

Executive Council

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Toledo, Spain

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Agenda item 9
Membership status

CE/126/9(I)
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**Membership of the Organization****Executive summary**

The total number of Member States of the Organization stands at 161.

Contacts to explore membership have been carried out with Dominica, Iceland, Luxembourg and Suriname. Suriname has conveyed its Government's intention to initiate the process of accession to membership in UN Tourism.

The total number of Affiliate Members (AMs) of the Organization is 505. The Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership will propose candidates for provisional admission by the Executive Council at its 126th session.

DRAFT DECISION¹

Agenda item 9
Membership status
(document CE/126/9(I))

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the information provided on the membership status of the Full Members of the Organization,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary-General for her proactive efforts in engaging non-member States in the activities of the Organization and for the progress made with Iceland and Suriname; and
2. *Welcomes* the intention of the Government of Suriname to initiate the process of accession to membership in UN Tourism and encourages the Secretariat of the Organization to work closely with the authorities of the country to complete all procedural requirements to proceed with the formal application for membership.

¹ This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Executive Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of this document is to inform the Executive Council since the 26th session of the General Assembly on the current status and evolution of UN Tourism membership¹, notably on activities undertaken by the Secretariat to encourage non-members to join or re-join the Organization.

II. Full Members of the Organization

2. The Secretariat reports that, as at the date of this document, the total number of Member States stands at 161. By geographical distribution, Member States span six regions as follows:
 - Africa: 51
 - Americas: 27
 - East Asia and the Pacific: 20
 - Europe: 41
 - Middle East: 13
 - South Asia: 9
3. Within the framework of the World Government Summit, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in February 2026, the UN Tourism Secretary-General met with the Prime Minister of Dominica and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of Suriname, who had previously visited the UN Tourism Regional Office for the Americas in Brazil and met with its Director.
4. The Secretary-General received a letter dated 25 March 2026 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of Suriname, conveying the Government's intention to initiate the process of accession to membership in UN Tourism and requesting guidance from the Secretariat regarding the procedural requirements necessary to proceed with the accession process.
5. The Secretariat, through the Regional Department for Europe, reactivated relations with Luxembourg, represented by the Ministry of the Economy, Directorate General for Tourism, and with Iceland, represented by the relevant line ministry and its diplomatic mission in Madrid.
6. The Secretary-General received at the Headquarters of the Organization the Ambassador of Iceland in February 2026, followed by a high-level delegation in April 2026, led by the Minister of Industries and Innovation of Iceland. The meeting with the Minister, with the participation of relevant departments, included both political and technical discussions on concrete membership benefits for the country and the alignment of respective priorities.

III. Affiliate Members of the Organization

7. As of the date of this document, the total number of Affiliate Members (AMs) of the Organization is 505. By country of origin, Spain stands out with more than 20% of the total number of AMs (107), followed by the United States of America (26), Mexico (21), Japan (20) and Saudi Arabia (20).
8. The list of new candidatures for affiliate membership will be considered by Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership at its 9th meeting to be held on 10 June 2026 in Toledo, Spain. See document CE/126/CMAM/9. The Committee will then propose candidates for provisional admission by the Executive Council at its 126th session.

¹ Associate Membership has not varied for years. The following territories are UN Tourism Associate Members: Aruba, Flanders, Hong Kong (China), Macao (China), Madeira (Portugal) and Puerto Rico.