



Agenda Item 7

Venue and date of the 53rd meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for the Middle East in 2027

On 16th of June 2025, the Secretariat of the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) received a Note Verbale from the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Spain presenting the candidature of the Republic of Iraq to host the 53rd meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for the Middle East in 2027.

On 9th of July 2025, the Secretariat also received a Note Verbale from H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of the State of Libya presenting their candidature to host the 53rd meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for the Middle East in 2027.

The Regional Commission is called upon to decide on the venue of the 53rd meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for the Middle East in 2027, to be held in Kuwait, on 10th of February 2026.

Accordingly, UN Tourism Secretariat, represented by the Regional Department for the Middle East, has circulated these candidatures to the Middle East Member States.

Important Note on the election of the host countries of the next Meetings of the Regional Commissions and other UN Tourism events

By resolution 662(XXI), the General Assembly explicitly requests Member States wishing to host a UN Tourism meeting to provide the conditions established in the template agreement annexed thereto. This model agreement developed by the Secretariat, on the basis of which host country agreements for the holding of UN Tourism meetings are being concluded with the vast majority of Member States, sets out 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 (related to UN Tourism), as well as relevant resolutions by the General Assembly, and is consistent with the policy of the holding United Nations on the matter.

In line with resolution 750(XXIV) on the procedure for the election of venue for the General Assembly, all Member States submitting their candidature to host the next session of the Regional Commission shall undertake in writing, before the Regional Commission adopts its decision on the venue of its next session, to observe the legal framework for the holding of UN Tourism meetings away from Headquarters and to provide the provisions established in the model agreement.

Should the host country not be in a position, at the time of concluding the agreement, to provide the necessary conditions for the holding of a UN Tourism meeting away from Headquarters, the Secretary-General will then inform the Chair of the Regional Commission so that he or she adopts any measure as necessary to ensure the proper holding of the session, including that it will be held at the Headquarters of the Organization in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

In compliance with the United Nations system's environmental protection policy, the working documents **will not be distributed on paper** at the venue of the event. Therefore, **the delegates are requested to bring with them copies of the documents.**