

## **DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS 108TH SESSION**

San Sebastián, Spain, 23-25 May 2018

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## **Adoption of the agenda**

Agenda item 1  
(document CE/108/1 prov.)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having heard* the proposal of the Chair,

1. *Decides* to consider item 10, on the place and dates of its 109th, 110th and 111th sessions, as the last item of the first day of the session; and
2. *Adopts* the agenda of its 108th session as proposed, following the aforementioned sequence.

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## **Communication of the Chair**

Agenda item 2  
(document CE/108/2)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having heard* the communication of the Chair of the 108th session of the Executive Council, Mr. Gustavo Santos, Minister of Tourism of Argentina,

1. *Thanks* the Chair for his communication to the Executive Council; and
2. *Extends* its gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of the Council, to the first Vice-Chair, Zambia, and to the second Vice-Chair, India, for their dynamic leadership and for their personal contributions to the successful deliberations of its various agenda items.

\* \* \*



## **Report of the Chair of the Executive Council on the credentials of the Members**

Agenda item 3  
(document CE/108/3)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Chair of the Executive Council on the credentials of the Members (document CE/108/3),

1. *Decides* to admit to its 108th session the members of the Council listed in the report as having valid credentials, requesting Egypt and the Republic of Korea to present the necessary documentation in accordance with applicable rules;
2. *Acknowledges* the attendance of Flanders and Instituto para la Calidad Turística Española as representatives of the Associate Members and of the Affiliate Members;
3. *Welcomes* the presence of the delegations attending the session as observers; and
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry out the necessary follow-up to ensure that all originals of the credentials presented by the Members attending the 108th session are received in due time.

\* \* \*





**Executive Council**  
108th session  
San Sebastián, Spain, 23-25 May 2018

CE/DEC/4(CVIII)

## **Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

Agenda item 4  
(document CE/108/4)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Programme and Budget Committee,

*Approves* the recommendations presented in the report and corresponding documents.

\* \* \*



**Report of the Secretary-General**  
**Part I: Current situation and activities**  
**(a) Situation of world tourism**

Agenda item 5(a)  
(document CE/108/5(a))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined the report,*

*Having heard the Secretary-General's analysis of current trends,*

*Takes note of the current situation of world tourism.*

\* \* \*



## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part I: Current situation and activities**

#### **(b) Management vision and priorities**

#### **Towards 2030: Making tourism smarter, more competitive and more responsible**

Agenda item 5(b)  
(document CE/108/5(b) rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the management vision and priorities,

1. *Endorses* the priorities presented by the Secretary-General for the period 2018-2019;
2. *Takes note* of the new organizational structure;
3. *Welcomes* his proposal to revise the top-level management of the Secretariat, in order to comply with the legal framework of the Organization and optimize programme performance and coordination;
4. *Approves* the appointment of Mr. Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente (Colombia) as Deputy Secretary-General in accordance with Staff Regulation 15 (b); and
5. *Supports*, in the context of the restructuring of the Secretariat, the continuity of Mr. Zhu Shanzhong (China) and the appointment of Mr. Manuel Butler (Spain) as Executive Directors, and wishes them successful tenures in the Secretary-General's cabinet.

\* \* \*



## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part I: Current situation and activities**

#### **(c) Implementation of the General Programme of Work**

Agenda item 5(c)  
(documents CE/108/4 and CE/108/5(c) rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the General Programme of Work,

*Having heard* the presentations of the various officials of the Secretariat,

1. *Takes note* of all the activities summarized in this report and its annexes;
2. *Thanks* Samoa, Chair of the IY2017 Steering Committee (SC2017), and all other members of the SC2017, for their continued support and commitment;
3. *Expresses* sincere gratitude for the invaluable support of the twelve Special Ambassadors during the IY2017, and thanks the 64 Official Sponsors, Partners and Friends of the IY2017 for their valuable support to the IY2017, as well as the media and campaign partners;
4. *Welcomes* the initiative for the rebranding and transformation of the Themis Foundation into the UNWTO Academy; and
5. *Endorses* the Organization's new logo as presented.

\* \* \*





## **Report of other subsidiary bodies of the Council**

### **(a) Report of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness**

Agenda item 6(a)  
(document CE/108/6(a))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness,

1. *Thanks* the members of the CTC for the valuable results so far achieved; and
2. *Encourages* the CTC members to carry out the proposed work plan and invites the UNWTO Members to support the CTC by providing input to its endeavours.

\* \* \*



**Report of other subsidiary bodies of the Council**

**(b) Report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability**

Agenda item 6(b)  
(document CE/108/6(b))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability,

1. *Congratulates* its members for the Committee's accomplishments;
2. *Welcomes* the preparations of the Secretariat to conduct a side-event at the High-level Political Forum in July 2018, within the framework of the One Planet – Sustainable Tourism network, where tourism best practices for SDG12 are featured; and
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to extend, as much as possible, support to its Members States having volunteered to submit “Voluntary National Reviews” to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, especially when showcasing best practices of the tourism sector.

\* \* \*



## **Report of other subsidiary bodies of the Council**

### **(c) Report of the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account**

Agenda item 6(c)  
(document CE/108/6(c))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the hard work, dedication and accomplishments of the Committee;
2. *Supports* the Committee's work on Measuring Sustainable Tourism, including the development of a statistical framework according to the timeline presented, the design of an implementation strategy, and the steps taken towards extending the UNWTO database to incorporate MST data including SDG tourism indicators;
3. *Commends* the pioneering work of countries and subnational regions in developing pilot studies on Measuring Sustainable Tourism;
4. *Encourages* the Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, to continue liaising with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to ensure the technical soundness and feasibility of indicators for monitoring the role of tourism in the SDGs;
5. *Notes* the 10-year anniversary of the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 (TSA: RMF 2008) and urges its continued implementation in countries through capacity building, technical assistance and the development of the TSA Compilation Guide; and
6. *Supports* the Committee and the Secretary-General in their intention to prioritize advancing statistical data collection and analysis, and making statistics a strategic value proposition for UNWTO Member States.

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## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part II: Administrative and statutory matters**

#### **(a) Financial report of the Organization for 2018**

Agenda item 7(a)  
(documents CE/108/7(a) and CE/108/4))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the Financial report of the Organization for 2018 (document CE/108/7(a)),

1. *Takes note* of the plan of income and expenditure for the financial year 2018 presented by the Secretary-General at 31 March 2018 with budgetary income and expenditure estimated at EUR 12,113,000 each;
2. *Takes note* of the level of collection of assessed contributions from Members for financial year 2018 as of 31 March 2018 amounting to EUR 6,752,463, and also of the collection of contributions in arrears, amounting to EUR 1,120,599;
3. *Urges* Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2018 thereby averting delays that could hamper programme execution;
4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions, and welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Executive Council on the Initiative projects and unused funds from voluntary contributions with a view to diversifying the sources of financing of UNWTO activities in support of the aims of the Organization while improving internal governance and transparency;
5. *Takes note* of the salary scales approved by the United Nations and applied by the Secretary-General in accordance with Staff Rule 33(1) as follows:
  - (a) the outcome of the October 2016 place-to-place salary survey to revise the Madrid post-adjustment for staff in the Professional and higher categories effective 1 August 2017 and the application of a Personal Transition Allowance for period of six months from 1 August 2017 and the corresponding ones for Geneva,
  - (b) the revised salary scale for staff in the Professional and higher categories effective 1 January 2018, and
  - (c) the updated salary scale for staff in the General Service (GS) category effective 1 October 2017; and

6. Approves the amendments to the Detailed Financial Rules Annex I - Travel guidelines, as proposed in Annex VI of document CE/108/7(a), which will come into force after the 108th session of the Executive Council.

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## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part II: Administrative and statutory matters**

#### **(b) UNWTO financial report and audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017**

Agenda item 7(b)  
(document CE/108/7(b))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the UNWTO financial report and audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (CE/108/7(b)),

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the unqualified opinion of the External Auditors that the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2017 present a true image of the financial position of the UNWTO as at 31 December 2017 and of its performance, its cash flows and changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2017, in compliance with UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
2. *Recommends* the General Assembly to approve the UNWTO Financial Statements for the year ended 2017;
3. *Takes note of* the budgetary performance of the Regular Budget (RB) in the financial year 2017, during which the level of budgetary expenditure resulted in an implementation rate of 104% of the total budgetary income and the level of budgetary income received (cash-in), including Members' arrears, represented 90% of the approved budget income, resulting in a cash deficit of EUR 511,202 which was advanced by the Working Capital Fund (WCF);
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures so that the accumulated amount (EUR 749,598) advanced by the Working Capital Fund to the Regular Budget resulting from advances made in the previous years that were not returned as required by the Financial Regulations is returned from Regular Budget cash surpluses as soon as possible in subsequent years;
5. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue in 2018 his approaches to Members that owe contributions to the Organization in order to secure their payment;
6. *Approves*, for the year ended 2017, the revised Regular Budget appropriations in accordance with the new programme structure made by the Secretary-General and the Regular Budget appropriation transfers recommended by the Programme and Budget Committee members through a written consultation in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.3(a) and 5.3(b);

7. *Takes note of* the recommendations endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) following its consideration of the reports on After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) shown in Annex V of document CE/108/7(b);
8. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's proposal to take into account the UNGA recommendations on ASHI and to prepare a comprehensive plan to meet the post-retirement liabilities, which will be presented to the Executive Council for approval; and
9. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Chair of the Programme and Budget Committee (India) and the External Auditor (Spain) for the work carried out.

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## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part II: Administrative and statutory matters**

#### **(c) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules**

Agenda item 7(c)  
(documents CE/108/7(c) and CE/108/7(c) Add. 1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report,

1. *Approves* the report;
2. *Thanks* the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations despite their internal constraints;
3. *Notes* that Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan and Nicaragua have respected their agreed payment plans up to 2018;
4. *Approves* the payment plan submitted by Pacific Area Travel Writers Association for the settlement of its arrears;
5. *Exceptionally maintains* the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules to the Full Member Madagascar until the 109th session of the Executive Council in view of its efforts to keep up to date with its payment plan;
6. *Reminds* Members to pay their contributions to the budget within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations; and
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform it, at its next session, about the 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 that they were granted by the General Assembly or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments.

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## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part II: Administrative and statutory matters**

#### **(d) Membership status**

Agenda item 7(d)  
(document CE/108/7(d))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on membership status,

1. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the Secretary-General in order to expand membership;
2. *Welcomes* the systematic approach of the Secretariat towards attracting new Members through the preparation of specific proposals that include the benefits of membership, concrete areas and action plans;
3. *Calls upon* the member countries of the United Nations that do not yet belong to the UNWTO to join the Organization; and
4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard.

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## **Report of the Secretary-General**

### **Part II: Administrative and statutory matters**

#### **(e) Human resources report**

Agenda item 7(e)  
(document CE/108/7(e))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Secretary-General on the human resources situation of the Organization,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided on the human resources of the Organization;
2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the work currently being carried out by those persons in the service of the Organization and their contribution to its Programme of Work, especially in view of the rising demands made on the Organization with its limited resources;
3. *Encourages* Member States to send concrete proposals to the Secretariat for the financing of Junior Professional Officers at UNWTO, through the UNDP framework agreement;
4. *Thanks* the Ethics Officer for the work carried out, as presented in his report, and takes note of the ongoing implementation of the ethics function, including the appointment of Ms. Marina Diotallevi as Ethics Officer; and
5. *Approves* the amendment to UNWTO Staff Rule 30.

\* \* \*





## **Affiliate Members**

### **(a) Report of the Chair of the Affiliate Members**

Agenda item 8(a)  
(document CE/108/8(a))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined* the report of the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members,

1. *Acknowledges* the constructive role of the initiatives implemented in the Action Plan of the Affiliate Members Programme, including prototypes, networks, working groups, reports, joint projects with other programmes, technical seminars and specialized events as well as the growing number of Affiliate Members that participate in them;
2. *Encourages* the participation of the Member States in the existing UNWTO Networks and UNWTO Working Groups as well as their proactive involvement in new areas of exchange of expertise;
3. *Continues* to support the importance of the Prototype Methodology and related materials developed by the Secretariat including its names and signs, acknowledging these as being under UNWTO's brand, as an ideal framework where the public and private sectors can collaborate in the sharing of knowledge and development of projects that enhance competitiveness within an ethical and sustainable environment;
4. *Takes note* of the further dissemination and visibility of the UNWTO Awards for Excellence and Innovation as a way of recognizing the importance of the contribution of tourism to society; and
5. *Welcomes* the organization of future meetings, in collaboration with UNWTO Regional Programmes, to formally introduce the Affiliate Members programme and encourage the engagement of new potential members.

\* \* \*



## **Affiliate Members**

### **(b) Report of the Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership**

Agenda item 8(b)  
(document CE/108/8(b))

*The Executive Council,*

*Having taken cognizance* of the report of its Committee for the Review of Applications for Affiliate Membership, which met in San Sebastián, Spain, on 24 May 2018, under the chairmanship of Thailand,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee;
2. *Decides* to admit provisionally to affiliate membership the following candidates, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session:
  1. ADARA (United States)
  2. Asociación de Restaurantes y Tabernas Centenarios de Madrid (Spain)
  3. Associação Dark Sky (Portugal)
  4. Association Phare Sociale (Switzerland)
  5. Astana Convention Bureau LLP (Kazakhstan)
  6. ATREVIA (Spain)
  7. BFTK Budapest Festival and Tourism Centre Non-Profit LLC (Hungary)
  8. Caribbean Public Health Agency - CARPHA (Trinidad and Tobago)
  9. CAWAB ABSL (Belgium)
  10. China Outbound TRI Ltd. Germany (Germany)
  11. Compagnie des Alpes (France)
  12. Educational Coin Company (United States)
  13. EURAIL (Luxembourg)
  14. FIDETUR (Mexico)
  15. Fondo Mixto de Promoción Turística (Mexico)
  16. Fundação Parque Tecnológico Itaipu (Brazil)
  17. Global Journey Consulting (Spain)
  18. Groupement Européen de Coopération Odyssea (France)
  19. HIPINDO (Indonesia)
  20. Horizon Rash International Tourism Training Institute (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
  21. Hoteles City Express (Mexico)
  22. IBM (USA)
  23. INFLOW Summits (Turkey)

24. Institución Ferial de Canarias – INFECAR (Spain)
  25. International Institute for Research and Development of Special Interest Tourism - SITI 1 (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
  26. Korea Culture & Tourism Institute - KCTI (Republic of Korea)
  27. Mabna Card Aria (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
  28. Metropolitana de Turismo (Panama)
  29. NARAT Inc. (Canada)
  30. National Tourism Board of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
  31. Orex Loisirs (France)
  32. Outlook Publishing Pvt. Ltd. (India)
  33. Positive Impact Events Ltd (United Kingdom)
  34. San Sebastián Turismo (Spain)
  35. SAS Europass (France)
  36. Sociedad de Desarrollo de Santa Cruz de Tenerife, S.A.U. (Spain)
  37. SOENT International Tourism Consulting Group (Germany)
  38. Thessaloniki Tourism Organization (Greece)
  39. Tourist Board of Medimurje County (Croatia)
  40. Travel Hunter LLC (Russian Federation)
  41. Travel Professional Group - TPG (Ukraine)
  42. University of Rijeka (Croatia)
  43. Vatel Group (France)
  44. World Meetings Forum (Mexico)
3. *Also decides* to admit provisionally the College for Management in Tourism and Informatics in Virovitica (Croatia) provided that the administrative form for the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) to enable automatic payment processing is received within a 30-day period.

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**Thematic Discussion: “Tourism and the digital transformation”**

Agenda item 9  
(document CE/108/9 rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

1. *Recognizes* that the integration of innovation and digitalization in the global tourism agenda is of fundamental importance to remain competitive and maximize the potential of the sector in terms of economic growth, job creation and sustainable development;
2. *Takes note* of the strategy on Innovation and Digital Transformation and the different activities undertaken by the Secretariat in this area; and
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the promotion of innovation and digitalization for the development of the tourism sector.

\* \* \*



**Executive Council**

108th session

San Sebastián, Spain, 23-25 May 2018

CE/DEC/19(CVIII)

**Place and dates of the 109th, 110th and 111th sessions of the Executive Council**

Agenda item 10  
(document CE/108/10)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having heard* the statements of the candidates to host its meetings up to the 23rd General Assembly,

1. *Thanks* them for their generous offers;
2. *Decides* to hold its 109th session in Manama, Bahrain, on the dates to be agreed upon between the Secretariat and the host country;
3. *Decides* to hold its 110th session in Azerbaijan at the venue and dates to be agreed upon between the Secretariat and the host country; and
4. *Decides* to hold its 111th session immediately prior to the 23rd General Assembly session in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

\* \* \*





### **Vote of thanks to the host country**

*The Executive Council,*

*Having carried out the work of its 108th session under the excellent conditions placed at its disposal by the Government of Spain,*

1. *Expresses its most sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Spain, the Basque Country, and San Sebastián for the support extended to the UNWTO and its Members in hosting this session of the Council in the beautiful city of San Sebastián;*
2. *Expresses, also, its appreciation for the opportunity provided to the delegates to enjoy the attractions of the city and the province of Gipuzkoa, as well as to attend various social events and technical visits; and*
3. *Expresses, in particular, its deepest appreciation to Mr. Iñigo Urkullu, Lehendakari of the Basque Government, Mr. Álvaro Nadal Belda, Minister of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda of Spain, Mr. Alfredo Retortillo Paniagua, Minister of Tourism, Trade and Consumer Affairs of the Basque Government, Mr. Eneko Goia Laso, Mayor of San Sebastián, Ms. Matilde Pastora Asían González, Secretary of State of Tourism of Spain, Mr. Harkaitz Millán Etxezarreta, Director of Basquetour, and to all their staff, for their magnificent hospitality, as well as their personal involvement in and constant support to the organization of the meeting.*

\* \* \*