

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS 124th SESSION**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 8 November 2025

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Agenda item 1
Adoption of the agenda
(document CE/124/1 prov. rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Adopts the agenda of its 124th session as proposed.

CE/DEC/2(CXXIV)

Agenda item 3
**Report on the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action and the
Committee on Merit and Excellence**
(document CE/124/3)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decision 12(CXXIII),

Having examined the report on the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action and the Committee on Merit and Excellence,

1. *Takes note* of the Terms of Reference for the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action in Annex I of the report; and
2. *Further takes note* of the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Merit and Excellence under Annex II of the report.

Agenda item 4(a)
Current trends of international tourism
(document A/26/4(a))

The Executive Council,

1. *Welcomes* the report presented by the Secretary-General as well as UN Tourism's continuous monitoring of international tourism trends; and
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue monitoring trends and updating the Members accordingly, welcoming in particular the updates provided by the World Tourism Barometer and the UN Tourism Data Dashboard.

Agenda item 4(b)
Implementation of the General Programme of Work 2024-2025
(documents CE/124/4(b) rev.1 and CE/124/PBC30)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation during the period May-September 2025 of the General Programme of Work of the Organization for 2024-2025,

1. *Takes note* of the activities implemented and the main achievements during the period;
2. *Welcomes* the inclusion of tourism as one of the sectors in focus of the UN Climate Change COP30, to take place in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025;
3. *Authorizes* the use of the UN Tourism name and emblem as listed in Annex I of document CE/124/4(b) rev.1;
4. *Approves* the Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, as presented in Annex II of document CE/124/4(b) rev.1;

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Programme and Budget Committee (CE/124/PBC30),

5. *Endorses* the proposal by Saudi Arabia regarding the Organization's mandate in the field of tourism statistics; and
6. *Submits* it to the General Assembly for approval as part of the Draft Programme of Work 2026-2027 with the following wording:

"Recalling Executive Council paragraphs 11 and 13 of the decision 3(CXXIII) in relation with the Organization's United Nations system-wide mandate in tourism statistics,

Strongly encourages the Secretary-General to strengthen the resources of the Organization in the area of tourism statistics, making the necessary provisions or raising the necessary voluntary contributions, with the objectives of: (1) reaffirming the position of the Organization as the global authoritative source for accurate, timely, and comprehensive tourism statistics, (2) updating the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS) and Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) in close alignment with the international statistical community, and (3) supporting Member States in the effective production, dissemination, and use of high-quality, comparable tourism data including the Measurement of the Sustainability of Tourism (MST), in accordance with the Organization's UN mandate;"

Agenda item 4(c)
Financial situation of the Organization
(documents A/26/4(c), A/26/4(c) Add.1 and CE/124/PBC30)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the reports,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive information contained in document A/26/4(c), its different parts and its annexes and the Programme and Budget Committee report (CE/124/PBC30);

I. Closing of the Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-fourth financial period (2022-2023)

2. *Recalls* its decision CE/DEC/4(CXXIII) requesting the General Assembly to endorse Executive Council decisions CE/DEC/4(CXIX) and CE/DEC/4(CXXI) approving the UN Tourism Audited Financial Statements for the years 2022 and 2023 respectively;
3. *Requests* the General Assembly to approve the UN Tourism Financial Report for the years ended 31 December 2022 and 2023 respectively, as well as the UN Tourism Audited Financial Statements of the twenty-fourth financial period (2022-2023), the budgetary cash balance of the Regular Budget and Working Capital Fund situation for the same period;

II. UN Tourism Financial Report for the period ended 30 September 2025

4. *Approves*, as presented:
 - (a) The revised appropriations of the Regular Budget (RB) at 30 September 2025 (see A/26/4(c) Add.1), taking note that out of the 104 approved RB staff posts 24 are unbudgeted in the biennium 2024-2025,
 - (b) The updated Plan of income and expenditure of the Regular Budget for the financial year 2025 presented by the Secretary-General at 30 September 2025 (see A/26/4(c) Add.1), taking note that budgetary transfers from staff to non-staff categories and among sections (programmes) and parts (major programmes) may be required, and authorizes the Secretary-General to make them if needed within the approved appropriations,
 - (c) The voluntary and in-kind contributions received for the corresponding project implementations for the period ended 30 September 2025 (see A/26/4(c) Add.1), as well the exceptional allocation of unspent balances from completed voluntary contribution projects amounting to EUR 10,700 to another project, and
 - (d) The co-financing projects with UN Tourism and donors' contributions and project support costs and initiative projects movements for the period ended 30 September 2025 (see A/26/4(c) Add.1);
5. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the submission of the interim provisional unaudited UN Tourism Statement of Financial Position at 30 September 2025 and the UN Tourism Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 30 September 2025 (see A/26/4(c) Add.1);
6. *Congratulates* the Secretary-General on the voluntary contributions collected for the period ended 30 September 2025

7. *Thanks* the Members that have made the necessary efforts in order to fulfil their financial obligations, urges Members that have not yet complied with their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2025, and reminds Members to pay their contributions within the time period stipulated by regulation 7(2) of the Financial Regulations;
8. *Supports* the Secretary-General's proactive approach for the settlement of current-year and arrear contributions in order to contribute towards the Organization's programme of work; and

III. Election of the External Auditor for 2026-2027

9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly designate Spain as the External Auditor for the period 2026-2027 for the external audit of the UN Tourism Financial Statements for the years ended 31 December 2025 and 31 December 2026.

Agenda item 4(d)
Human resources report
(document A/26/4(d))

The Executive Council,

Having examined the human resources report A/26/4(d),

1. *Takes note* of the information on the human resources of the Organization;
2. *Endorses* the proposal to upgrade the post of Head, Ethics, Culture and Social Responsibility Department from P.4 to P.5;
3. *Strongly urges* the Member States to submit candidatures to form part of the UN Tourism Staff Pension Committee for the biennium 2026-2027 for designation by the General Assembly;
4. *Takes note* of the UN Tourism Staff Association's activities, priorities, concerns and recommendations in its report for the period from March 2024 to September 2025; and
5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General:
 - (a) To support structured dialogue and consultation with staff, promoting a smooth organizational transition,
 - (b) To promote more balanced leadership to ensure fair recruitment,
 - (c) To recommend clearly distinguishing between temporary projects and the Organization's core permanent functions, and
 - (d) To provide a concrete plan to strengthen staff training and skills development.

Agenda item 4(e)
Draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2026-2027
(documents A/26/4(e) I, A/26/4(e) I RC-1, A/26/4(e) II, and CE/124/PBC30)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decisions 3(CXXIII) and 4(CXXIII),

Having examined the reports of the Secretary-General on the Draft Programme of Work 2026-2027 document A/26/4(e) I and the report on flagship initiatives,

1. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for the comprehensive consultation process with Members for the preparation of the draft Programme of Work and Budget;
2. *Invites* UN Tourism Members and partners to join the flagship initiatives, on a voluntary basis, in order to further strengthen the programme of work of the Organization.

Having examined the Draft Budget for the period 2026-2027 (document A/26/4(e) II),

3. *Takes note with satisfaction and gratitude* of the submission of the detailed information and evidence-based analysis on different scenarios for the 2026-2027 draft Regular Budget;

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Programme and Budget Committee (CE/124/PBC30),

Having taken a vote,

4. *Endorses* the draft Regular Budget of the Organization for the period 2026-2027, as per scenario C of a 2% increase of assessed contributions, for a total amount of EUR 34,193,000 (EUR 16,923,000 in 2026 and EUR 17,270,000 in 2027) and authorizes the Secretary-General to implement it as proposed in accordance with the amounts collected;
5. *Also endorses* that the budgetary income approved for the next biennium, as per scenario C, should be provided by the contributions of the Full and Associate Members in the rounded amounts of EUR 14,902,000 for 2026 and EUR 15,225,000 for 2027, and that the balance to be financed should be covered by the contributions of the Affiliate Members, with the necessary adjustments deriving from any changes in the number of Affiliate Members, and the other sources of funding proposed in this document;
6. *Endorses* the proposed scale of contributions for 2026-2027 as per scenario C (Annex I.3);
7. *Congratulates* the Secretary-General on achieving a 241% increase in Voluntary Contributions over the past years, reaching EUR 11,350,641 for 2024, based on strategic and successful resource mobilization and expansion efforts; and
8. *Further endorses* the Secretary-General's proposal on the assessed contributions of the Affiliate Members as per scenario C including their allocation, the discontinuation of the deductions for specific Members (Ted.Qual members), and the allocation of the new Affiliate Members application fee to be implemented at 1 January 2026 (Annex I.13).

Agenda 4(f)
Membership of the Organization
(documents A/26/6(a) rev.1, A/26/6(b) rev.2, and CE/124/CMAM/8)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the membership status of the Organization (Full Members and Affiliate Members) and the report of the 8th meeting of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership,

1. *Takes note* of the application of Saint Kitts and Nevis to join the Organization.
2. *Decides* to admit provisionally as Affiliate Members the entities recommended by the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership in the CE/124/CMAM/8 report, pending ratification by the General Assembly;

Having examined the report in document A/26/6(b) rev.2 transmitted by the Secretary-General containing updated information on the Members falling under the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and/or paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes,

3. *Endorses* the payment plans presented by Full Members Burundi, Ethiopia and Mauritania;
4. *Recommends* the General Assembly:
 - (a) To decide to continue applying the measure of suspension of rights and privileges provided for in Article 34 of the Statutes as per A/RES/217(VII) paragraph 1(a) and (b) and/or paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes to the Members listed in Annex II.A, if they have not reached an agreement with the Secretary-General on a plan for the payment of their arrears;
 - (b) To decide, in view of their compliance with the agreed payment plans during the period of reference of this document, to renew the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and/or Article 34 of the Statutes to the Full Members Cambodia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Gambia, Turkmenistan, Uruguay and Venezuela;
 - (c) To ratify the payment plans presented and to grant temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and Article 34 of the Statutes to the Full Members Sierra Leone, and Syrian Arab Republic as endorsed by the Executive Council at its 122nd, and 121st sessions, respectively, as well as to Burundi, Ethiopia and Mauritania, as endorsed above;
 - (d) To take note of the formal communication from Full Member Liberia, providing justification for the circumstances beyond the country's control that prevented it from meeting its financial obligations to the Organization, and expresses its appreciation for Liberia's readiness to settle its arrears through an appropriate payment plan,
 - (e) To grant Liberia a temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and Article 34 of the Statutes, in accordance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/162(VI), albeit making it clear that these provisions shall be reapplied to Liberia should it fail to submit a payment plan for the settlement of its arrears by 31 March 2026;

- (f) To also decide to maintain the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes to Full Member Uganda, as well as to Affiliate Member Adventure Travel and Trade Association (ATTA), albeit making it clear that these provisions will be reapplied to these Members if they are not up to date with their payment plans by 1 April 2026;
 - (g) To note with satisfaction that Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Libya and Pakistan are no longer subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules and/or Article 34 of the Statutes, since they have reduced their contribution arrears partially or in full, and
 - (h) To establish the following conditions for the Members requesting temporary exemption from the provisions of Paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes and which propose payment plans to settle their arrears in instalments: (i) to discharge the contribution corresponding to the present year before the General Assembly session at which their case is reviewed, and (ii) strict observance of the plan agreed for the settlement of arrears; and
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Governing Organs about the application of the Assembly's resolutions on these matters and the Members' compliance with the agreements made with a view, as the case may be, to maintaining the temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes or reapplying those provisions to them if they have not fulfilled their commitments.

Agenda item 5
Report on the Regional and Thematic Offices
(document A/26/8 rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decisions [6\(CXXI\)](#), [6\(CXXII\)](#) and [7\(CXXIII\)](#),

Having examined the report on the status of Regional and Thematic Offices and the Final Report of the Working Group (A/26/8 rev.1),

1. *Thanks* the Working Group members, its Chair, Vice-Chair and the Secretariat for the overall work undertaken and takes note of its activities on the review of the Legal and Operational Framework for UN Tourism Offices;
2. *Approves* the Report with the Recommendation on the Legal and Operational Framework for UN Tourism Offices made by the Working Group for the Improvement of the Legal and Operational Framework on the Selection and Establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices, and submits it to the 26th session of the General Assembly for consideration;
3. *Further approves* the revised Legal and Operational Framework on the Selection and Establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices, and submits it to the 26th session of the General Assembly for approval;
4. *Considers* the mandate of the Working Group as completed;
5. *Encourages* the Government of Morocco to complete all remaining procedures required to allow for the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement for the establishment of the Thematic Office on Innovation for Africa in Rabat;
6. *Takes note* of the Agreement between the World Tourism Organization and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay on the interim legal status of the Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo;
7. *Takes note* of the Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the World Tourism Organization on the establishment of the Thematic Office on Tourism on the Silk Road in Samarkand;
8. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue to pursue the consultative and negotiation process with the Government of Uzbekistan on the financial and administrative requirements for the establishment of the Thematic Office on Tourism on the Silk Road in Samarkand in accordance with the legal and operational framework adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 740(XXIV);
9. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Government of China to establish in Shanghai a Regional Office in accordance with the requirements set out in the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UN Tourism Regional Offices adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 740(XXIV)

10. *Takes note* of the comments received at the Secretariat from the Members of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Commission for South Asia (CSA);
11. *Endorses* the proposal of the Government of China and recommends to the General Assembly at its 26th session that it approve the establishment of a Regional Office in Shanghai subject to further discussions at the CAP-CSA Meetings on the roles of the Regional Office in China and the Regional Support Office in Japan, since the application of China complies with the Legal and Operational Framework for UN Tourism Offices;
12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it on the results of such discussions;
13. *Recommends* to the General Assembly at its 26th session to approve, as an interim measure, the Arrangements between the Japan Tourism Agency and the World Tourism Organization concerning the legal and operational framework of the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific; and
14. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to it on the negotiations with the Government of Japan in the reform process of the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with the conditions and criteria applicable to Category I entities pursuant to the mandate received by the General Assembly in its resolution 656(XXI) with a view to integrate it fully into the legal and institutional framework of UN Tourism.

Agenda item 6
Designation of the host countries for World Tourism 2026 and 2027
(document A/26/13)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the observance of World Tourism Day in 2024 and 2025;

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments of Georgia and Malaysia for hosting the official celebrations of World Tourism Day 2024 and 2025, respectively; and

Having taken cognizance of the host countries proposed by the Regional Commission for Americas and the Regional Commission for Africa and the themes proposed by the 123rd session of the Executive Council in its decision 10(CXXIII) for the next two World Tourism Day celebrations,

Recalling that Member States wishing to host a World Tourism Day celebration are requested to provide the conditions established in model agreement adopted through resolution 662(XXI),

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly to designate the following countries to host the official World Tourism Day celebrations in 2026 and 2027, with the respective themes:

2026: El Salvador, “Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to redesign tourism”

2027: Cabo Verde, “Transforming tourism through education”.

CE/DEC/11(CXXIV)

Agenda item 7
Report on the activities of the Executive Council to the General Assembly
(document A/26/9)

The Executive Council,

Having reviewed the draft report on its activities for the General Assembly,

Decides to submit it to the 26th session of the General Assembly as document A/26/9.

Agenda item 8

Proposal by the Dominican Republic: Institutionalization of the UN Tourism Summit for Africa and the Americas (CAM-CAF) and the creation of a Mechanism for South-South cooperation
(document A/26/15 rev.2)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the proposal,

1. *Endorses* the proposal by the Dominican Republic on the institutionalization of the UN Tourism Summit for Africa and the Americas (CAM-CAF) and the creation of a Mechanism for South-South cooperation; and
2. *Submits* it to the General Assembly for approval.

Agenda item 9
Riyadh Declaration on the Future of Tourism
(document A/26/17 rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the Riyadh Declaration on the Future of Tourism,

1. *Takes note* of the Riyadh Declaration on the Future of Tourism and, in particular, the directives contained therein regarding the activation of the AI Impact on Tourism Report and Recommendation Guide; the preparation of a global maturity framework or index for AI and tourism; the Member State adoption and use of the AI Impact on Tourism Report and Recommendation Guide; and the preparation of a Strategic Roadmap on the Future of Tourism;
2. *Takes note* of the reservations expressed by Argentina referring to the Declaration's paragraphs relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
3. *Endorses* the Riyadh Declaration on the Future of Tourism for adoption by the General Assembly;
4. *Notes* that the Strategic Roadmap on the Future of Tourism is not foreseen in the Regular Budget for the biennium 2026-2027, and that its preparation is subject to the receipt of extrabudgetary resources; and
5. *Recommends* the General Assembly to invite Members to contribute financial and in-kind resources to finance the preparation of the Strategic Roadmap on the Future of Tourism.
