

Agenda item 8  
**Report on the Task Force on Redesigning  
Tourism for the Future**

A/25/8  
Madrid, 31 August 2023  
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### Executive summary

The report concisely examines major developments after the 24th session of the General Assembly. It outlines the current status of the implementation of decisions taken at the 116th, 117th, and 118th sessions of the Executive Council and more broadly focuses on the actions undertaken by the UNWTO Secretariat as a follow-up to the 118th session of the Executive Council held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on 17 May 2023.

### Action by the General Assembly

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#### DRAFT RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>

*The General Assembly,*

*Having examined* the report on the Task Force on Redesigning Tourism for the Future,

1. *Takes note* of all the progress achieved after the 24th session of the General Assembly, thanks the Secretary-General and officials of the Secretariat for conducting a long consultative process with the sponsors of the initiative and other Member States for their comments;
2. *Takes note* of the decision adopted by the Executive Council to appoint the recommended Member States by the Regional Commission meetings held in June and July 2023;
3. *Welcomes* the composition of the Task Force composed of nine members in the following geographical order of regions:
  - Africa: Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal
  - Americas: Peru and Uruguay
  - East Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia
  - Europe: Israel and Spain
  - Middle East: Saudi Arabia, and

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<sup>1</sup> This is a draft resolution. For the final resolution adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.

- South Asia: Maldives;
4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Task Force until the 26th session of the General Assembly;
  5. *Encourages* the Task Force to present for approval at the 121st session of the Executive Council a plan for deliverables, milestones and timetable, cost and funding requirements of the body and a budget as requested by the Council at its 118th session; and
  6. *Encourages* the Task Force to consult with the Secretariat to ensure full consistency with the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025 and the outline of the long-term vision for the sector and the required reforms for the Organization prepared by the Secretariat based on the Survey Findings on Members' Priorities for the UNWTO Programme of Work 2024-2025 and the long-term vision (conducted among the Members and non-member States).

## I. Main outline

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1. The 24th session of the General Assembly, through resolution 741(XXIV), agreed on the creation of a Task Force on redesigning Tourism for the Future, as per the initiative presented by Saudi Arabia with the amendments of Spain and urged the Executive Council to consider such proposal and to set the mandate, composition and modus operandi of the Task Force based on the guiding principles set forth in the proposal submitted.
2. At its 116th session of the Council in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Executive Council, through decision 6, requested that any proposal on the draft rules of procedure of the Task Force be consulted with the Secretariat to ensure that they are aligned with the legal framework of the Organization.
3. At its 117th session, a thorough discussion took place at the Executive Council on both the legal aspects of the Task Force as well as on its mandate, funding, composition and reporting mechanisms. The Executive Council decided through decision 7 to establish the Task Force as a subsidiary body of the Executive Council and requested the Secretary-General to circulate a proposal on the draft rules of procedure for the Task Force, in consultation with the Chair of the Council.
4. The proposal of the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, received the comments of several countries ahead of the 118th session of the Executive Council. Based on the comments received, the Secretariat modified and improved the text. These comments were discussed during the briefing sessions of the Executive Council and at the Executive Council session itself. The revised proposal, adjusted at the session therefore reflects the consensus achieved by the members of the Executive Council on this topic and is fully aligned with the legal framework of the Organization.
5. The following points showcase the key progress as a result of the latest decisions taken by the Executive Council:
  - (a) The Task Force is a subsidiary organ of the Executive Council. Its rules of procedure are fully aligned with those of other subsidiary bodies of the Council, such as the technical committees. The Executive Council decided that the Task Force will be composed of nine members elected on the basis of equitable geographical composition. Based on decision 6 of the 118th session of the Executive Council, the nomination of Members for the Task Force was included in the agendas of the six UNWTO Regional Commission meetings, namely: the 68th meeting of the Commission for Europe (1 June, Sofia, Bulgaria); the 49th meeting of the Commission for the Middle East (7 June 2023, Dead Sea, Jordan); the 55th meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the 59th meeting of the Commission for South Asia (16 June 2023, Phnom Penh, Cambodia); the 68th meeting of the Commission for the Americas (27 June 2023, Quito, Ecuador); and the 66th meeting of the Commission for Africa (26 July 2023, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius).
  - (b) The Executive Council decided, for consistency, to follow the long-standing practice of having one Chair and one Vice-Chair instead of two co-chairs as recommended by the General Assembly. The Task Force members will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among them for a term of one year.
  - (c) The Executive Council also proposed to the General Assembly through decision 6 to extend the mandate of the Task Force until the 26th session of the GA, for the subsidiary body to be able to fulfil its mandate. The rules of procedure of the Task Force establish that if the mandate is renewed at the 25th session of the General Assembly, the term of office of its members shall be extended for such additional time until the Executive Council takes any new decision regarding the composition of the Task Force.
  - (d) The Executive Council requested the Task Force to develop a plan for deliverables, milestones and timetable, cost and funding requirements of the body and a budget, to be submitted to the Council for approval.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the Redesigning Tourism for the Future Task Force as approved by the 118th session of the Executive Council through its decision CE/DEC/6(CXVIII) are attached as Annex I.

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## **Annex I: Rules of Procedure of the Redesigning Tourism for the Future Task Force**

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### **I. Mandate**

Taking into account the input provided by the Members of the Executive Council at its 117th session, the Secretariat has developed a proposal of the mandate of the Task Force.

1. The mandate of the Redesigning Tourism for the Future Task Force is to strengthen the UNWTO, including its operational and institutional framework, to service the existing and future needs of the tourism sector for both developed and developing countries consistent with the Statutes of the Organization.

To reposition the tourism sector more prominently on a global scale to benefit people and the planet, greater international collaboration and empowered international organizations are required, within the framework of a reinvigorated multilateral system and a rapidly evolving business environment, for tourism growth to be sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

Consistent with the Statutes of the Organization, the Redesigning Tourism for the Future Task Force's strategic objectives are to:

- (a) support the Secretariat to strengthen the UNWTO to better guide and service the existing and future needs of the tourism sector, in light of the new global context
  - (b) contribute to shape UNWTO's strategic priorities to engage for building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable tourism sector for both developed and developing economies
  - (c) review UNWTO's institutional and risk framework, and working methods as well as its strategy and other measures, to provide recommendations and strategy and reform proposals (as well as reports) to be approved by the Executive Council and then the General Assembly, so that the UNWTO's framework, working methods, strategy and other measures can be made fit for purpose to better serve Members, considering endogenous and exogenous challenges
  - (d) encourage and ensure the meaningful participation of non-State stakeholders in the redesign of the global tourism sector.
2. The mandate of the Redesigning Tourism for the Future Task Force will continue until the 25th session of the General Assembly. The extension of this term will be approved by the General Assembly.

### **II. Composition and term of office**

1. The Task Force is composed of:
  - (a) Nine Full Members with the right to vote recommended by the Regional Commissions and appointed by the Executive Council as follows:
    - Africa: 2
    - Americas: 2
    - East Asia and Pacific: 1
    - Europe: 2
    - Middle East: 1
    - South Asia: 1
  - (b) One Associate Member, designated among them; and
  - (c) One Affiliate Member, according to Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Affiliate Members.
2. In addition, invited participants, as proposed by the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Chair of the Executive Council, for approval by the Executive Council, on an ad hoc basis, according to the agenda of one or more specific meeting(s) will participate in the work of the Task Force. Those invited participants may be:

- (a) International organizations;
  - (b) Public sector, private sector and civil society entities, including educational institutions, destination management organizations (DMOs); and
  - (c) Individual experts (e.g., researchers, personalities).
3. The Task Force shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from its Full Members to serve for an initial one-year term, which may be renewed.
  4. The term of office of all the members of the Task Force will expire upon the conclusion of its mandate.
  5. If the term of the Task Force is renewed by the General Assembly at its 25th session, the term of its members shall be extended for such additional time until the Executive Council takes a decision on its composition in accordance with paragraph 1 above.

### III. Modus Operandi

#### Meetings

1. The provisional agenda of the meetings shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General in agreement with the Chair and distributed to the Task Force prior to the Task Force meeting.
2. The working language of the Task Force is English.
3. The Task Force aims at consensus-building. If consensus cannot be reached, the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council regarding voting procedures shall apply.
4. Telephone, video conferences and electronic meetings and consultations will be the main form of interaction.
5. The Task Force will meet in ordinary session twice a year, preferably in the framework of the meetings of the Executive Council, to which it reports all recommendations for approval, before any report is submitted to the General Assembly.
6. The UNWTO Secretariat will not cover the cost of participation of Task Force Members, observers and invited participants of and to the Task Force at meetings either in presence or remote.

#### Secretariat

7. The Secretary-General shall act as Secretary of the Task Force and may delegate this function to another member of the Secretariat.
8. The Secretariat will provide any information or documents of UNWTO requested by the Task Force in accordance with UNWTO's applicable rules and policies and to the extent that such information and documents is or are not protected from disclosure by legal privilege, privacy and confidentiality<sup>2</sup>.

#### Conduct of business

9. These Rules of Procedure are adopted pursuant to Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, to which they are subordinate. Should circumstances arise, which are not provided for in these Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council shall apply mutatis mutandis.

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<sup>2</sup> Public Information Disclosure policy (SGB/12/19) issued on 25 November 2019.

## **Reporting**

10. As a subsidiary organ of the Executive Council, the Task Force shall submit interim and final reports on its activities and recommendations to the Executive Council for approval. The Executive Council shall then report to the General Assembly as appropriate.

## **Voluntary contributions**

11. While the Task Force does not have a budget of its own, the Organization may receive voluntary contributions to be allocated to the execution of the mandate of the Task Force in accordance with the Statutes and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization.