UN Tourism

127 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
23-25 November 2026

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1 Place and dates of the session

In accordance with decision CE/DEC/14(CXXVI), the **127th session of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization will take place in the United Arab Emirates.**

The session will be held from 23 to 25 November 2026 at the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Abu Dhabi.

2 Contact information of the organizing committee

UN Tourism coordinator

Ms. Yolanda Sansegundo
Programme Coordinator
Conference Services
council@untourism.int

Host-country coordinator

Mr. Mohammed AlAbabi
Director of Tourism Department
Ministry of Economy and Tourism
tourism@moet.gov.ae

3 Official website

All official documents will be made available on the UN Tourism website.

In light of the United Nations mandate to promote sustainability, UN Tourism is strengthening its efforts towards environmental sustainability by implementing paperless events and conferences.

Delegates are kindly requested to take note that the working documents will not be distributed on paper at the venue of the event. Participants are encouraged to bring their own electronic devices to access the working documents during the session.

The documents for the session will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages will be provided at the plenary sessions.

4 Programme

The provisional programme and other documentation for the session will be available on the Council's website.

The Executive Council will hold its meetings from 23 to 25 November 2026 when the provisional agenda for the session is to be examined by the Members.

The following subsidiary organs will also meet in the framework of the 127th Executive Council:

- Programme and Budget Committee
- Affiliate Members Board
- Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership
- Steering Committee of the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027

For the use of the bilateral meeting room at the venue from 23 to 25 November 2026, please contact council@untourism.int

5 International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027

Participants are invited to attend the Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027, to be held on 27 November 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The ceremony will mark the launch of this important global initiative and provide an opportunity to highlight tourism's contribution to sustainable development and resilience. Several direct flight connections between the United Arab Emirates and Tashkent are available, facilitating travel for delegates attending the ceremony.

Further information, including registration details and the provisional programme, is available on the official website of the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027.

6 Registration

Registration for the Executive Council session will be carried out online until 2 November 2026. The registration form is available on the UN Tourism website.

The online registration platform will be collecting all necessary information regarding the participation in the conference, visa information and technical visits.

Access to the areas set aside for the Executive Council will be restricted exclusively to the participants wearing the corresponding accreditation. Participants can collect their accreditations at the registration desk located at Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental Hotel from 22 to 25 November 2026. Detailed information on how to pick up the accreditation will be communicated at a later stage.

To collect their accreditation, participants must have received a registration confirmation email.

Accreditations are issued to specific individuals and are not transferable. Participants should always keep their accreditation and personal ID with them during their stay. The accreditation is the only document that identifies individuals as participants of the Executive Council and provides access to the venues of the different events.

7 Transportation

Participants will be provided with transportation upon arrival and departure between the airport and the main hotels, the venue and other designated locations within the agenda during the event. Airport transportation services will be provided from 22 to 26 November 2026.

To enable the authorities to properly organize the welcome and shuttle services, participants must complete and submit the **online registration form** indicating their arrival and departure flight information and their accommodation details, before 2 November 2026.

A detailed schedule of shuttle services for local transportation will be provided in due course and will be available at the official hotels.

Local transportation of delegation members will be provided between Zayed International Airport in Abu Dhabi and Dubai International Airport (DXB) and the hotels indicated in section 7.

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Accommodation

A limited number of rooms at preferential rates are available, subject to availability and based on each hotel terms and conditions.

Participants are encouraged to process their reservations at their earliest convenience.

Hotel	Room type	Rate/night (VAT & breakfast included)	Booking Link and Contact	Distance from the meeting venue
Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental *****	Deluxe Room	AED 3,960 net	**Code: MET@MO2026** **Book at:** Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental **Contact:** MOAUH-Reservations@mohg.com	**Executive Council session venue**
	Sea View Room	AED 4,505 net		
	Club Room	AED 5,820 net		
	Sea View Suite	AED 7,905 net		
	Panoramic View Suite	AED 8,895 net		
	One-Bedroom Palace Suite	AED 9,390 net		
Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers *****	All room types	Discount 20% on best available room	**Book at:** Conrad Abu Dhabi Etihad Towers **Contact:** Khalid Hassan Director of Sales +971 2 811 5581 +971 55 100 0421 Khalid.Hassan@ConradHotels.com	5 minutes
Rixos Marina Abu Dhabi *****	Deluxe Room	Single: AED 1,250 / Double: AED 1,350	**Contact:** Romulo Romero +971 2498 0000 +971 54 206 3271 romulo.romero@rixos.com	7 minutes
	Premium Room	Single: AED 1,450 / Double: AED 1,500		
	One Bedroom Suite	AED 3,500		
	Two Bedroom Suite	AED 4,500		
	Presidential Suite	AED 8,500		
	Royal Suite	AED 11,000		
Khalidiya Palace Rayhaan by Rotana* ***** *For the Rotana hotels, rates are available for booking until 31 October 2026, subject to availability.	Guest Room – King Bed	AED 775 BB Single / AED 825 BB Double	**Code: UNTEC26** **Book at:** Khalidiya Palace Rayhaan by Rotana Sales Rotana Hotel Management Corporation PJSC +971 2699 4352 +971 50 668 5143 roy.simes@rotana.com	4 minutes
	Guest Room with Balcony	AED 825 BB Single / AED 875 BB Double		

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Entry formalities

All participants are responsible for ensuring that they hold the travel documentation required for entry into the United Arab Emirates. Delegates are strongly encouraged to verify their individual visa requirements as early as possible and, in any event, well in advance of travel, in order to allow sufficient time for any application to be processed before the opening of the session on 23 November 2026.

Entry requirements are determined solely by the competent authorities of the United Arab Emirates and are subject to change without prior notice. Participants should therefore confirm their status against the official sources indicated below before making travel arrangements.

Entry categories

For the purposes of entry into the United Arab Emirates, participants fall into one of the following three categories:

- Nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States, who do not require a visa or a sponsor and may enter upon presentation of a passport issued by a GCC State or a national identity card at any UAE port of entry.
- Nationals of countries exempt from a pre-entry visa, who are granted an entry visa on arrival at any UAE port of entry, in accordance with the arrangements described below.
- Nationals of countries requiring a visa prior to arrival, who must obtain a visa before travelling, in accordance with the procedure described below.

Visa on arrival

The United Arab Emirates grants a visa on arrival to nationals of a substantial number of countries, who are exempt from the requirement to obtain a visa prior to entry. The visa is issued free of charge at the port of entry upon presentation of a valid passport, and the period of validity granted—commonly 30 or 90 days depending on nationality—is determined by the competent UAE authorities.

Certain nationalities qualify for a visa on arrival on a conditional basis, subject to holding a valid visa or residence permit issued by a designated third country.

The consolidated and authoritative list of nationalities exempt from a pre-entry visa is maintained by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and is available here.

Further information on entry visas, categories, validity periods and conditions of eligibility is published by the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security (ICP), here.

As these lists are periodically updated, participants are requested to consult them directly rather than rely on earlier guidance.

Participants requiring a visa prior to arrival

Participants whose nationality is not covered by the visa-on-arrival arrangements must obtain an entry visa before travelling to the United Arab Emirates. Such participants are requested to contact directly the nearest Embassy or Consulate of the United Arab Emirates in their country of residence, which will advise on the applicable visa category, the supporting documents required and the processing time.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, participants in this category are requested to complete the visa section of the online registration form by **2 November 2026,** indicating their full passport details as they appear in their travel document. The host country authorities will use this information to support visa applications where required. Delegates are advised to initiate the visa process no later than six weeks before their date of travel.

Electronic visa (eVisa)

Nationals of a number of countries may apply for an entry visa electronically, without the need to visit an Embassy or Consulate in person. Applications are submitted through the official channels of the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security at https://icp.gov.ae/en/ or through the smart services application of the Authority. Applicants are required to upload a scanned copy of the passport data page, a recent photograph and any supporting documents indicated during the application process.

Participants are advised to apply exclusively through the official channels referred to above, or through their airline where an authorized visa facility is offered, and to avoid unofficial intermediaries. Processing times vary according to nationality and the completeness of the application; delegates should therefore apply as early as possible and, in any event, no later than six weeks before their date of travel. The eVisa should be printed and carried together with the passport for presentation at the port of entry.

Holders of diplomatic, service and official passports

The United Arab Emirates has concluded bilateral visa-exemption arrangements with a large number of States in respect of holders of diplomatic, service and official passports. Delegates travelling on such a passport are therefore requested to verify, through their Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest Embassy or Consulate of the United Arab Emirates, whether an exemption applies to them before initiating a visa application.

Where no exemption applies, or where confirmation cannot be obtained in time, requests for diplomatic or official visas should be submitted through diplomatic channels by the Permanent Mission or Embassy of the Member State concerned, addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.

Delegations are requested to indicate in their request that the travel is undertaken for the purpose of attending the 127th session of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization.

Passport validity

All participants, irrespective of category, must hold a passport valid for at least six months from the date of entry into the United Arab Emirates. Travel documents with a shorter remaining validity may result in refusal of entry.
Any enquiries about visas can be sent to the following contacts:

United Arab Emirates

tourism@moet.gove.ae
RElkhawas@economy.ae

UN Tourism

Ms. Ilenia García-Riaño
Protocol Section
igarcia@untourism.int



10 Submission of credentials and identification papers

With a view to ensuring a smooth verification process, the Member States of the Executive Council are kindly requested to submit their credentials electronically to the Secretariat no later than 10 days before the opening of the session.

A scanned copy of the credentials should be sent to Ms. Ilenia García-Riaño, UN Tourism Protocol Section, at igarcia@untourism.int.

The originals must be submitted to the Secretary-General at least one day before the opening of the Council session.

Only credentials from Heads of State or Heads of Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Ministers responsible for tourism of the respective State or his/her equivalent will be regarded as valid credentials. Only formal letters or faxes bearing the signature of the competent authority are considered valid. A model credentials letter and the format for proxy letters are available on the web page of the Executive Council session.

Only duly accredited delegates shall be authorized to exercise the right to vote and to take the floor at the meetings of the Executive Council.

11 List of participants

A provisional list of participants will be available for consultation in advance at the UN Tourism website.

The final list of participants will be completed on the basis of the data entered in the registration forms and it will be posted on the UN Tourism website shortly after the closure of the Council session.



12 Side visits

The Ministry of Economy and Tourism of the United Arab Emirates, in its capacity as host country, will organize a programme of side visits for participants, showcasing the Emirate of Abu Dhabi's cultural, heritage and tourism assets. Participation is optional and offered at no cost to registered delegates, subject to the number of available places.

Delegates wishing to take part are requested to indicate their interest in the corresponding section of the online registration form by **2 November 2026.** Places will be allocated in order of registration.

The social programme and the side visits will be updated accordingly and communicated to participants in due course and will also be published on the session's website.

13 Safety and security

The competent authorities of the host country will put in place comprehensive security arrangements at the meeting venue. Participants are nevertheless requested to observe the standard precautions set out below and to comply at all times with the instructions of the security personnel on site.

Emergency numbers

- Police: 999
- Medical emergencies (ambulance): 998
- Fire and civil defence: 997
- Coastguard: 996
- Abu Dhabi Police non-emergency hotline (Aman): 8002626

Health care service

A medical team and a first-aid point will be available at the meeting venue throughout the session to assist registered delegates requiring attention. Delegates in need of assistance should approach the nearest member of staff or the registration desk.

Abu Dhabi has an extensive network of hospitals and clinics offering services to international standards. Participants requiring hospital treatment will be referred to the nearest appropriate facility. For list of hospitals, kindly visit this link.

Medical treatment in the United Arab Emirates is provided on a fee-paying basis. Participants are therefore strongly advised to obtain international travel and medical insurance valid in the United Arab Emirates for the full duration of their stay, covering medical treatment and repatriation.

Delegates travelling with prescription medication are advised to carry it in its original packaging together with a copy of the medical prescription, as certain substances are subject to restrictions under UAE law. Where necessary, prior approval should be sought from the Ministry of Health and Prevention before travel.

Access to the venue and personal property

Access to the meeting venue is restricted to participants displaying valid accreditation, in accordance with section 5. Delegates should be prepared for security screening on entering the venue. Participants are responsible for their personal belongings and are advised not to leave laptops, documents or valuables unattended; safe-deposit facilities are available in the official hotels.

General precautions

Participants are requested to respect local laws, customs and cultural sensitivities during their stay. Any incident, loss or security concern should be reported without delay to the security personnel on site, to the host-country coordinator or to the UN Tourism Safety and Security Coordinator indicated below.

Contacts

UN Tourism Safety and Security Coordinator
Name: Antonio Garcia
Cell: +34 699976040

Host-country security focal point
Ministry of Economy and Tourism
Name: Mohammad Murshid AlShehhi
Tel.: +971506900668



14 Practical information

Official language: Arabic is the official language of the United Arab Emirates. English serves as an informal second language in the country and is spoken by a large section of its society.

Local time: The official time in United Arab Emirates is GMT + 4 hours

Weather: The UAE has an arid desert climate characterized by two main seasons: a long, extremely hot summer from June to September, and a mild, pleasant winter from December to March. Summers often see temperatures exceed 40°C with high humidity, while winters offer comfortable averages of 18°C to 24°C

Electricity: Electrical sockets in United Arab Emirates usually supply electricity at 230V. Electrical plugs are of types G, D and C, with the three-pin type G being the most common. Delegates are advised to bring a universal travel adaptor.

Credit cards, shopping and tipping: Debit and credit cards are widely accepted and there are ATMs throughout the city. The vast majority of establishments accept payment for goods and services with a credit card. Major credit cards, such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express, are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and stores throughout the country.

The United Arab Emirates imposes an indirect tax of 5% (VAT) on all goods and services purchased and sold by enterprises.

The concept of tipping is directly related to customer satisfaction regarding the treatment received. Tipping continues to be considered in its original meaning as being “voluntary” and at the discretion of the consumer.

Currency and banking: The currency in the United Arab Emirates is the UAE dirham (AED). Authorized money changers are available at the airport and near the event venue. Delegates can also withdraw AED through automated teller machines (ATMs), which are widely available throughout Abu Dhabi, including at Zayed International Airport, the official hotels, and the meeting venue.

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Tourism information

The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates—Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah—each offering a distinct combination of cultural heritage, natural landscapes and contemporary attractions. Participants wishing to extend their stay before or after the session are encouraged to consult the official sources listed below.

Federal level

Ministry of Economy and Tourism — Tourism: www.moet.gov.ae/en/explore-the-uae

Official tourism websites of the Emirates

- Abu Dhabi (host emirate) — Experience Abu Dhabi
- Dubai — Visit Dubai
- Sharjah — Visit Sharjah
- Ajman — Visit Ajman
- Umm Al Quwain — Visit Umm Al Quwain
- Ras Al Khaimah — Visit Ras Al Khaimah
- Fujairah — Fujairah Tourism

Additional information on the host emirate, including cultural landmarks, museums and guided experiences, will be made available to participants at the registration desk.

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