in J.P. Cot and A. Pellet dirs., La Charte des Nations Unies, Economica, Paris, 1991, pp. 396-400, and Christian Tomuschat in B. Simma ed., The Charter of the United Nations, Oxford U.P., 1994, pp. 333-334 and 337-338). Nevertheless, even if that were so, the disqualification from voting would be automatic de jure unless, under paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules, the Assembly were to formally authorize the Members in question to vote by a simple majority.
12. It should be pointed out that, contrary to what sometimes occurs in other international organizations, the rules in force within WTO do not provide for a Full Member to arrange to be represented by another on the occasion of a vote. In accordance with the previous practice of the Organization, such a prospect must be regarded as ruled out, which is moreover consistent with the statutory requirement for Members to be “present” during voting (see paragraphs 1, 3, 5 and 7 above).

On the other hand, the possibility that a State may arrange to be represented by another Full Member throughout the session of an organ (the General Assembly or the Executive Council) does not appear to be precluded. This is consistent with the general principles of law, both domestic and international, concerning representation (cf. R. Daoudi, La représentation en droit international public, L.G.D.J., Paris, 1980, 405 p.) and with the rules enshrined in the Vienna Convention of 1961 on diplomatic relations and the Vienna Convention of 1975 on the representation of States in their relations with international organizations (article 6). On this assumption, a single delegation could represent two States and vote on behalf of both.
Election of the Council's Officers for 1997

Agenda item 10
(documents CE/54/10 and CE/54/10 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having regard to the provisions of rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure,

1. Re-elects Tunisia as Chairman of the Council for 1997;

2. Decides, in view of the increase recorded in the number of Members of the Council, to increase exceptionally to three the number of Vice-Chairmen for 1997;

3. Elects Chile as first Vice-Chairman, Romania as second Vice-Chairman and the Syrian Arab Republic as third Vice-Chairman;

4. Requests the Full Members elected to the chairmanship and vice-chairmanships to designate the persons to perform these duties; and

5. Pays tribute to the Vice-Chairmen who served on the Council in 1996.
CE/DEC/13(LIV)

Place and dates of the fifty-fifth session of the Council

Agenda item 11
(documents CE/54/11 and CE/54/11 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note with gratitude of the offer made by the Government of the Philippines to host the next session of the Council,

Decides to hold its fifty-fifth session at Manila, Philippines on 20 and 21 May 1997.

CE/DEC/14(LIV)

Vote of thanks to the host country

The Executive Council,

Having considered the items on the agenda of its fifty-fourth session in conditions of great efficiency and outstanding comfort, thanks to the facilities generously provided by the Government of Tunisia,

Having heard to the warm words pronounced on this subject by the Lebanese delegation,

1. Expresses its most sincere gratitude to the Tunisian Government; and

2. Requests its Chairman, the Minister of Tourism Mr. Slaheddine Maâoui, to convey to H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, the deepest satisfaction and appreciation of all the participants in the Executive Council session, the Seminar and the Environment Committee meeting, who have been able to experience for themselves the traditional hospitality of the Tunisian people and the quality of the destination at which they were received.
4. **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

The fifty-fourth session of the Executive Council was attended by:

1. Delegates of the following Members of the Council: Cameroon, Chile, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, France, India, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Seychelles, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, and Spain as a privileged Member.

2. The Chairmen of the following Regional Commissions: Americas, East Asia and the Pacific, Middle East and South Asia.

3. The representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Austria, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Korea and Thailand, as observers.

4. The Holy See as Permanent Observer.

5. The Chairman of the Affiliate Members (International Federation of Tour Operators - IFTO).