

UN Tourism Commission for Europe
71st meeting
Baku, Azerbaijan – 5 June 2025

Agenda Item 8: Nominations and elections to UN Tourism statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies

1. Introduction

1. Pursuant to Rule 43(1) of the [Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly](#), all elections shall be held by secret ballot and conducted in accordance with the [Guiding Principles for the Conduct of Elections by Secret Ballot](#) annexed to the said Rules of Procedure.
2. For all elections to the Organization's statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies conducted through traditional (non-electronic) means, Members entitled to vote must be physically present during the secret ballot. To this end, the delegations of voting Members of the Regional Commissions shall include at least one member who is physically present throughout the meeting and duly empowered to cast the ballot.¹
3. Alternatively, a voting Member of a Regional Commission may be exceptionally and validly represented by a member of another Member's delegation, provided that the relevant rules are observed.²
4. In sum, the representative of the voting Member of the Regional Commission physically present during the secret ballot—whether a member of its own delegation or a proxy from another—must be duly accredited and authorized to cast the ballot on its behalf.
5. Ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom of Spain and Permanent Representatives to UN Tourism are deemed to have sufficient authority to represent their States in meetings of the governing bodies of the Organization and to cast a ballot on their behalf.
6. The Secretariat invites Member States from Europe wishing to submit their candidatures for any office / position listed below to do so in advance of the meeting of the Commission. Any candidatures received before the date of the meeting will be announced in an addendum to this document.

¹ Only credentials issued and signed by the Head of State, or the Head of Government, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister responsible for Tourism or the Ambassador accredited to the Kingdom of Spain, will be regarded as valid pursuant to General Assembly resolution 591(XIX).

² Representation of a State by another Full Member of the Organization during the election of the nominee will comply with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly: resolution 591(XIX), resolution 633(XX) and resolution 649(XXI). Therefore, if a Full Member is unable to participate in the voting, it can be exceptionally represented by a member of another. State's delegation other than its Head, provided it submits a formal letter or fax signed by the competent authority, explaining the exceptional circumstances to do so, designating the individual that will represent it and, if applicable, giving him/her the power to vote on its behalf. It is recalled that credentials in breach of the principle of secrecy of the vote will be considered invalid. It should be further noted that, unless the items for which the power to vote is given are clearly specified, it will be understood that the delegate has full powers to cast a vote on behalf of the Government he/she is representing by proxy on any agenda item. While only one mandate for representation may be given to a delegate, delegations are also requested to avoid having more than one delegate representing another State for an orderly conduct of business.

2. General Assembly: Election of Officers

7. In accordance with Rule 16 of its [Rules of Procedure](#), and for the conduct of its business, the General Assembly is called upon to elect its President and Vice-Presidents “on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, making allowance for the region represented by the President.”
8. If the Assembly follows the established practice of nominating as President the head of delegation of the host country of the 26th session (Saudi Arabia), the region of the Middle East would not have a Vice-President. In that case, the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly would represent the UN Tourism regions as follows: two for Africa, two for the Americas, one for East Asia and the Pacific, **two for Europe**, and one for South Asia.
9. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has received the candidature of **Lithuania** (25 April 2025) for the vacant Vice-President positions for the region of Europe.

3. Subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly

a. Credentials Committee: Appointment of Members

10. Rule 13(1) of the [Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly](#) provides for the appointment by the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, of a Credentials Committee composed of nine delegates chosen from among the Full Members, having regard to fair and equitable geographical distribution.
11. The Regional Commissions are called upon to suggest to the President of the General Assembly the same number of candidates for the Credentials Committee as they have Officers of the Assembly. The nine members of the Committee (two from Africa, two from the Americas, one from East Asia and the Pacific, **two from Europe**, one from the Middle East, and one from South Asia) will then elect, at their first meeting during the General Assembly session, a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among themselves in accordance with Rule 13(2) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.
12. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has **not received any candidatures** for the vacant positions on the Credentials Committee from the region of Europe.

b. Commission for Europe: Election of Officers

13. In accordance with Rule 57 of the [Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly](#), as they apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Regional Commissions, and consistent with past practice, each Regional Commission should elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its Members, for a term of two years.
14. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has received the candidatures of **Uzbekistan** (7 March 2025, new) and **Montenegro** (11 March 2025, new) for the vacant position of Chair of the Commission for Europe.
15. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has received the candidature of **Lithuania** (25 April 2025) for the vacant positions of Vice-Chairs of the Commission for Europe.

c. Working Group for the Agenda for Europe: Election of Members

16. In accordance with Rules 2(2) and 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Working Group for the Agenda for Europe, the Chair of the Commission for Europe shall serve as the Chair of the

Working Group. The term of office of the Chair of the Commission for Europe shall begin immediately following their election and shall end upon the election of their successor.

17. In accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Working Group for the Agenda for Europe, one or two regional representative(s) from Europe in the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) shall be members of the Working Group. If both regional representatives in the PBC confirm their availability, the Commission for Europe shall elect up to four (4) additional members. Alternatively, if only one regional representative in the PBC confirms availability, the Commission shall elect up to five (5) additional members.
18. The Secretariat invited the regional representatives in the PBC to confirm their interest in continuing their membership in the Working Group and received confirmation from **Switzerland** (4 April 2025) and **Spain** (25 April 2025).
19. The Commission shall therefore elect up to four (4) members of the Working Group for a non-renewable term of two years. The term of office of the elected members shall begin immediately following their appointment by the Commission for Europe and shall end upon the appointment of their successors.
20. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has received the candidature of **Lithuania** (25 April 2025) for the vacant positions of members of the Working Group for the Agenda for Europe.

d. World Committee on Tourism Ethics³

21. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE), a subsidiary body of the General Assembly established by the [Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#), is composed of nine members and three alternates appointed by the General Assembly in their personal capacity. The term of office for WCTE members is four years.
22. With a view to ensuring continuity in the Committee's work, and in accordance with paragraph (c) of the Protocol, half of the membership is renewed every two years. In this regard, five membership positions on the WCTE, including that of the new Chair, will be elected at the 26th session of the General Assembly in 2025. In addition, three new alternate members will be elected during the same session.
23. The UN Tourism Secretariat will issue the call for expressions of interest in spring 2025, with details on how to nominate candidates to the WCTE. Full, Associate, and Affiliate Members are encouraged to submit nominations.

4. Executive Council: Election of Members

a. Full Members

24. Article 14(1) of the [Statutes of the Organization](#) stipulates:
"The Council shall consist of Full Members elected by the Assembly in the ratio of one Member for every five Full Members, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Assembly, with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution."
25. In accordance with Article 15 of the [Statutes](#) and Rule 54 of the [Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly](#), the Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council. Rule 54 reads as follows:
"The Assembly shall elect by secret ballot the Members of the Council in the proportion of one Member of the Council for every five Full Members of the Organization, having regard to fair

³ Only for informative purposes. No action is required in the framework of the Regional Commission Meetings.

and equitable geographical distribution. This proportion shall be applied to the number of Full Members by region in order to determine the number of seats on the Executive Council to be allocated to the corresponding region. In the event that the figure obtained after the calculation of the said ratio is not whole, it shall be rounded up to the nearest higher integer.”

26. Article 15 of the Statutes further stipulates:

“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...).”

27. This provision is expanded upon in Rule 55(4) of the [Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly](#), which states:

“The term of office of the Members of the Council shall begin immediately following their election by the Assembly and shall end on the election of their successors.”

28. Article 14(1 bis) of the Statutes also provides that:

“The host State of the headquarters of the Organization shall have a permanent additional seat on the Executive Council, which shall be unaffected by the procedure laid down in paragraph 1 above concerning the geographical distribution of Council seats.”

29. Consequently, based on the number of Full Members per region as of the date of this document, the Council may be composed of 34 elected members, in addition to **Spain** as a permanent member, during the period between the twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly.

30. Seventeen (17) Full Members will therefore need to be elected to the Council, in the ratio of one member for every five Full Members per region, as follows:

Africa	5 seats
Americas	3 seats
East Asia and the Pacific	0 seats
Europe	5 seats
Middle East	2 seats
South Asia	2 seats
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TOTAL	17 seats

31. As of the date of this document, the following Full Members from Europe have submitted their candidatures for membership of the Executive Council for the period 2025–2029:

Kazakhstan	11 January 2024	new
Republic of Moldova	1 April 2024	new
Slovenia	6 June 2024	new
Romania	25 July 2024	new
France	23 January 2025	new
Azerbaijan	12 February 2024	renewal
Armenia	15 May 2024	renewal
Croatia	13 September 2024	renewal
Greece	6 November 2024	renewal

32. Any other candidatures received by the Secretariat before the date of the Commission meeting will be announced in an addendum to this document.

33. It should be recalled that Executive Council decision 4(XXXIV) recommends that:

“...only Members of the Organization having no unjustified arrears (paragraph [13] of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council”.

b. Associate Members

34. Associate Members are requested to nominate their representative to the Executive Council.

c. Affiliate Members

35. The representative of the Affiliate Members to the Executive Council is the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members, in accordance with Article 6(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Affiliate Members.

5. Subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council

36. It should be recalled, at the outset, that the Executive Council decided in decision 4(XXXIII) that:
“...only Members of the Organization that are not in unjustified arrears (paragraph [13] of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes) may be appointed to its subsidiary organs”.

a. Programme and Budget Committee

37. Pursuant to [Executive Council decision 3\(CXXI\)](#), Rule 2(2) and Rule 3 of the [Rules of Procedure of the Programme and Budget Committee](#) were amended to read as follows:

Rule 2

The Programme and Budget Committee is composed of:

- (a) Twelve (12) full members, two (2) per region, designated by their respective regional commission, and appointed by the Executive Council.*
- (b) The representative of the Associate Members in the Executive Council;*
- (c) The representative of the Affiliate Members in the Executive Council.*

Rule 3

- 1. The term of elected members shall be four (4) years.*
 - 2. Election of one-half of the membership (one Member per region) of the Programme and Budget Committee shall be held every two (2) years.*
38. To initiate the implementation of this change in the PBC rules, a transitional measure was considered necessary, similar to the one adopted by the 19th session of the General Assembly when merging the Programme Committee and the Committee on Budget and Finance into a single Committee (the PBC).
39. Accordingly, the Executive Council approved the proposed transitional measures for extending the term of four members whose terms were due to expire from 2025 to 2027, and the proposed division of terms for members elected in 2027.
40. Thereafter, in 2027, it is intended that six members, one per region, be elected for a term of two years, and another six members, also one per region, for a term of four years. Subsequent elections will be for a four-year term.

b. Committee on Tourism Online Education

41. Pursuant to [Executive Council decision 4\(CXII\)](#) and [General Assembly resolution 714\(XXIII\)](#), the Committee on Tourism Online Education was established as a subsidiary body to the Executive Council. The Committee is composed of nine full members, appointed on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions, one Associate Member, and one Affiliate Member.
42. This Committee's mandate is to provide the Executive Council and the Secretary-General with advice and recommendations on education matters.
43. The technical committee should be able to address all aspects of the tourism sector and its relationship with global challenges. Therefore, it ensures diverse and representative participation from both the public and private sectors at national and international levels, as well as from academic institutions that are part of the Tourism Online Academy.
44. The Regional Commissions are required to nominate their candidates for the Committee on Tourism Online Education (CTOE) for the period 2025–2029, between the twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the following distribution:

Africa	2 seats
Americas	2 seats
East Asia and the Pacific	1 seats
Europe	2 seats
Middle East	1seats
South Asia	1 seats
45. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has **not received any candidatures** for the vacant positions on the Committee on Tourism Online Education.

c. Technical Committee for the International Code for the Protection of Tourists

46. The [International Code for the Protection of Tourists](#) (ICPT) was adopted by the 24th session of the General Assembly through [resolution 732\(XXIV\)](#). As of the date of this document, twenty-six (26) Member States have adhered to the ICPT. Five (5) of these countries (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay, and Uruguay) have submitted reports on the integration of the ICPT's principles and recommendations at the national level.
47. Pursuant to Section D, Chapter Five, of the ICPT, a technical committee, subsidiary to the Executive Council, will be established to assist the Secretary-General in promoting and monitoring the application of the ICPT.
48. The Committee will meet in ordinary session annually. It will adopt, within an appropriate timeframe, the General Report on the adherence to and application of the ICPT, which will be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.
49. The Committee will perform, inter alia, the following functions:
 - i. Consider and recommend potential amendments to the ICPT as a non-legally binding document for approval by the General Assembly.
 - ii. Adopt good practices and recommendations for the application of the ICPT and take any measures it considers necessary to further its objectives.
 - iii. Consider difficulties and issues arising from the application and interpretation of the ICPT, in consultation with the Consultative Group of Experts.
50. The Committee shall be composed of nine Full Members with voting rights, recommended by the

Regional Commissions and appointed by the Executive Council. Only countries that have fully adhered to the ICPT are eligible for appointment as Full Members.

51. The Committee shall be composed as follows:

Africa	2 seats
Americas	2 seats
East Asia and the Pacific	1 seats
Europe	2 seats
Middle East	1seats
South Asia	1 seats

52. The Secretariat is currently preparing the Terms of Reference of the Committee, in line with the terms of reference of other technical committees of the Executive Council. These will be submitted to the Executive Council for approval in due course.

53. As of the date of this document, four countries from the region—**Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Andorra** and **Uzbekistan**—have fully adhered to the ICPT and are, therefore, eligible for nomination to the Committee.

54. The Regional Commission is called upon to recommend two Members for appointment by the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Terms of Reference and the establishment of the Committee.

55. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has **not received any candidatures** for the vacant positions on the Technical Committee for the International Code for the Protection of Tourists.

6. Designation of the host countries for World Tourism Day 2026 and 2027

56. So far, World Tourism Day celebrations have been awarded as follows:

- WTD 2006: Portugal (Europe)
- WTD 2007: Sri Lanka (South Asia)
- WTD 2008: Peru (Americas)
- WTD 2009: Ghana (Africa)
- WTD 2010: China (East Asia and the Pacific)
- WTD 2011: Yemen (Middle East),
- WTD 2012: Spain (Europe)
- WTD 2013: Maldives (South Asia)
- WTD 2014: Mexico (Americas)
- WTD 2015: Burkina Faso (Africa)
- WTD 2016: Thailand (East Asia and the Pacific)
- WTD 2017: Qatar (Middle East)
- WTD 2018: Hungary (Europe)

- WTD 2019: India (South Asia)
 - WTD 2020: MERCOSUR (Americas)
 - WTD 2021: Côte d'Ivoire (Africa)
 - WTD 2022: Indonesia (East Asia and the Pacific)
 - WTD 2023: Saudi Arabia (Middle East)
 - WTD 2024: Georgia (Europe)
 - WTD 2025: Malaysia (South Asia)
57. By [resolution 470\(XV\)](#), the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Executive Council and decided that the following geographical order would apply to World Tourism Day celebrations starting in 2006: Europe; South Asia; Americas; Africa; East Asia and the Pacific; and Middle East.
58. In 2025, the Commission for the Americas and the Commission for Africa are requested to recommend to the 26th session of the General Assembly the host countries for the 2026 and 2027 editions of World Tourism Day.