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Agenda item 6
Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Council

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Conclusions of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council since its 126th session

Executive summary

Since the 126th session of the Executive Council, held on 10 and 11 June in Toledo, three subsidiary bodies of the Council have convened a meeting, namely the Technical Committee on Tourism Online Education, the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action, and the Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists.

In addition, the following committees will hold meetings on 23 November 2026 in Abu Dhabi, in the framework of the 127th session of the Executive Council and will report to the Council: the Programme and Budget Committee and the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership.

UN Tourism

DRAFT DECISION[1]

Agenda item 6
Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Council
(documents CE/127/6, TCTOE/8/minutes, IWGCA/3/minutes, CE/127/PBC31 and CE/127/CMAM/10)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Council,

1. *Thanks* the members of the different subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council for their active engagement, valuable contributions, and efforts towards the concrete results achieved;

2. *Approves in principle* the recommendation of the Technical Committee on Tourism Online Education to extend the joint degree programme with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts to a total duration of 10 years, until 2034, and to update the name of the programme to "Bachelor of Science in International Sustainable Tourism Management" to better reflect its management component, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph below;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to negotiate, finalize and sign the corresponding amendment, including any further amendments necessary to safeguard the Organization's legal, financial and operational interests, subject to compliance with the Organization's legal framework and completion of the applicable internal review and clearance procedures;

4. *Approves* the Rules of Procedure of the Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists as presented in Annex I;

5. *Takes note* of the information and recommendations provided by the aforementioned subsidiary bodies; and

6. *Encourages* members of the subsidiary bodies to proactively continue their work within their mandates, make further substantive contributions to the overall work and outputs of the technical committees, and to actively participate and support the committees by providing input to their endeavours.

[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. As per Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, any resolutions, recommendations or other formal decisions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Members of the Organization.

2. This document reports on conclusions drawn by the subsidiary bodies of the Council since the 126th session of the Executive Council held on 10 and 11 June 2026. Since that session, three subsidiary bodies of the Council have convened a meeting, namely:

   (a) the Technical Committee on Tourism Online Education, which met on 23 September 2026,

   (b) the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action, which met on 7 and 8 October 2026, and

   (c) the Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, which met on 3 November 2026.

3. In addition, the following committees will meet on 23 November 2026 in Abu Dhabi, in the framework of the 127th session of the Executive Council and will report to the Council:

   - Programme and Budget Committee
   - Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership

II. Committees

A. Technical Committee on Tourism Online Education

4. The 8th session of the Technical Committee on Tourism Online Education, held on 23 September 2026, reviewed the significant progress achieved by UN Tourism in advancing tourism education during 2026, reaching more than 67,000 learners through the Online Academy, awarding over 4,250 scholarships during the 2025-2026 period, expanding AI-powered learning initiatives via WhatsApp, and advancing the development of international tourism academies, particularly the International Academy of Samarkand. These achievements form part of a broader educational strategy covering secondary education, higher education, executive training, online learning, quality assurance, and capacity-building initiatives.

5. The meeting also focused on strengthening collaboration with Affiliate Members and academic institutions. Participants explored opportunities for joint training programmes, MOOCs, TedQual certification, research cooperation, academic mobility, and capacity-building activities. Committee members highlighted the importance of enhancing communication and visibility of UN Tourism's educational initiatives and improving information-sharing on programme outcomes. The International Academy of Samarkand and the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation of Uzbekistan presented their activities and expressed interest in expanding international cooperation in tourism education, scholarships, and knowledge exchange.

6. Among the key decisions adopted, the Committee recommended the extension until 2034 of the agreement of the joint degree programme with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and to update the name of the programme to "Bachelor of Science in International Sustainable Tourism Management" to better reflect its management component. This entails no financial implications for the Organization. On the contrary, the Organization receives a yearly amount of **EUR 20,000 annually for its coordination role**, representing an estimated **EUR 100,000 over the proposed five-year extension**. In addition, the Agreement establishes a **revenue-sharing model under which UN Tourism is entitled to 50% of the programme's net profits**, subject to its financial performance. The programme is currently within its initial five-year start-up phase and has not yet reached financial break-even. In 2025, the programme generated **CHF 810,789.15 in total revenues**, including tuition fees and public contributions from the Swiss government. However, these revenues were offset by personnel, development, infrastructure and operational costs, resulting in a **net financial deficit of CHF 302,393.54**. The programme

therefore remains below break-even, with no distributable profits recorded for 2025. Nevertheless, the programme experienced nearly 50% growth in student enrolment, indicating positive development during its initial five-year implementation phase.

Consequently, the fixed coordination contribution provides EUR 160,000 from 2026 to 2034. **Specifically, the fixed coordination contribution provides EUR 100,000 over the five-year extension, any additional revenue from profit-sharing remains conditional on the programme achieving profitability**. The total financial return could therefore exceed EUR 160,000, although any reliable projection of future profit-sharing revenues would require further financial forecasts and evidence of the programme reaching break-even.

7. The programme was launched in September 2024 as a three-year bachelor's degree. Since the current agreement expires in 2029, it would not provide sufficient legal coverage for cohorts starting in the following years, including the cohort beginning in September 2027, which would complete the programme in 2030. The proposed extension to 2034 is therefore intended to ensure continuity and legal certainty for future cohorts, students, partners and scholarship providers.

8. The proposed amendment remains under internal review. Subject to the approval of the Executive Council, it will be finalized and submitted to the Secretary-General for approval and signature following completion of the applicable internal review and clearance procedures. The amendment must comply with the Organization's legal framework and incorporate any further provisions necessary to protect its legal, financial and operational interests.

9. The Committee also endorsed the allocation of 2,000 UN Tourism Online Academy scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year, distributed across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas. In addition, members supported the introduction of enhanced mechanisms to improve the promotion, monitoring, and impact assessment of scholarships, including greater involvement of Member States and more systematic evaluation of beneficiaries' achievements.

III. Working Groups

A. Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action

10. The Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action held its 3rd meeting online across two sessions on 7 and 8 October 2026, accommodating multiple time zones. A total of 18 Member States participated, representing Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and including Brazil (Chair) and the Maldives (Vice Chair).

11. Discussions centred on preparations for the Tourism Thematic Day at COP31 (18 November 2026, Antalya, Türkiye), hosted in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), and encompassing high level events in the Blue Zone focused on policy, zero waste, electrification, resilience, and investment, as well as panel discussions in the Green Zone.

12. The Working Group reviewed progress on the implementation of its approved Work Plan 2026–2027. Key initiatives highlighted include:

    (a) Dissemination of free online courses developed by Booking.com in collaboration with UN Tourism, which are available in the Online Tourism Academy, as follows:

    - Your Journey to More Sustainable Energy Management
    - Your Journey to More Sustainable Food Management
    - Your Journey to More Sustainable Water Management
    - Your Journey to More Sustainable Community Engagement

    (b) Technical webinar on Measuring Tourism Emissions to present the insights from Brazil's first Tourism GHG Inventory.

(c) Strategic review of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism to enhance greater engagement by National Tourism Administrations, businesses and civil society;

(d) Formulation of the 2040 Impact Roadmap for Sustainable Food Systems in Tourism under the Tourism Food for Good initiative, with an initial pilot in Cabo Verde in 2027.

(e) Finalization of a report and forthcoming technical exchange on climate adaptation for snow-based and mountain tourism destinations, led by Switzerland.

13. Member States shared national updates and practical climate solutions, including financing mechanisms for MSMEs (Costa Rica), resource efficiency and renewable microgrids (The Gambia, South Africa), electric mobility and protected area conservation (Kenya), regenerative approaches (Brazil), climate-aligned master planning and marine protection (Maldives), and post-conflict environmental recovery through tourism (Ukraine). The Philippines highlighted opportunities to link climate action with the upcoming International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027. The next formal meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

B. Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT)

14. The Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT Technical Committee), established by the Executive Council at its 123rd, 124th and 125th sessions through decisions 3(CXXIII), 4(CXXIV) and 3(CXXV), respectively, held its first meeting on 3 November 2026.

15. Following a presentation of ICPT's objectives, scope and current relevance, the ICPT Technical Committee adopted its Rules of Procedure by consensus. The adopted Rules of Procedure, as set out in Annex I are hereby submitted to the Executive Council for adoption. In accordance with Rule 16(1) thereof, the Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Executive Council.

16. Regarding the election of the Chair and Vice Chair, no candidatures were submitted for the position of Chair. The United Arab Emirates was elected Vice-Chair for a two-year term and will assume the functions of the Chair until a Chair is elected at a subsequent meeting.

17. The Committee agreed to hold its second meeting in March 2027, in a virtual private session. The main items on the agenda will include consideration of the provisional list of Observers, the proposed composition of the Consultative Group of Experts, as well as the consideration initial and periodic reports submitted by States adhering to the Code. The Secretariat will follow up with the relevant Member States regarding any outstanding reports.

18. The Committee will continue to report on its work and progress to the Executive Council. In particular, an update on the implementation and status of the initial reports submitted by States adhering to the Code, together with the relevant lists of Observers and members of the Consultative Group of Experts, will be submitted to the Executive Council, as appropriate.

IV. Committee meetings in the framework of the 127th session of the Council

19. The 32nd meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) will be held on 23 November 2026 before the 127th session of the Executive Council. Under the chairmanship of Peru and vice-chairmanship of Switzerland, the Committee will review all documents related to the Budget and the Programme of Work of the Organization before consideration by the Council.

20. The 10th meeting of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership (CMAM) will also be held on 23 November 2026, before the Council's session. Under the chairmanship of Argentina, the Committee will review, validate, and recommend to the Council to provisionally admit entities, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(g) of the Charter of Affiliate Membership, pending ratification by the General Assembly at its 27th session.

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Annex I: Rules of Procedure of the Technical Committee for the International Code for the Protection of Tourists

Preamble

I. The International Code for the Protection of Tourists was adopted by the General Assembly of UN Tourism at its twenty-fourth session through Resolution 732(XXIV).

II. Pursuant to Section D of Chapter Five of the Code, a technical committee subsidiary to the Executive Council of UN Tourism shall assist the Secretary-General in promoting, monitoring and advancing the effective application of the Code by States and other stakeholders having adhered thereto.

III. By decision 3(CXXIII), adopted at its 123rd session, the Executive Council welcomed the establishment of the Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, and requested the Secretariat to prepare its Terms of Reference for approval by the Executive Council.

IV. By decision 4(CXXIV), adopted at its 124th session, the Executive Council approved the Terms of Reference of the Committee, establishing its composition, functions and working modalities.

V. These Rules of Procedure are adopted pursuant to Rules 8 and 32 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council and shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the Code, the approved Terms of Reference of the Committee and the applicable UN Tourism Rules and Regulations.

VI. For the purposes of these Rules, the terms “UN Tourism”, “Committee” and “Code” shall mean, respectively, the World Tourism Organization, the Technical Committee of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists and the International Code for the Protection of Tourists.

I. COMPOSITION AND PARTICIPATION

Rule 1 – Composition of the Committee

I. The Committee shall be composed of:

(a) Nine Full Members having fully adhered to the Code, appointed by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the Regional Commissions for a term of four years, with the right to vote, distributed as follows:

- Africa: two Members;
- Americas: two Members;
- East Asia and the Pacific: one Member;
- Europe: two Members;
- Middle East: one Member; and
- South Asia: one Member.

(b) One Associate Member having fully adhered to the Code, designated from among the Associate Members for a term of four years, without the right to vote;

(c) One Affiliate Member having committed to the Code, designated in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Affiliate Members, without the right to vote.

II. Each Member of the Committee shall designate a representative and an alternate with relevant expertise in the subject matters of the Code to participate in its work.

III. Each Member may include in its delegation experts from the public or private sector to provide technical assistance on matters under consideration by the Committee.

Rule 2 – Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its Full Members for a term of two years, renewable once.

Rule 3 – Observers and Other Participants

I. The following may participate in the work of the Committee without the right to vote:

(a) Full Members of UN Tourism;
(b) Non-Members of UN Tourism that have adhered to the Code;
; and
(c) Other participants invited by the Committee in accordance with this Rule.

II. The Secretary-General, in agreement with the Committee, may invite, on an ad hoc basis, relevant stakeholders to provide input and expertise to discussions on specific topics during its public meetings. Such stakeholders may include representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations. The Committee will inform the Executive Council of the list of the Observers.

III. The participants referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 may, submit written contributions, make oral presentations or provide technical expertise on specific agenda items. The Chair may authorize such participants to speak on any agenda item, either at the Committee's request or when a member of the Committee requests so in writing.

IV. The Chair of the Committee shall determine the modalities of participation of observers and other invited participants, taking into account the items under consideration, the relevance of their expertise and contributions, and the need to ensure the effective and orderly conduct of its work.

V. The Committee may receive written or oral contributions reflecting the consolidated views of the Committee of the Affiliate Members of UN Tourism, submitted through their designated representative.

Rule 4 – Consultative Group of Experts

I. The Committee shall be assisted by a Consultative Group of Experts composed of specialized experts in the field of tourism law, consumer protection and other fields relevant to the application of the Code. Experts shall be selected by the Secretary-General, in agreement with the Committee and in consultation with the country of nationality of the expert. The Committee will inform the Executive Council of the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts.

II. In selecting the experts, due consideration shall be given to equitable geographical representation and gender balance.

III. Experts shall be independent of any government or organization and shall serve in their personal capacities, independently and impartially, on a voluntary and pro bono basis. They shall not seek or receive instructions from any government, organization or other external authority in connection with their functions. Before assuming their functions, experts shall

disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest relevant to their participation. Any reimbursement of expenses, where authorized, shall be subject to the applicable rules and procedures of UN Tourism and shall not constitute remuneration.

IV. The Consultative Group of Experts shall provide independent technical advice to the Secretariat on matters within its mandate, particularly on questions of interpretation and application of the Code, potential technical updates or amendments, and the preparation of non-binding clarifications or guidance. Such advice shall be consultative in nature and shall not confer upon the Group any decision-making authority.

Rule 5 – Secretariat

I. The UN Tourism Secretariat, acting through the Office of Legal Affairs and International Standards, shall serve as the Secretariat of the Committee.

II. The Secretariat shall provide the administrative, technical and substantive support necessary for the effective performance of the Committee's functions and may seek the assistance of other departments of UN Tourism, as appropriate.

III. The Director of the Office of Legal Affairs and International Standards, or a designated representative, shall participate ex officio in all meetings of the Committee and may address the Committee, orally or in writing, on matters falling within its mandate.

II. FUNCTIONS AND WORKING METHODS

Rule 6 – Functions of the Committee

The Committee shall assist the Secretary General in in promoting, monitoring and advancing the effective application of the Code by States and other stakeholders having adhered thereto.

I. In furtherance of this mandate, the Committee shall compile and analyse the periodic national reports submitted by States having adhered fully or partially to the Code, together with other relevant information on their practice, experience and difficulties encountered in applying its recommendations through the reporting mechanisms of the Code. On this basis, the Committee shall prepare and adopt its *General Report on the adherence and application of the Code*, including the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the analysis of such information.

II. Following their adoption by the Committee, the Secretary-General shall transmit its General Report, conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Council, together with such observations as the Secretary-General may consider appropriate, for information or consideration, as applicable. The Secretary-General shall also transmit the General Report to the General Assembly, together with any relevant observations and, where appropriate, the comments or recommendations of the Executive Council. Recommendations requiring the approval or decision of a governing body shall be submitted for consideration by the competent organ in accordance with the Statutes and applicable rules of the Organization.

III. Additionally, the Committee shall perform the following functions:

a) Consider and recommend to the General Assembly technical updates or amendments to the Code;
b) Identify, adopt and disseminate good practices and recommendations for the application of the Code, as well as take any measures necessary to further the objectives of the Code;
c) Analyse difficulties or questions of interpretation arising from the Code application, in consultation with the Consultative Group of Experts, and propose non-binding clarifications or guidance to facilitate uniform understanding of the Code;

d) Advise the Secretariat on priority capacity-building needs and technical assistance projects to support Members;
e) Provide inputs to the Executive Council and Secretariat on emerging issues related to the Code; and
f) Perform any other functions as may be entrusted by the General Assembly.

Rule 7 – Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions

I. The Committee shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year.

II. Meetings may be held in person or remotely, including by electronic means. The Committee shall normally meet virtually, unless the Chair of the Committee decides, in consultation with the Secretariat, that an in-person meeting is warranted.

III. Consultations and exchanges of views may take place between sessions, including by electronic means, to facilitate the effective and timely performance of the Committee's functions.

Rule 8 – Quorum

The presence of a majority of the voting Members of the Committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at its meetings.

Rule 9 – Public and Private Meetings

I. Meetings of the Committee shall be public unless the Committee decides, in consultation with the Secretariat, that a meeting or part thereof should be held in private.

II. Public meetings may be attended by the observers and invited participants referred to in Rule 3, whose participation is considered relevant in light of the items on the agenda.

III. Private meetings shall be attended only by Members of the Committee, the Secretariat and the Consultative Group of Experts, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

IV. The Committee may restrict access to particular agenda items or documents where necessary to protect confidential information or facilitate its work.

V. Private and public meetings shall be recorded for the sole purpose of producing a report which will be distributed to its Members, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Rule 10 – Working Language and Costs of Participation

I. The working language of the Committee shall be English.

II. The use of additional languages for the translation of documents or the provision of interpretation may be authorized by the Secretary-General, taking into account the needs of the Committee and subject to the availability of resources and the applicable financial regulations and rules of UN Tourism.

III. UN Tourism shall not cover the costs incurred by Members, observers or invited participants in connection with their participation in meetings of the Committee, whether held in person or remotely.

Rule 11 – Agenda and Documentation

I. The provisional agenda for each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair. It shall include any item whose inclusion has been decided by the Committee at a previous session or any item proposed by a voting Member. Non-voting Members may request the inclusion of an item through the Secretariat, subject to its endorsement by a voting Member.

II. The Secretariat shall circulate the provisional agenda and available supporting documents to all Members of the Committee, as far as practicable, at least seven calendar days before the meeting. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, may authorize a shorter period.

III. At the beginning of each session, the Committee shall consider and adopt its agenda.

IV. At the end of each session, the Committee shall adopt its agreed conclusions, reflecting concisely the decisions and recommendations adopted.

Rule 12 – Conduct of Business

I. The Chair shall open and close each meeting, direct the discussions, grant the right to speak, ensure the orderly conduct of business and facilitate the consideration of the agenda.

II. The Chair may establish time limits for interventions, limit the number of interventions by each participant on a particular matter and close the list of speakers when appropriate.

III. The Chair may request the Secretariat to facilitate or moderate discussions, particularly during virtual meetings.

IV. Participants shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner and shall follow the directions of the Chair concerning the conduct of business.

V. The Chair may suspend or adjourn a meeting where necessary to ensure the orderly conduct of business or to address technical difficulties.

Rule 13 – Decision-Making

I. The Committee will work on the basis of consensus.

II. In the absence of consensus, decisions and recommendations of the Committee shall be adopted by majority of the Full Members present and voting.

Rule 14 – Decisions Between Sessions

Where a decision or recommendation is required between sessions, the Committee may adopt it through a silence procedure, without holding a formal meeting. Under this procedure, the Chair shall circulate the proposed decision or recommendation to all Members for a period of normally 72 hours. If no objection is received from a voting Member within that period, the proposed decision or recommendation shall be deemed adopted and the outcome shall be communicated to all Members of the Committee.

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

Rule 15 – Amendments

I. Amendments of these Rules of Procedure may be proposed by the Secretary-General, or by any voting Member of the Committee

II. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated by the Secretariat to all Members of the Committee at least ten calendar days before the meeting at which it is to be considered.

III. The Committee shall consider and adopt proposed amendments in accordance with Rule 13. Any amendment adopted by the Committee shall be submitted to the Executive Council for approval in accordance with Rule 8(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.

IV. Amendments shall enter into force upon their approval by the Executive Council, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Rule 16 – Entry into Force

I. These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Executive Council.

II. These Rules of Procedure shall be subordinate to the Statutes of UN Tourism. In cases where its stipulations are deficient or unclear, the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council shall apply mutatis mutandis.

III. In the event of any inconsistency between these Rules and the approved Terms of Reference or the Code, the latter shall prevail.