

UNWTO Commission for the Americas

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4.4 Ratification of the amendments to the Statutes: Chinese as an official language of UNWTO

1. The Secretariat would like to recall that, pursuant to resolution 694(XXII) adopted by the 22nd session of the General Assembly in September 2017, and decision 9(CIX) adopted by the 109th session of the Executive Council in October-November 2018, *inter alia*, Member States are called upon “*to do everything in their power to ratify all amendments to the Statutes and the Financing Rules*”.
2. Furthermore, through resolution 694(XXII) the Assembly requested the Executive Council “*to prepare and implement a plan for the gradual introduction of the Chinese language in the Organization with the aim of establishing it as an official language at the 23rd session of the General Assembly subject to its entry into force in accordance with Article 33 of the Statutes*”.
3. The amendment to Article 38 of the Statutes, introducing the Chinese language as an official language of the Organization, was adopted by the General Assembly at its 17th session in November 2007 through resolution 521(XVII). However, said amendment is not yet in force as it has not met the majority required by Article 33 of the Statutes.
4. In accordance with Article 33.3 of the Statutes, an amendment that has been adopted by the General Assembly “*shall enter into force for all Members when two-thirds of the member States have notified the Depositary Government of their approval of such amendment*”.
5. In practical terms, the competent authority of the Member State issues an official communication to the Government of Spain – as Depositary of the Statutes of the Organization – notifying its approval of the amendment to Article 38 of the Statutes.
6. The Secretariat has been actively communicating with all UNWTO Members States to urge them to take action regarding the approval of Article 38 of the Statutes so that Chinese language is established as an official language of the Organization at the 23rd session of the General Assembly in September 2019, as per resolution 694(XXII). At present, **81** Member States have notified the Depositary Government of their approval of the amendment to Article 38 of the Statutes.
7. In view of the current membership of the Organization, said amendment shall enter into force when **105** Member States have notified the Depositary Government of their approval thereof.
8. The following resolutions are attached to the document:

- A/RES/694(XXII)
http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a22_resolutions_en.pdf
- A/RES/521(XVII)
http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a17_res_en.pdf
- CE/DEC/9(CIX)
http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/ce109_decisions_en_0.pdf