

General Assembly

26th session
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

7-11 November 2025

Agenda item 16**Place and dates of the twenty-seventh session
of the General Assembly**

A/26/16

Madrid, 14 August 2025
Original: English

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**Executive summary**

The General Assembly is requested to decide on the venue and date of its twenty-seventh session.

Within the statutory deadlines, the Secretariat has received the candidature of the Dominican Republic to host the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in 2027.

DRAFT RESOLUTION¹

Agenda item 16

Place and dates of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly
(document A/26/16)

The General Assembly,

Having regard to the provisions of Articles 8(2) and 10 of the Statutes and Rule 1 of its Rules of Procedure,

Thanking the Government of the Dominican Republic for submitting its candidature to host the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly in 2027,

Noting that the candidature of the Dominican Republic has received the sponsorship of at least 10% of the Member States required under the Guidelines for the selection of venues for General Assembly sessions adopted through resolution 631(XX) as communicated by the Secretary-General on [date],

Recalling that acceptance by States of the standard conditions laid out in the model agreement set out in the Annex to document [A/20/5\(II\)\(i\)](#) adopted through resolution 631(XX) is a preliminary requirement for the submission of a valid candidacy to host a General Assembly session in accordance with the above-mentioned Guidelines,

Further recalling that States must undertake to observe the legal framework for the holding of UN Tourism meetings away from Headquarters and provide the conditions established in the above-mentioned model agreement,

Noting that the Government of the Dominican Republic has undertaken in writing to observe the legal framework for the holding of UN Tourism meetings away from Headquarters and provide the conditions established in the above-mentioned model agreement,

Decides to hold its twenty-seventh session in the Dominican Republic in 2027.

¹ 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.

I. Procedure for fixing the place and dates of General Assembly sessions

1. The Articles of the Organization's Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly concerning the place and dates of General Assembly sessions are reproduced below for information:

(a) Article 8(2) of the Statutes:

"Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise."

(b) Article 10 of the Statutes:

"The Assembly shall meet in ordinary session every two years and, as well, in extraordinary session when circumstances require. Extraordinary sessions may be convened at the request of the Council or of a majority of Full Members of the Organization."

(c) Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly:

"1. The Secretary-General shall convene the Assembly in ordinary session every two years at the Organization's Headquarters."

2. The Assembly may meet at another place if it so decides, provided the host country reimburses the extra expenses involved in holding the session."

3. The date of the session shall be fixed by the Assembly or by the Council, if so empowered and notified to the Members of the Organization not less than seven months before it is due to be held."

2. Despite the wording of Article 8(2) of the Statutes, in practice, the Assembly does not meet at the Headquarters of the Organization. Through resolution 631(XX), the Assembly recognized that the practice of geographical rotation of its sessions has greatly contributed to promoting the role of tourism and of the Organization around the world, and adopted the guidelines for the selection of venues of sessions of the General Assembly (hereinafter "the Guidelines") as described in document [A/20/5\(II\)\(i\)](#).

II. Fixing the venue of the 27th session of the General Assembly

3. Pursuant to the Guidelines, in order for a candidature to be eligible the State concerned must fulfil the following requirements before the General Assembly adopts the resolution concerning the place of its next session:
 - (a) Inform the Secretary-General four months before the Assembly that is required to decide on the venue of the session in question,
 - (b) Receive the sponsorship of at least 10% of the Member States, and
 - (c) Undertake in writing to observe the standard conditions laid out in the model agreement.
4. The standard requirements and conditions laid out in the model agreement shall be the subject of an agreement between the government of the host State and the Organization.
5. The model agreement is based on the legal framework governing the holding of UN Tourism meetings away from Headquarters, which is primarily determined by Article 32 of the Statutes, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and its Annex XVIII, as well as relevant resolutions by the General Assembly², and is aligned with the policy of the United Nations in this regard.
6. Failure to apply any of the standards and principles included in the template agreement may expose delegates of Member States and other participants to, *inter alia*, difficulties issuing visas or refusal to enter into the host country, documentation and media materials destined for the meeting being

² A/RES/136(V), A/RES/489(XVI), A/RES/631(XX), A/RES/662(XXI) and A/RES/750(XXIV)

refused free entry or being searched, customs duties being requested, and non-respect by national authorities of official immunity from legal process (e.g., arrest and detention, commencement of lawsuits). It may also expose the Organization to legal and financial liability.

7. Any State willing to host the General Assembly should, before submitting its candidature, become familiar with the standard requirements set out in the model agreement.
8. Unfortunately, the Secretariat often encounters some reluctance to apply the conditions required by the General Assembly for the hosting of its sessions as well as pressure to deviate from the policy established by it and from the consistent policy of the United Nations in this regard. As a result, lengthy negotiations are undertaken, often with the support of the Secretariat of the United Nations, to ensure that the General Assembly instructions are respected by countries having been elected to host the General Assembly of the Organization.
9. Through resolution 750(XXIV), the General Assembly requested States to undertake in writing that they observe the legal framework for the holding of UN Tourism meetings away from Headquarters and provide the provisions established in the model agreement for the hosting the General Assembly pursuant to the Guidelines. To that effect, the Secretariat has developed a model letter for States concerned to incorporate into their candidatures.
10. Should the host country not be in a position to provide the necessary conditions for the hosting of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, in line with his delegated authority pursuant to paragraph (i) of the Guidelines, will adopt any measure as necessary to ensure the proper holding of the session.

III. List of venues of the previous sessions

11. It is recalled that, since its inception, UN Tourism has held its ordinary General Assembly sessions at the following venues:

First session	(1975)	Madrid (Spain)
Second session	(1977)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Third session	(1979)	Torremolinos (Spain)
Fourth session	(1981)	Rome (Italy)
Fifth session	(1983)	New Delhi (India)
Sixth session	(1985)	Sofia (Bulgaria)
Seventh session	(1987)	Madrid (Spain)
Eighth session	(1989)	Paris (France)
Ninth session	(1991)	Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Tenth session	(1993)	Bali (Indonesia)
Eleventh session	(1995)	Cairo (Egypt)
Twelfth session	(1997)	Istanbul (Türkiye)
Thirteenth session	(1999)	Santiago (Chile)
Fourteenth session	(2001)	Seoul (Republic of Korea) / Osaka (Japan)
Fifteenth session	(2003)	Beijing (China)
Sixteenth session	(2005)	Dakar (Senegal)
Seventeenth session	(2007)	Cartagena de Indias (Colombia)
Eighteenth session	(2009)	Astana (Kazakhstan)
Nineteenth session	(2011)	Gyeongju (Republic of Korea)
Twentieth session	(2013)	Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe)

Twenty-first session	(2015)	Medellín (Colombia)
Twenty-second session	(2017)	Chengdu (China)
Twenty-third session	(2019)	Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation)
Twenty-fourth session	(2021)	Madrid (Spain)
Twenty-fifth session	(2023)	Samarkand (Uzbekistan)

IV. Candidatures received for the twenty-seventh session

12. In a letter dated 11 November 2024, the Dominican Republic informed the Secretariat of its candidature to host the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly in 2027 (Annex I).
13. The above candidature is the only official communication received by the Secretariat proposing to host the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
14. On 11 July 2025, the Secretariat informed all Member States through a Note Verbale of the candidature of Dominican Republic to host the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization in 2027.
15. The Dominican Republic has received the sponsorship of at least 10% of the Member States by virtue of the consensus support by the Regional Commission for the Americas as indicated in paragraph 2.3 of the conclusions and recommendations of its 70th meeting (Lima, Peru, 31 July - 1 August 2025).
16. The Secretary-General has transmitted to the aforementioned State the standard requirements for its candidature to be eligible and has shared, in particular, the model agreement, as acceptance of the conditions laid out therein is a preliminary condition for the submission of a valid candidacy pursuant to the Guidelines.
17. The Government of the Dominican Republic submitted a letter dated on 30 June 2025 undertaking to observe the legal framework for the holding of UN Tourism meetings away from Headquarters and provide the conditions established in the model agreement for the hosting of the General Assembly.

Annex I: The Dominican Republic's candidature letter to host the 27th session of the General Assembly



Ministerio de Turismo

RNC-401-03681-9

DESP-EXT-0286-24

*Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
11 de noviembre, 2024*

*Excelentísimo Señor
Zurab Pololikhavili
Secretario General
ONU Turismo
Sus Manos. -*

Su Excelencia Señor Pololikhavili:

Reciba Usted y la Organización Mundial de Turismo un afectuoso saludo desde el Ministerio de Turismo de la República Dominicana.

En nuestra condición de país miembro del Consejo Ejecutivo de ONU Turismo, le externamos, de manera formal, el interés de la República Dominicana de ser sede de la realización de la "XXVII Asamblea General de la Organización Mundial de Turismo", previsto a llevarse a cabo en el año 2027. Para nosotros sería un honor y un gran compromiso que nuestra moción sea bien acogida y que cuente con el respaldo de los demás países miembros.

Su Excelencia, de ser bien recibida nuestra solicitud, tenga la certeza de que al igual que en la recién pasada "Ira Cumbre CAM-CAF" y en los demás eventos de ONU Turismo que han sido realizados en nuestro país, el Gobierno Dominicano estaría abocado a este importante encuentro, poniendo a la disposición, para su buen desarrollo, toda la experiencia, facilidades técnicas y logísticas, de igual manera, la calidez y la hospitalidad de todo un pueblo que estaría feliz de contar con la distinguida presencia de los ministros y jefes de misión que asistan a este importante cónclave.

Con muestra de nuestra más alta estima y distinguida consideración, se despide,

Muy atentamente,

David Collado

Ministro de Turismo de la República Dominicana

