

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



CE/29/DEC

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

(Madrid, Spain, 1-4 December 1986)

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3. Decisions taken by the Council

CE/DEC/1(XXIX)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1 (documents CE/29/1, CE/29/1 annot. and CE/29/1 Rev.2)

The Executive Council,

Adopts the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the Council submitted by the Secretary-General, as amended (CE/29/1 Rev.2).

CE/DEC/2(XXIX)

Communication of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 2 (document CE/29/2)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note with appreciation of the written communication of the Secretary-General as well as of his oral presentation,

- 1. Expresses its full support for the measures taken by the Secretary-General to reinforce the Organization's collaboration with its Members, other international organizations and the media, to bring about a rational restructuring of the Secretariat, to set out a general programme of work based on a new pragmatic approach and to develop new structures and policy guidelines for the Organization's future activities in the field of tourism education and vocational training;
- 2. Underscores the Secretary-General's observations on the relationship between tourism and peace, stressing the importance of tourism as a means of promoting and developing mutual understanding and of contributing to the education of the individual in the values of tolerance and mutual respect; and

Reiterates its appeal to all the Organization's Members to increase their active participation in the Organization's work, so as to ensure that it fulfils its objectives in a satisfactory manner taking due account of the needs and priorities of its Members.

CE/DEC/3(XXIX)

Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance

Agenda item 3 (document CE/29/3)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance present his Committee's report on financial matters submitted to it at its fifteenth meeting, held in Madrid on 27 and 28 November 1986,

- 1. Shares the concern expressed by the Committee on Budget and Finance over delays incurred by some of the Organization's Members in paying their contributions;
- 2. Requests the Secretary-General to contact the member States that have not yet notified the Spanish Government of their approval of the new wording of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and call their attention to General Assembly resolution 92(IV);
- Requests the Secretary-General to ensure full application of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 167(VI) concerning suspension of the application of the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules; particularly in the light of the provisions of paragraph 7 of the operative part of the said resolution;
- 4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the meaning of the words "privileges ... in the form of services" appearing in paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules, on the current procedures for applying this paragraph and on the various possible criteria for its application;
- 5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the current conditions of application of Financial Regulation 5.2(a) and (b), on the practices followed by other international organizations for the disposal of budget surpluses, and on possible ways in which the Organization might dispose of any such surpluses;

- 6. Entrusts the Secretary-General with informing it on the situation in other intergovernmental organizations with respect to contribution arrears;
- 7. Decides, in pursuance of paragraph 12 of the Financing Rules, and paragraph 7(4) of the Financial Regulations to permit Egypt to pay its contributions to the Organization's budget after 1 July of each year; and
- 8. $\frac{\text{Decides}}{\text{in document CE}/29/4(b)}$.

CE/DEC/4(XXIX)

Financial matters

Agenda item 4 (documents CE/29/4(a), CE/29/4(a) Add.1, CE/29/4(a) Add.2 and CE/29/4(b))

The Executive Council,

Taking note of the following reports on financial matters:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization;
- (b) Information on the proposed new structure of the budget for the financial period 1988-1989,
- 1. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify measures to ensure that member States with substantial contribution arrears pay the amounts due to the Organization;
- 2. Suggests that, in addition to the measures he has been taking in this regard and with a view to obtaining the desired results, the Secretary-General should:
 - write to such member States in order to find out whether they are really interested in remaining in the Organization;
 - establish contact with these member States through the Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme in order to ascertain the real causes for difficulty in paying contributions;
 - discuss, in the meetings of the regional commissions, the delay in contribution payments by certain member States within each region and their detrimental effects on the Organization's activities;

- make use of the meetings of the regional commissions by drawing their attention to such cases whereby action could be taken at the regional level through appropriate means on a case by case basis; and
- 3. Requests the member States to urge Affiliate Members within their jurisdictions that are behind in their contributions to the Organization to bring their payments up to date.

CE/DEC/5(XXIX)

Draft general programme of work of the Organization for the period of 1988-1989

Agenda item 5 (documents CE/29/5(a), CE/29/5(a) Corr.1 and CE/29/5(b))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the Secretary-General's comments in presenting the draft general programme of work of the Organization for the period 1988-1989, particularly those referring to its objectives and structure;

Having taken note of the favourable evaluation of this draft general programme of work by the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination;

- 1. Expresses its satisfaction with the new long-term concept, the more operational character and the greater transparency and clarity that the Secretary-General has given to the draft general programme of work of the Organization;
- 2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the efforts that he has already initiated to obtain additional financial resources from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other sources to fund the implementation of concrete projects;
- Requests the Secretary-General to adopt appropriate measures to evaluate the implementation of activities included in the general programme of work and to monitor their effectiveness in responding to the needs of the Organization's Members.
- 4. Thanks the Members of the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination, and especially its Chairman, Ms. Laurice Hlass, for the work accomplished by them;

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- 5. <u>Urges</u> member States to convey to the Secretary-General any suggestions or proposals they consider appropriate as well as a list of priorities with respect to the draft general programme of work; and
- 6. Request the Secretary-General to revise the draft general programme of work in the light of proposed modifications and to present the revised draft to the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination and to the Council, when they meet in the first half of 1987.

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CE/DEC/6 (XXIX)

Report on vocational training activities

Agenda item 6 (documents CE/29/6, CE/29/6 Add.1 and CE/29/6 Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the documents and having heard its further clarification and the additional information provided by the Secretary-General,

- 1. Takes note of the vocational training activities conducted by the Organization since its last session at Cartagena in April 1986;
- 2. Takes further note of the extensive consultations carried out by the Secretary-General with Full, Associate and Affiliate Members, both individually and within their respective bodies, in order to determine their needs and priorities as well as resources in the area of vocational training and so as to formulate, in the light of the information thus received, policy guidelines for future activities of the Organization in the field of tourism education and vocational training;
- 3. Recognizes the role of the Organization as a catalyst in improving tourism education and adopting a unified training approach as well as providing direct assistance to member States in the various regions;
- 4. Approves with satisfaction the new concept of education and vocational training in the policy and structure of the Organization's future activities in this field, as outlined by the Secretary-General in the above document;
- 5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a specific programme of work based on that policy for inclusion in the

- draft general programme of work of the Organization for the period 1988-1989;
- 6. <u>Urges</u> member States and national and international bodies, public and private alike, to contribute in all possible ways to the effective implementation of this policy;
- 7. Asks the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to guarantee that the institutions, programmes and methods to be used in implementing the Organization's education and vocational training policy are of the highest standard;
- 8. Welcomes the offer of member States to place experts at the disposal of the Secretary-General to assist him in ensuring the highest standards and in formulating model study plans for the various tourism education and vocational training; and
- 9. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Morocco and Italy for their offer to make available tourism education and vocational training centres in their countries for co-operation in implementing the Organization's policy in this field of activity; and authorizes the Secretary-General to pursue negotiations with both the Governments of the Kingdom of Morocco and Italy with a view to arriving at appropriate agreements between them and the Organization.

CE/DEC/7(XXIX)

Report on operational activities

Agenda item 7 (document CE/29/7)

The Executive Council,

Having noted with satisfaction the appreciable increase in the Organization's operational activities since its last session at Cartagena in April 1986;

- Commends the Secretary-General for his initiative in integrating all operational activities and strengthening them by creating regional sections responsible for overall coordination;
- 2. <u>Urges</u> States Members requiring assistance for the development of their tourism sector to approach their national coordinating agencies to obtain external financial assistance by including projects in the Fourth Country Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as in other multilateral and bilateral agreements concluded with donor countries or institutions;

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- 3. <u>Invites</u> the States Members to take full advantage of the <u>UNDP-funded</u> sectoral support facility by approaching the Secretariat for assistance, whenever the need arises;
- 4. Notes with satisfaction the various measures taken by the Secretary-General to increase funds availability through both multilateral and bilateral sources and extend the scope of activities through increased cooperation with international and regional organizations as well as closer involvement of Members, both Full and Affiliate;
- 5. Reminds the States Members that they may also call upon the Secretariat for necessary assistance in formulating their applications for technical cooperation in tourism in the appropriate manner, for submission to the agencies and bodies that finance such activities; and
- 6. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to provide for the gradual implementation of an evaluation scheme to monitor the effectiveness of the activities carried out, among others, in the fields of technical cooperation.

CE/DEC/8 (XXIX)

Report on other activities

Agenda item 8 (documents CE/29/8 and CE/29/8 Add.1)

- 1. Takes note of the report on other activities of the Organiza-tion;
- 2. Reiterates its invitation to member States that have not yet done so to ratify the amendments approved by the General Assembly to Articles 14, 15, 37 and 38 of the Statutes and to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, and to deposit the appropriate instruments with the depositary of the Statutes, the Spanish Government;
- 3. <u>Decides</u>, in accordance with the opinion already expressed by the member States, to submit the complete text of the amendment to Article 15 of the Organization's Statutes as it appears under paragraph 19 of document CE/29/8 to the seventh session of the General Assembly for its approval;
- 4. <u>Invites once again</u> member States that have not yet done so to designate a Permanent Representative to WTO Headquarters at Madrid, thereby contributing to closer relations between the Organization and its member States;

- 5. Takes note of the information provided on the implementation of activities included in the general programme of work of the Organization for the period 1986-1987;
- 6. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to inform member States, tourism administrations, other international organizations and the public at large about the Organization's position with respect to developments in the field of tourism, the most significant activities carried out by the Organization and the particularly salient events in the world of tourism; and
- 7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue taking the necessary actions to establish a network of exclusive national sales outlets providing access, especially in the developing countries, to the experience and expertise developed within or acquired by the Organization.

CE/DEC/9(XXIX)

Report on administrative matters, including matters related to personnel and organizational matters

Agenda item 9 (a) (documents CE/29/9 and CE/29/9 Corr.)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on administrative matters presented in documents CE/29/9 and CE/29/9 Corr.,

- 1. Expresses its satisfaction with the measures taken to restructure the Secretariat, streamline internal working procedures, improve the distribution of offices at Headquarters and acquire equipment better suited to the needs of the Secretariat and the Organization as a whole;
- 2. Shares the Secretary-General's concern to introduce a mechanism for remunerating staff in the professional and higher categories that conforms to the spirit of decisions taken in this area when the Organization was created and ensures a consistent and systematic means of calculating remuneration based on the post adjustment index regularly provided by the International Civil Service Commission of the United Nations;
- 3. Considers, consequently, that it is necessary for the provisions concerning salaries and post adjustments that apply to officials in the professional and higher categories of the United Nations system, as established and, as the case may be, modified by the International Civil Service Commission to be henceforth applied to their counterparts in the WTO Secretariat.

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- 4. <u>Authorizes</u> the Secretary-General as it is empowered to do under Article 20 of the Statutes:
 - (a) To apply to WTO staff in the professional and higher categories with effect from 1 January 1987, the salary scale and post adjustment schedules in force as of that date for their counterparts in the United Nations system, as they appear in the Annexes to the report;
 - (b) To also apply to WTO officials in these categories the provisions concerning allowances linked to remuneration in force for their counterparts in the United Nations system;
- 5. Notes that adoption of the decisions mentioned in the preceding paragraph
 - (a) does not constitute a basis for amending that portion of the budget approved in respect of Staff remuneration, since in Part V, Section 4, Heading 5 of the programme budget for 1986-1987, the General Assembly provided for readjustments of salaries and, accordingly, approved appropriations that serve to cover the financial implications of the decisions in question;
 - (b) will be without prejudice to any decisions the Executive Council and the General Assembly might take in respect of future budgets of the Organization;
- 6. Notes that a survey is being conducted with a view to possible revision of the employment conditions for staff in the General Service category;
- 7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it the amendments to the Staff Regulations required by the measures provided for in paragraphs 4 and 6 above once he has obtained all the necessary data and, if possible, at its next session;
- 8. Requests the Secretary-General to inform it at its next session of the results of the consultations he has undertaken with a view to providing staff with the most satisfactory conditions in respect of medical care during their years of service with the Secretariat and after their retirement;
- 9. Shares the Secretary-General's concern to provide officials of the Organization with a retirement fund, that in accordance with the spirit of Staff Regulation 31, guarantees pension benefits equivalent to those generally recognized as standard for national administration officials; and
- 10. Requests the Secretary-General consequently, to pursue his consultations with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, which appears to be the most appropriate body for the provision of these benefits to WTO officials, and to report back to it at its next session.

CE/29/10(XXIX)

Residence of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 9(b)

The Executive Council,

Having carefully considered the lack of budgetary provisions for adequate accommodation for the Secretary-General of the Organization commensurate with his functions as representative of the Members as a whole and in keeping with the situation of other chief executives.

- 1. Entrusts the Secretary-General with exploring the possibility of the Organization's purchasing, renting, renting with option to buy, or building an appropriate residence and with informing the Council accordingly;
- 2. Expresses its gratitude to the delegation of Spain for its offer to advise the Secretary-General in this task; and
- 3. Decides to grant the Secretary-General a housing allowance $\overline{\text{of 2,000}}$ United States dollars a month from 1 January 1986 until such time as a residence consistent with the wishes of the Council is available.

CE/DEC/11(XXIX)

Facilitation Committee

Agenda item 10(a)

(documents CE/29/10, CE/29/10(a) Add. and CE/29/10(a) App.)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report on the activities of the Facilitation Committee, and the report and recommendations of the sixth meeting of the Facilitation Committee presented by the Chairman of the Committee together with its Appendix "Draft Convention to facilitate travel and tourist stays through passport, visa and health and exchange control measures", prepared by the Secretariat in pursuance of Council decision 14(XXVIII),

- 1. Requests the Secretariat of the Organization to consult with the Secretariat of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) to determine which States, if any, are following the standards in Annex F.3 (Customs Facilities applicable to Travellers) of the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto, 1973) even though they have not accepted the Annex;
- 2. Suggests that States Members of WTO in that category might be persuaded to accept the said Annex;
- 3. Decides to invite the Customs Co-operation Council, the International Touring Alliance (ATT) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to attend the seventh meeting of the Committee in 1987 and to present their ideas for updating and/or consolidating the United Nations instruments dealing with the temporary importation of private vehicles and aircraft, so that the Committee may recommend appropriate follow-up action on the results of the 1985 Survey on Formalities and facilities for the temporary admission and circulation of means of transport for private use;
- 4. Requests the Secretariat to distribute the revised draft Convention to facilitate travel and tourist stays through passport, visa and health and exchange control measures to States Members and non-members of the Organization as well as to interested international organizations, requesting them to submit their comments before 20 April 1987, and to convey all comments received by that date to the Organization's Legal Adviser so that a revised draft Convention may be submitted to the Council at its thirtieth session in May 1987;
- 5. Asks the Secretariat, in view of the findings of the preliminary study concerning current measures and practices likely to constitute an obstacle to the development of the travel and tourism sector, to:
 - (a) continue to collect information on practices that impede the development of the tourism sector;
 - (b) analyse existing bilateral and multilateral tourism agreements to determine whether they address such issues as market access, national treatment, right to establish or mutual reduction of market-distorting factors;
 - (c) investigate ways in which WTO, as an intergovernmental Organization of universal character, might participate in any GATT negotiations on activities related to the tourism sector;

- Asks the Secretary-General to publicize, and ensure that the tourism authorities of all WTO member States that are maritime nations are informed of, the measures recommended by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to prevent unlawful acts against passengers and crews on board ships;
- 7. Authorizes the WTO Secretariat and the Facilitation Committee, to monitor adoption of these measures through coordination with the IMO Secretariat;
- 8. Approves the Secretariat's programme of facilitation activities for 1987, which provides for the preparation of a draft preliminary report on the differences between national practices and the Standards and Recommended Practices on passports and visas accepted by the General Assembly at its sixth session, as well as the third edition of the Biennial Report on the situation of facilitation in the world which will henceforth include, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation, information on measures taken by non-member States that may have an impact on the facilitation of international travel and tourism; and
- 9. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the Chairman of the Committee, as necessary, with a view to fixing the date of the seventh meeting, preferably to be held at Madrid in the course of 1987.

CE/DEC/12(XXIX)

Committee on Statistics

Agenda item 10(b) (document CE/29/10)

- 1. Notes that, in accordance with its decision 15(XXVIII) on the formation of a Committee on Statistics, the WTO Commission for South Asia has elected Bangladesh, the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific has elected Japan and the Philippines and the WTO Commission for Europe has selected Austria, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Italy, their respective representatives on the Committee;
- 2. Notes that Iraq has been designated to represent the Members of the Middle East region on the Committee;
- Requests the Secretary-General to urge the WTO Regional Commissions that have not yet done so to designate their representatives so that the Committee on Statistics may be constituted; and

4.	Requests the Committee on Statistics to include among its
	future tasks the formulation of methodologies that would
	serve to determine tourism's contribution to the national
	economy and to compare it with that of the other economic sectors.

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CE/DEC/13 (XXIX)

Environment Committee

Agenda item 10(c) (document CE/29/10)

The Executive Council,

Notes with satisfaction the resumption by WTO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of their joint activities which may include the follow-up to the WTO-UNEP Workshop on environment aspects of tourism and consideration of the possibility of assisting States in developing their national parks.

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CE/DEC/14(XXIX)

Membership of the Organization

Agenda item 11 (document CE/29/11)

- 1. Expresses its satisfaction that Canada has deposited with the Spanish Government an instrument of adoption of the Organization's Statutes, bringing to 109 the number of Full Members of the Organization;
- 2. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue his approaches to States that are not yet Members of the Organization to persuade them to join it; and
- 3. Decides to propose to the General Assembly that the former Affiliate Member Child and Waters (United States of America), with which it has not been possible to establish any contact whatsoever, be deleted from the list of Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions.

CE/DEC/15 (XXIX)

Report of the Chairman of the Committee of Affiliate Members

Agenda item 11 bis

The Executive Council,

- 1. <u>Takes note</u> of the report of the Chairman of the Committee of Affiliate Members, as presented by him;
- 2. Also takes note with satisfaction of the activities carried out or shortly to be carried out by the Working Parties set up by the Affiliate Members; and
- 3. <u>Invites</u> the Affiliate Members, which have outstanding operational experience and a wide variety of capabilities, to continue their participation in and increase their contribution to the Organization's activities.

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CE/DEC/16 (XXIX)

Report of the Sub-Committee for the review of applications for Affiliate Membership

Agenda item 12 (document CE/29/12)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note of the report of the Sub-Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership, presented by its Chairman (France),

- 1. Endorses the proposal of the Sub-Committee that document RELMA 137, "Affiliate Members of the World Tourism Organization", which sets forth the new affiliation procedure, incorporate the amendments specified in Annex 2 to document CE/29/12, "Proposals for changes in document RELMA 137";
- 2. Decides to amend its decision 16(XXVIII) to the effect that all applications for affiliate membership, including those endorsed by the relevant governments, should be referred to the Sub-Committee; and
- 3. <u>Decides</u>, on the proposal of the Sub-Committee, to recommend the General Assembly to approve the applications for affiliate membership of:

- Alexander Anolik, Inc. (United States);
- Universidad Inter-Americana (Dominican Republic);
- Kenya Utalii College; and
- The Syrian Arab Company for Hotels and Tourism.

CE/DEC/17(XXIX)

Observer status in WTO for the Palestine
Liberation Organization (PLO) equivalent to the status of
PLO in the United Nations and its specialized agencies.
Rights and privileges of non-member observers within WTO

Agenda item 13 (document CE/29/13)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General under this item of the agenda for its twenty-ninth session,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed report on this subject for the thirtieth session of the Council taking into account the opinions expressed by its Members.

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CE/DEC/18(XXIX)

Report on World Tourism Day

Agenda item 14 (document CE/29/14)

The Executive Council,

Taking note of the report on World Tourism Day,

- 1. Requests States Members of the Organization to send to the Secretary-General a summary of the initiatives taken by each of them for the celebration of World Tourism Day in 1986 for the information of the other Members of the Organization; and
- 2. Reminds member States that under General Assembly resolution 183(VI), the theme for World Tourism Day in 1987 is: "Tourism for development".

CE/DEC/19(XXIX)

Seventh Session of the General Assembly: Preparatory Work

Agenda item 15 (document CE/29/15)

The Executive Council,

 $\frac{\text{Having taken note}}{\text{work carried out so far for the seventh session of the General Assembly,}$

- Agreement on the Headquarters Building of the World Tourism Organization, as provided for under Art. 24 of the Convention between the World Tourism Organization and Spain concerning the Organization's Legal Status in Spain, the Spanish Government will provide the meeting rooms, equipment and auxiliary services necessary to hold the seventh session of the General Assembly and of meetings of other organs of the Organization connected therewith; and
- 2. Thanks the Spanish authorities for their assurances regarding these facilities, intended to enhance the reception of participating delegations and enable them to participate in a manner commensurate with their status as representatives of the Organization's Members and invited entities.

CE/DEC/20(XXIX)

Election of the Council's Officers for 1987

Agenda item 16

The Executive Council.

Required, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5 of its Rules of Procedure, to renew its present Officers whose term of office is due to expire on 31 December 1986,

1. Elects unanimously and by acclamation the following Officers, who will assume their functions on 1 January 1987:

Chairman: Indonesia

First Vice-Chairman: Sri Lanka Second Vice-Chairman: France

2.	Expresses to the representative of Jordan, Chairman of the
	Council for the year 1986, and to the Vice-Chairmen, the
	delegates of Gabon and Argentina, its sincere congratula-
	tions and gratitude for their performance.

CE/DEC/21(XXIX)

Place and date of the thirtieth session of the Council

Agenda item 17

- 1. Decides to hold its thirtieth session at the Organization's Headquarters from 11 to 14 May 1987; and
- 2. Decides that the eighth meeting of the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination will be held from 1 to 3 April 1987 and the sixteenth meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance will be held from 5 to 8 May 1987.

4. Participants in the twenty-ninth session

- 1. Delegates of the following Members of the Council attended the session: Jordan (Chairman), Gabon (First Vice_Chairman), Argentina (Second Vice-Chairman), Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania and Spain as a privileged Member.
- 2. The Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (France) was present.
- 3. The Chairman of the Facilitation Committee (United States of America) was present.
- 4. The representatives of Australia, Austria, Brazil, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Panama, Thailand, Turkey and the United States attended the session as observers.
- 5. The Associate Members were represented by the delegate of Puerto Rico.
- 6. The Chairman of the Committee of Affiliate Members was present.
- 7. The representative of the International Labour Organisation attended the session as observer.