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Agenda item 12**Report on the Regional and Thematic Offices**

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**Status of UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices****Executive summary**

Further to document CE/126/12, the present document informs the Executive Council about the updated status of the consultations held with the members of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Commission for South Asia (CSA) concerning the distribution of roles between RSOAP and the Regional Office in Shanghai, pursuant to resolution 785(XXVI) of the General Assembly.

DRAFT DECISION¹

Agenda item 12
Report on the Regional and Thematic Offices
(document CE/126/12 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the status of the Regional and Thematic Offices, as well as Addendum 1 thereto,

(...)

~~6. Takes note of the progress made in the consultations with the Governments of China and Japan regarding the distribution of roles between the Regional Office approved in principle for Shanghai and the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in Japan; [to be deleted]~~

~~7. Requests the Secretariat to submit to the Executive Council, when available, the result of the consultation requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 785(XXVI) to the joint meetings of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Commission for South Asia (CSA) on the distribution of roles; [to be deleted]~~

11. Requests the Secretariat to continue discussions ~~with the Government of China on the legal, financial and administrative arrangements for the proposed Regional Office in Shanghai and with the Government of Japan on the reform of the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific, and to report periodically to the Executive Council on progress made.~~ **[to be replaced by the following]**

12. *Takes note* of the results of the consultations held with the members of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Commission for South Asia (CSA), pursuant to resolution 785(XXVI) of the General Assembly, regarding the distribution of roles between the Regional Office approved in principle for Shanghai and the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in Japan;

[Option 1]

13. *Considers* that the consultations requested by the General Assembly in resolution 785(XXVI) have been completed;

14. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to prepare, finalize and sign, in collaboration with the Government of China, the Host Country Agreement for the establishment of the Regional Office in Shanghai, provided that it is in full compliance with the legal and operational framework governing UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 785(XXVI);

[Option 2]

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.

13. *Requests* that further discussions be held with the members of the CAP-CSA on the distribution of roles between the Regional Office approved in principle for Shanghai and the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in Japan;
14. *Requests* the Secretariat and the Government of China to continue with the preparation of the legal, financial and administrative arrangements for the establishment of the Regional Office in Shanghai, in accordance with the legal and operational framework adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 785(XXVI);
15. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Executive Council at its next session on the progress made.

I. Consultations in the CAP-CSA – distribution of roles of the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in Nara and the Regional Office in Shanghai

1. Further to the information contained under sections II.D (China – Regional Office) and III (Reform of the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific) of document [CE/126/12](#), the Secretariat circulated on 29 May 2026, through Note Verbale, the proposals received from both Japan and China concerning the intended distribution of the roles between the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (RSOAP) and the Regional Office in Shanghai to the members of the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Regional Commission for South Asia (CSA).
2. Through the same Note Verbale, the Secretariat invited the Members of CAP and CSA to examine the proposals and provide comments, if any, by 4 June 2026 at 18:00 (CET).
3. Within the deadline, comments were received from **China**, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Japan**. The comments are reproduced in Annex I to the present document.
4. The present addendum is submitted in response to the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 785(XXVI) that the Secretary-General report to the Executive Council on the results of the discussions concerning the distribution of roles between the Regional Office in Shanghai and the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in Japan.
5. The Executive Council may wish to take note of the outcome of the consultations and is therefore invited to:
 - (a) Consider the consultation process as completed and authorize the Secretary-General to prepare, finalize and sign, in collaboration with the Government of China, the Host Country Agreement for the establishment of the Regional Office in Shanghai, provided that it is in full compliance with the legal and operational framework governing UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 785(XXVI); or
 - (b) Request that further discussions be held with the members of CAP and CSA on the distribution of roles between the Regional Office in China and Regional Support Office in Japan.

Annex I: Comments received from CAP-CSA members on the proposals submitted by Japan and China on the distribution of roles between the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific and the proposed Regional Office in Shanghai

A.China

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China would like to thank the Secretariat for the substantial work undertaken and hereby agrees to the proposals of the distribution of roles of the UN Tourism Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Shanghai, and the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific in Nara.

It is our belief that upon its establishment, the Regional Office in Shanghai will support the work of the Secretariat, serve member states across the Asia-Pacific region, and make new contributions to the prosperous development of tourism in the region.

B.Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran agrees, in principle, with the proposed mandates and area of work for both offices. We believe that strengthened cooperation and direct engagement with these regional institutions can play an important role in supporting sustainable tourism, enhancing regional cooperation, and fostering greater resilience across the Asia-Pacific region.

In this regard, we would like to suggest the following areas of cooperation:

- 1- UN Tourism Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific(Shanghai, China):
 - Capacity-building initiatives for tourism stakeholders and local communities;
 - Strengthening tourism governance and destination management practices;
 - Smart tourism, digital transformation, and innovation in the tourism sector;
 - Sustainable tourism development and environmental conservation.
- 2- Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific(Nara, Japan):
 - Tourism resilience and crisis management, particularly in response to natural disasters and climate-related changes;
 - Social sustainability and community-based tourism development;
 - Human resource development, professional training, and educational cooperation in tourism.

We believe that cooperation in these areas would contribute meaningfully to the achievement of shared regional tourism objectives and would welcome opportunities for future collaboration.

C.Japan

Japan would like to express its appreciation to the UN Tourism Secretariat for its efforts to advance coordination regarding the distribution of roles between the existing Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (RSOAP) and the Regional Office in Shanghai to be established in the near future.

As for the distribution of roles between the regional offices, in line with the Resolution (785(XXVI)) adopted in the 26th General Assembly (2025) , and in order to fully take account of the views of the Member States of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Commission for South Asia (CSA), we kindly request the Secretariat to ensure due process regarding this matter and the opportunity to be provided for “further discussions at the CAP-CSA Meetings”.

Japan firmly believes that, for the further development of tourism in the Asia-Pacific region, it is vital for RSOAP and the Regional Office in Shanghai to work together on an equal footing in a mutually complementary and cooperative manner.

Japan would like to take this opportunity to look back on the historical—yet still significant—developments surrounding RSOAP: Prior to the establishment of the Regional Office in Japan (RSOAP), Japan conducted presentation at the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO commission for South Asia in 1993, and then the Regional Commissions jointly decided to “recommend to the Executive Council that the Regional office should be located in the territory of Japan”.

This decision was subsequently endorsed by the 1993 Executive Council Decision, the 1993 General Assembly Resolution 305 and the 1993 General Assembly Resolution 319, and the Office was officially established in 1995. The 2021 General Assembly Resolution 740 also explicitly recognizes the RSOAP as “the first Regional Office” of the UN Tourism.

Japan will continue to support the activities of RSOAP and, in cooperation with the Member States of the region including China, remain committed to contributing to the even more flourishing tourism in the region.