



DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION  
(Rabat, 12-16 May 1981)

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1. Agenda

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- <sup>1/</sup> At the time its agenda was adopted, the Council decided to deal with the question of the operation of the WTO Commission for the Middle East in conjunction with its examination of item 2.

2. List of decisions

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3. Decisions taken by the Council

CE/DEC/1(XV)

Progress report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 2 (document CE/15/2)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note with satisfaction of the progress report of the Secretary-General,

Observes that the overall activities of the Organization are proceeding rapidly and that this is particularly true of its field operations covering Regional Commission and technical meetings, the regional programming missions and sectoral support programme financed by the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the technical cooperation activities of a domestic or regional nature also financed by UNDP;

Endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation that the fourth session of the General Assembly devote a reasonable part of its proceedings to consideration of the 1980-1981 programme and the activities provided for in the draft programme budget for 1982-1983, in order to imbue the technical role of the Organization with the driving force called for by its operational vocation;

Welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal to report to the next session of the Council on the problems connected with decentralization of the Organization's activities from the legal, statutory, operational, technical, administrative and financial points of view and within the context of the essential restructuring of the services of the Secretariat General, both at Headquarters and in the field;

Considers in particular that such a restructuring of the regional activities of the Organization could smooth out some of the difficulties at the regional level which would be the subject of a report to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General;

Is of the opinion that duplications of effort and any overlapping of activities between the executing agencies of UNDP are to be avoided whatever the field and with reference to certain situations

existing in the field of vocational training for tourism;

Recognizes that such a situation depends basically on decisions taken by the States in their choice of executing agencies;

Recalls previous decisions taken in this regard inviting the member States to call upon WTO for all technical cooperation matters in view of its central and decisive role in all fields of tourism;

Invites the Secretary-General to provide member States with full and detailed information on measures to be taken to strengthen and make more efficient the part that WTO must play in the field of vocational training through both its own programme and the assistance it can provide in the execution of technical cooperation projects financed by UNDP and other sources;

Thanks the Resident Representative of UNDP in Morocco for her positive remarks concerning WTO and for the confidence placed by UNDP in the Organization;

Observes with satisfaction that significant progress has been made in implementing the relevant Council decision on strengthening the present vocational training activities of WTO, thanks in particular to the new facilities granted to the Organization by the Mexican Government for the operation of CIEST, and thanks also to the action taken on the offers of regional centres made by Morocco, the Philippines and Kenya;

Welcomes the fact that a long-term vocational training strategy for WTO is in preparation;

Thanks the Secretary-General and the Secretariat staff for the tasks they have performed faithfully, competently and loyally in the interest of all Members.

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CE/DEC/2(XV)

Headquarters building

Agenda item 2 (document CE/15/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the progress report of the Secretary-General,

Expresses its satisfaction at the ceremony held on 7 May 1981, during which the building was officially handed over to the Organization by the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Communications of Spain, Mr. José Luis Alvarez Alvarez, accompanied by authorities from the various Spanish Government departments;

Expresses its sincere thanks once again to the Spanish Government for the generous manner in which it has fulfilled the commitments which it assumed in respect of the international community in May 1975 when Spain was selected as the Organization's Headquarters;

Notes that, comparatively speaking, the facilities of the Headquarters building place the Organization in an especially privileged position;

Reiterates its deepest gratitude to all those whose constant, disinterested efforts over the years have led to such a particularly satisfactory outcome; and

Requests the Spanish delegation to the Council to convey to its Government the Organization's deepest appreciation.

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CE/DEC/3 (XV)

Membership of the Organization

Agenda item 3 (documents CE/15/3 and CE/15/3 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on membership of the Organization,

Expresses its satisfaction that Finland, Lesotho and the Republic of Maldives have decided to accede to the Organization as Full Members and that the application of the territory of Macao for associate membership has also been received;

Expresses its satisfaction also at the new applications recorded for affiliate membership;

Records its appreciation of the action taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Council's instructions, to increase the number of Members in order to achieve the universal aims of the Organization.

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CE/DEC/4(XV)

Audited accounts for the Organization's  
second financial period (1978-1979)

Agenda item 4(a) (documents CE/15/4(a)  
and CE/15/4(a) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken note of the audited accounts for the Organization's second financial period (1978-1979) which were prepared for the General Assembly and submitted to the Council for information,

Observes that as at 31 December 1980 these accounts, drawn up by the Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of regulation 17(2) of the Financial Regulations, called for the reimbursement to the Working Capital Fund of the amount of 338,320.05 dollars, owing to non-receipt of contributions due for the second financial period;

Considers that it is for the General Assembly to take a decision at its fourth session in the light of the final amount outstanding after repayment of the debt in question and to take any measures it considers useful and appropriate within the framework of the regulatory provisions to ensure that the debt eventually remaining is repaid to the Working Capital Fund;

Considers that an additional contribution for that purpose to the Working Capital Fund is not appropriate. (documents CE/15/4(a) and CE/15/4(a) Add.1).

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CE/DEC/5(XV)

Administrative accounts for the financial year 1980

Agenda items 4(b) and 4(c) (documents CE/15/4(b),  
CE/15/4(b) Add.1, CE/15/4(b) Add.2 and CE/15/4(c))

The Executive Council,

Takes note of the administrative accounts for the financial year 1980 submitted to it by the Secretary-General and of the report on these accounts prepared by the Auditors for submission to the General Assembly;

Shares the concerns expressed by the Auditors regarding contributions due from certain Members of the Organization that are still outstanding;

Endorses the Auditors' recommendation that the General Assembly urge these Members to respect their commitments in regard to annual contributions and advances to the Working Capital Fund;

Acknowledges also the efforts made by the Secretary-General to reduce expenditure by not using the entire appropriations allocated; but

Considers that measures should be taken in regard to Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions, since they are responsible for the cash difficulties with which the Secretary-General is faced;

Thanks the Auditors for the exemplary manner in which they have accomplished their task.

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CE/DEC/6 (XV)

Draft amendments to the Financial Regulations

Agenda item 4(d) (document CE/15/4(d))

The Executive Council,

Having taken note of document CE/15/4(d),

Recommends that the General Assembly approve the following amendments to regulations 5(3) and 10(2) of the Financial Regulations:

(i) Replace subparagraph (c) of regulation 5(3) by the following text:

"(c) The Secretary-General may carry forward, where justified, appropriations from the first to the second financial year of each financial period, and shall report thereon to the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Executive Council."

(ii) Add a new subparagraph (d) to regulation 5(3):

"(d) Any appropriations wholly or partly unspent at the end of the first financial year of each financial period which it would not be justified to carry forward to the next financial year may be utilized on the proposal

of the Secretary-General and with the authorization of the Executive Council, provided liquid assets are available for that purpose and that no reimbursements are due to the Working Capital Fund."

(iii) Amend subparagraph (b) of regulation 10(2) to read:

"(b) The purpose of the Working Capital Fund shall be to advance moneys to the General Fund to finance budgetary expenditure pending receipt of contributions and/or to meet unforeseen needs and exceptional circumstances, on which the Secretary-General shall report to the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Executive Council."

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CE/DEC/7(XV)

Draft programme budget of the Organization for the financial period 1982-1983, prepared by the Secretary-General

Agenda item 5 (documents CE/15/5,  
CE/15/5 Corr.1 and CE/15/5 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the comments of the Secretary-General on the draft programme budget of the Organization for the period 1982-1983,

Having exchanged extensive views on its study, operational and financial aspects,

Having also heard certain proposals either to reduce the percentage increase in the budget as proposed by the Secretary-General, or to draw up a draft programme budget showing no increase over the previous financial period,

Having noted the proposals made by several delegations to strengthen WTO's operational activities, and

Having reconsidered in this connection the fragile financial situation brought about by arrears in the contributions of some Members of the Organization,

Accepts the draft programme budget prepared by the Secretary-General and revised by him at the seventh meeting of the Committee

on Budget and Finance, which amounts to 9,212,900 dollars, an increase of 14.74 per cent over the previous financial period, it being understood that:

- (a) an adjustment should be made in the part of the said draft programme budget which concerns studies, at the same time strengthening the Organization's operational character;
- (b) the Secretary-General will implement without delay the provisions of regulation 8 of Chapter IV of the Financial Regulations which provides that Members of the Organization which are two or more years in arrears in the payment of their contributions are deprived of the right to vote and all services;
- (c) the Secretary-General will report to the sixteenth session of the Council on the subject of any additional savings it will be possible for him to make in the overall programme, based on the Council's discussions of this agenda item;

Further considers that, so far as the reimbursement of an amount of 338,320.05 dollars from the General Fund to the Working Capital Fund is concerned, it is not possible to predict at present the actual amount that will remain outstanding at the time of the General Assembly, in view of the fact that it should be possible to collect contribution arrears in the coming months;

Decides that, once it is in possession of the information to be provided by the Secretary-General at its sixteenth session, it will propose to the General Assembly every possible means of collecting the eventual amount outstanding for reimbursement to the Working Capital Fund, if necessary by a subsequent reduction in the draft programme budget or by any other measures that might be applicable at that stage;

Requests the Secretary-General to approach those Members of the Organization which are at present subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes in order to inform them that, in the interest of all the Organization's Members and in fairness to those who meet their financial commitments, he is bound to implement the provisions governing the Organization's financial operation; and

Requests the Secretary-General to take all measures that may legitimately be applied, while respecting the sovereignty of all the member States, so that the largest possible amount of contribution arrears may be collected in order to stabilize WTO's financial position.

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CE/DEC/8 (XV)

Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance  
on its sixth and seventh meetings

Agenda items 6 (a) and 6 (b) (documents CE/15/6 (a)  
and CE/15/6 (b))

The Executive Council,

Takes note of the report submitted to it by the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance on the sixth and seventh meetings of that Committee held at Madrid in December 1980 and March 1981 which dealt respectively with:

- (1) suggested measures concerning Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions;
- (2) the draft programme budget of the Organization for the financial period 1982-1983;

Expresses its appreciation of the work carried out by the Committee on Budget and Finance and of its views on the gravity of the situation resulting from non-payment of contribution arrears; and

Takes note of the Committee's suggestion that the Secretary-General approach the Members concerned direct to invite them to pay their outstanding contributions, since the weaknesses inherent in the structure of the Working Capital Fund could eventually give cause for concern if the difficulties at present encountered in collecting contributions were to persist;

Records also the Committee's suggestion concerning the possibility of eventually establishing a frozen credit system if circumstances were to justify such a measure;

Takes note of the comments of the Committee on Budget and Finance on the overall draft programme budget of WTO for the period 1982-1983, on the audited accounts for the second financial period (1978-1979), as well as on the position of the Working Capital Fund to which the sum of 338,320.05 dollars, advanced to the General Fund to close the accounts for the second financial period, was still due as at 31 December 1980;

Takes note that the draft programme budget presented by the Secretary-General entailed an increase in appropriations of 17.27 per cent, which has been reduced to 14.74 per cent following cancellation by the Secretary-General of appropriations in accordance with the request made by the Committee on Budget and Finance in March 1981;

Recommends that the General Assembly reach a decision on the reimbursement to be made to the Working Capital Fund once the outstanding debt to the Working Capital Fund in September 1981 has, as indicated above, been ascertained following the collection of contribution arrears;

Thanks the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Budget and Finance for the praiseworthy manner in which they accomplished their difficult task.

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CE/DEC/9 (XV)

Planning, action and strategy for the  
operational implementation of the Manila  
Declaration on World Tourism

Agenda item 7 (document CE/15/7)

The Executive Council,

Having taken due note of the proposed planning, action and strategy for the operational implementation of the Manila Declaration on World Tourism,

Considers that this document is sufficiently exhaustive at present, inasmuch as a more detailed document on the same theme will be submitted to the General Assembly;

Believes that it is inappropriate to adopt a formal, inflexible attitude toward the notion of long-term implementation owing to the fluctuations and changes that will inevitably occur in the years ahead;

Acknowledges that it will be for the General Assembly to mark out the long term through its biennial sessions, without prejudice to other international, regional or interregional meetings that may be convened either by WTO, alone or in cooperation with other organizations, or by other official or non-official professional tourism bodies;

Expresses its satisfaction at the measures already taken by some member countries of the Council of which it would be appropriate to apprise the General Assembly;

Requests the Secretary-General to invite the States to inform him between now and the fourth session of the General Assembly of the steps they have already taken to give the appropriate follow-up to the Manila Declaration.

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CE/DEC/10 (XV)

World tourism meeting - Mexico, 1982

Agenda item 8 (document CE/15/9)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the explanations given by the Secretary-General on the document concerning the preparation of the World tourism meeting to be held in Mexico in 1982 within the framework of the implementation of the Manila Declaration on World Tourism,

Accepts the various elements of a general nature contained in the document submitted under this agenda item;

Is of the opinion that it is appropriate to ensure that the Mexico meeting, while being duly guided by the WTO General Assembly, enjoys some flexibility, without deviating from the general context and specific provisions of the Manila Declaration;

Expresses its reservations about taking into consideration certain aims, particularly in regard to energy problems which do not appear to it to be essentially linked to the object of the Mexico meeting;

Entrusts the Secretary-General with preparing for submission to the General Assembly a more exhaustive document, based on the document submitted to the Council at its fifteenth session, which would include:

- (a) the provisional agenda of the world meeting in Mexico;
- (b) the rules of procedure for that international meeting.

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CE/DEC/11 (XV)

Draft Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of WTO  
in the territories of its member States

Agenda item 9 (document CE/15/9)

The Executive Council,

Takes note of the report submitted to it by the Secretary-General on the draft Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of WTO in the territories of its member States concerning the survey he conducted among Members and intergovernmental organizations in regard to section 19(b) of the draft Convention;

Considers that the results of this survey on a matter which was the subject of meticulous scrutiny and extensive discussion do not at present point to sufficient interest on the part of the Organization's Members to justify pursuing such a measure;

Requests the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69(III), to submit to the Assembly a report summarizing the various procedures which were followed to ascertain the Members' positions on this matter, while recognizing that it is incumbent on the sovereign States to decide individually on a legal instrument which, not being a collective document, is not of a binding nature.

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CE/DEC/12 (XV)

Role of the representatives of  
member States to the Organization  
Agenda item 10 (document CE/15/10)

The Executive Council,

Takes note of the document submitted by the Secretary-General on the role of the representatives of member States to the Organization;

Believes that it is incumbent on each State to take the steps it deems necessary in the light of the information contained in the aforementioned report.

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CE/DEC/13 (XV)

Activities of the committees and working  
parties created by the Council

Agenda item 11 (documents CE/15/11 and CE/15/11 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Takes note with satisfaction of the report on the activities of the committees and working parties which it established and of addendum 1 on the meetings held at Madrid by both the Environment Committee and the Facilitation Committee from 4 to 6 and 7 to 9 May respectively; but

Expresses the desire that, in view of the fact that the document in question was distributed to it at the beginning of the current session, it may be allowed sufficient time to consider the recommendations of these two Committees and to decide on the action to be taken for their implementation;

Congratulates the Chairmen and members of the two Committees on their significant contribution to the overall activities of the Organization in the sphere of environmental protection and freedom of movement for tourism purposes;

Reserves the possibility of discussing this matter at its sixteenth session;

Takes note that the Working Party on the Tourism Bill of Rights and the Tourist Code will complete its work before the fourth session of the General Assembly and that, pursuant to Council decision 15(XIII), it will submit its report to the sixteenth session of the Council.

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CE/DEC/14 (XV)

Terms of office of the Members of the  
Council's subsidiary organs

Agenda item 12 (document CE/15/12)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the information contained in the report on the terms of office of the Members of its subsidiary organs,

Considers that the Council's subsidiary organs should have the same terms of office as the Council;

Entrusts the Secretary-General with ensuring that the terms of office of the subsidiary organs indicated in the aforementioned document should be adjusted as of the date of establishment of these organs;

Excludes from this measure both the Legal Working Party, the existence of which is no longer justified at present and which may, if necessary, be reconstituted by the Executive Council, and the Working Party on the Tourism Bill of Rights and the Tourist Code, whose term of office should expire at the sixteenth session of the Council given that its work is nearing completion;

Decides that the membership of the Environment and Facilitation Committees will be open to all the Members of the Council.

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CE/DEC/15 (XV)

Report of the Chairman of  
the Committee of Affiliate Members  
Agenda item 14 (document CE/15/14)

The Executive Council,

Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Committee of Affiliate Members, for which it thanks him.

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CE/DEC/16 (XV)

Organization of the work of the fourth  
session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 15(a) (document CE/15/15(a))

The Executive Council,

Takes note with satisfaction of the document concerning the organization of the work of the fourth session of the General Assembly;

Recalls that at the opening of the General Assembly the right to vote of States two or more years in arrears in the payment of their contributions will be subjected to strict verification;

Recognizes that it will be necessary to imbue the Assembly's proceedings with a technical, tourism-oriented nature which, owing to the need to establish the Organization's internal machinery, has not until now received the attention and support it deserves in a technical organization;

Takes note of the statement by the Secretary-General concerning the discussions under way with the Italian Government to ensure the basic requirements are met to enable the fourth session of the General Assembly to achieve the aims provided for in its agenda;

Declares its confidence in the outcome of these discussions in the light of the positive assurances already given orally to the Secretary-General.

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CE/DEC/17 (XV)

International organizations to be invited  
to the fourth session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 15 (b) (document CE/15/15 (b))

The Executive Council,

Approves the list of international organizations to be invited to the fourth session of the General Assembly, as contained in document CE/15/15 (b);

Entrusts the Secretary-General with adding to said list the Arab Bank for African Development (BADEA) which has its head office at Khartoum (Sudan).

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CE/DEC/18 (XV)

Place and date of the sixteenth  
session of the Council

Agenda item 17

The Executive Council,

Decides to hold its sixteenth session at Rome on 14 September 1981, the opening day of the fourth session of the General Assembly.

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CE/DEC/19 (XV)

Vote of thanks to the host country

The Executive Council,

Having concluded with success the work of its fifteenth session held at Rabat (Morocco),

Requests the Moroccan delegation to the Council to convey to H.M. King Hassan II and the Moroccan Government the Council's most sincere gratitude for the welcome extended to it in Morocco.

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#### 4. Participants in the fifteenth session

1. Delegates of the following Members of the Council attended the session; Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Gambia, Germany (Fed. Rep. of), Greece, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordania, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Uganda, United States of America, USSR and Zaire,
2. The Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (France) was present.
3. The Chairman of the Technical Committee for Programme and Coordination (Jordan) was present.
4. The Auditors of the Organization (Kenya and Spain) were present.
5. The Associate Members were represented by the delegate of Gibraltar.
6. The Chairman and one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of Affiliate Members were present.
7. Representatives of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO attended the session as observers.