

Regional Commission for the Americas

Seventieth meeting
Lima, Peru

1 August 2025

Agenda item 9

**Nominations and Elections to
Statutory Organs and their Subsidiary Bodies**

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I. Introduction

1. According 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 carried out through traditional non-electronic means, Members that are entitled to vote shall be physically present during the secret ballot. To this effect, the delegations of voting Members of the Regional Commissions shall consist of at least one member who shall be physically present throughout the meeting and duly empowered to cast the ballot¹.
3. Alternatively, a voting Member of the Regional Commission may be exceptionally and validly represented by a member of the delegation of another Member provided that the relevant rules are observed².
4. In sum, the representative of the voting Member of the Regional Commission physically present during the secret ballot, be it a member of its own delegation or a member of a different delegation (proxy), must be duly accredited and empowered to cast the ballot on its behalf.
5. Ambassadors accredited to the Kingdom of Spain and Permanent Representatives to UN Tourism have sufficient authority to represent their States in meetings of the governing bodies of the Organization and to cast a ballot on their behalf.

II. General Assembly: Nomination of the Officers of the 26th session of the General Assembly

6. For the conduct of its business and in accordance with Rule 16 of its Rules of Procedure, 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".
7. If the Assembly follows the tradition of nominating as President the head of delegation of the host country of the 26th session (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), there would not be a post of Vice-President for the region of the Middle East. In that case, the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly will therefore 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.

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 as 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.

8. As of the date of this document, the candidatures of Paraguay (6 June 2025), Bahamas (22 July 2025) and Chile (31 July 2025) for the posts of Vice-President of the General Assembly, have been received at the Secretariat.

III. **Subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly**

Credentials Committee: Appointment of members

9. Rule 13(1) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure 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.

10. 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 for Africa, two for the Americas, one for East Asia and the Pacific, two for Europe, one for the Middle East and one for South Asia) will then elect at its first meeting during the General Assembly session from among themselves a Chair and a Vice-Chair in accordance with Rule 13(2) of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.

11. As of the date of this document, no candidatures from the Commission for the Americas for membership in the Credentials Committee have been received at the Secretariat.

Regional Commissions: Election of Officers

12. 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 the practice followed so far, each Regional Commission should elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its Members for a term of two years, commencing from the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly and ending before the twenty-seventh session.

13. As of the date of this document, the Secretariat has received the nominations from Paraguay (13 November 2023) and the Dominican Republic (24 April 2025 – renewal) for the Chairmanship of the Regional Commission for the Americas for the period 2025-2027. Also, Guatemala presented candidature for one of the two posts of Vice-Chairs of the Commission available.

14. The Secretariat invites Member States from the Americas that wish to submit their candidatures for the vice-chairmanship of the Commissions for the forthcoming biennium to do so in the period leading up to the meeting of their respective Commission. Any candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the meeting of the Commissions will be announced in an addendum to this document.

15. The Regional Commission is called upon to elect its respective Chair and Vice-Chairs accordingly.

World Committee on Tourism Ethics³

16. 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 Tourism⁴, is composed of nine members and three alternates who are appointed by the General Assembly in their personal capacity. The term of office of the members of the WCTE shall be four years.

17. With a view to ensuring the continuity of the work of the Committee, and in accordance with paragraph (c) of the Protocol, the membership of the WCTE is renewed by half every two years. In this regard, **five of the membership positions of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics will be elected** on the occasion of the 26th session of the General Assembly in 2025, including the new Chair. In addition, three new alternate membership positions will be elected during the 26th session of the General Assembly.

18. The UN Tourism Secretariat have issued the call for expressions of interest, with details on how to nominate candidates for the WCTE. Full, Associate and Affiliate members are encouraged to

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

⁴ Resolution 607 (XIX).

nominate candidates to the membership of the WCTE.

IV. Executive Council: Election of Members

Full Members

19. The General Assembly is required to elect, at each of its sessions, one-half of the membership of the Executive Council, in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Statutes of the Organization, which reads as follows:

“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.”

20. Article 15 of the Statutes also stipulates that:

“The term of elected Members shall be four years (...). Election for one-half of the membership of the Council shall be held every two years.”

21. This provision is enlarged upon in Rule 55(4) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, paragraph 4 of which reads:

“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.”

22. Article 14(1) of the Statutes provides that the total number of the Organization's Full Members determines the number of seats on the Council. To achieve, so far as possible, fair and equitable geographical representation, the number of seats per region is calculated on the basis of one seat for every five Members out of the total number of Members in each region.

23. Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly 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 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.”

24. Consequently, in accordance with the number of Full Members per region at the date of this document, the Council may be composed of 34 members in addition to Spain as a permanent member⁵ during the period between the twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly.

25. 17 Full Members will have to be elected to the Council in the ratio of 1 member for every 5 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
TOTAL	<hr/> 17 seats

⁵ Pursuant to Article 14(1) bis of the Statutes, the host State of the headquarters of the Organization shall have a permanent additional seat on the Executive Council which is unaffected by the geographical distribution of seats.

26. At the time of preparation of this document, the following States from the Americas had submitted their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2025-2029:

Americas (3 seats)

1. **Paraguay**, 13 November 2023, new
2. **Perú**, 12 September 2024, new
3. **Bahamas**, 19 February 2025, new
4. **Argentina**, 15 January 2025, renewal
5. **Brasil**, 27 June 2024, renewal
6. **R. Dominicana**, 22 July 2024, renewal

Cuba, submitted candidature on 28 February 2025 which withdrawn through a letter dated 9 April 2025. Also, **Chile**'s candidature submitted on 13 January 2025 was withdrawn on 28 July 2025.

27. Any other candidatures reaching the Secretariat before the date of the meetings of the Regional Commissions will be announced in an addendum to this document.

28. 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".

Associate Members

29. Associate Members, for their part, are requested to nominate their representative to the Executive Council.

Affiliate Members

30. The representative of 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.

V. Subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council: Election of Members

31. 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".

Programme and Budget Committee (0 seats to be filled)⁶

32. 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

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.

⁶ Only for informative purposes. No action is required in the framework of the Regional Commission Meetings.

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.

33. To initiate implementation of this change in the PBC rules, a similar transitional measure was considered necessary regarding the elections of PBC members as was 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).

34. As such, the Executive Council approved the transitional measures proposed for extending the term of four members, namely, whose terms were due to expire from 2025 to 2027, and the proposed division of terms for members elected in 2027.

35. Thereafter, in 2027 it is intended that six members are to be elected, one per region, for a term of two years and another six members are to be elected, also one per region, for a term of four years. Subsequent elections will be for a term of four years.

Committee on Tourism Online Education

36. 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, one Associate Member and One Affiliate Member, appointed on the recommendation of the Regional Commissions.

37. This Committee's mandate is to provide the Executive Council and the Secretary-General with advice and recommendations on education matters.

38. The technical committee should be able to tackle all aspects of the reality of tourism and of the relations between the sector and the global challenges of the world. Therefore, they ensure a diverse and representative participation of the public and private sectors, from national and international levels, as well as representation from the academic institutions that are part of the Tourism Online Academy.

39. 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-eight sessions of the General Assembly, in accordance with the following distribution:

Africa:	2 members
Americas:	2 members
East Asia and the Pacific:	1 member
Europe:	2 members
Middle East:	1 member
South Asia:	1 member

40. The Committee will include one Associate Member, to be designated among them, and one Affiliate Member, a position held by the Chair of the Board of Affiliate Members.

41. As of the date of this document, the candidature of Uruguay to be part of the Committee on Tourism Online Education (CTOE), has been received at the Secretariat, on 29 July 2025.

Technical Committee for the International Code for the Protection of Tourists

42. 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-five \(25\) Member States](#) have adhered to the ICPT. Five (5) of these countries (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay) have already submitted reports on the integration of the ICPT's principles and recommendations at the national level.

43. 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 to promote and monitor the application of the ICPT.

44. The Committee will meet in ordinary session every year. It will adopt, in an appropriate timeframe, the General Report on the adherence and application the ICPT that will be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

45. The Committee will perform, *inter alia*, the following functions:

- i. Considering and recommending potential amendments to the ICPT as a non-legally binding document for approval by the General Assembly;
- ii. Adopting good practices and recommendations for the application of the ICPT and taking any measures it may consider necessary to further the objectives of the ICPT; and
- iii. Considering difficulties and issues arising from the application and interpretation of the ICPT, in consultation with the consultative Group of Experts.

46. The Committee shall be composed of nine Full Members with the right to vote, recommended by the Regional Commissions and appointed by the Executive Council. Only countries having fully adhered to the ICPT may be eligible to participate in said Committee as a Full Member.

47. The Committee shall be composed as follows:

Africa:	2 members
Americas:	2 members
East Asia and Pacific:	1 member
Europe:	2 members
Middle East:	1 member
South Asia:	1 member

48. 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, which will be submitted to the Executive Council for approval in due course.

49. As of the date of this document, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Haiti, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Cuba having fully adhered to the ICPT, and as such, eligible for nomination to the Committee (Chile partially adhered).

50. Costa Rica submitted candidature to be part of this Committee on 30 July 2025.

51. The Regional Commission is called upon to recommend one Member for appointment by the Executive Council subject to the approval of the Terms of Reference and establishment of the Committee by the Executive Council.

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

52. So far, World Tourism Day celebrations have been awarded to:

- 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)

53. 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 beginning in 2006: Europe; South Asia; Americas; Africa; East Asia and the Pacific; and Middle East. In 2025, the Regional Commission Meeting for the Americas and the Commission Meeting for Africa are requested to recommend to the 26th session of the General Assembly host countries for the 2026 and 2027 editions of World Tourism Day.

54. As of the date of this document, El Salvador (25 July 2025) and Argentina (10 July 2025 – received on 29 July) have expressed their willingness to host the World Tourism Day in 2026.