UN Tourism

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Agenda item 9
Membership status

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Membership of the Organization

Executive summary

The 127th session of the Executive Council is informed of the principal actions undertaken to attract non-member States to join or rejoin the Organization, and is updated on progress and developments since the 126th session of the Executive Council.

Important progress has been achieved in engagement with Saint Lucia and Suriname.. In particular, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) received official letters from the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia andthe Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of Suriname**,** formally adopting the Statutes and Financing Rules of the Organization, together with all amendments adopted to date, and accepting the obligations of membership in accordance with Article 5.

The Secretariat has proactively maintained contacts and exchanges with Iceland and Luxembourg, while also following up on renewed interest and new expressions of interest from Ireland, Kiribati, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The total number of Affiliate Members (AMs) of the Organization is 469. The Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership will propose candidates for provisional admission by the Executive Council at its 127th session. The Secretary-General also proposes that 35 Affiliate Members cease membership as of 1 July 2026 for unpaid dues, subject to approval by the General Assembly (see Annex I).

UN Tourism

DRAFT DECISION[1]

Agenda item 9
Membership status
(document CE/127/9(I) rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having examined the report on the membership status of the Members of the Organization,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision by Saint Lucia and Suriname to join UN Tourism and requests the Secretariat of the Organization to ensure that all applicable principles and procedures are strictly followed, including the required period for submission to the 27th session of the General Assembly, as set out in Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

Recalling resolution A/RES/53(III) on the "Services for candidates for membership of the Organization", adopted by the Third Session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, and in accordance therewith,

2. *Notes* that Saint Lucia and Suriname may begin to benefit from certain services of the Organization, including the possibility of receiving information documents, excluding publications, and of being invited to technical meetings and, with the agreement of the Members concerned, to meetings of the Regional Commissions;

3. *Emphasizes* that, while Saint Lucia´s and Suriname's access to certain services of the Organization is granted pursuant to the relevant resolution of the Third Session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the Statutes, the General Assembly is the organ entitled to take a decision on the admission of Saint Lucia and Suriname as a Full Member of the Organization;

4. *Supports* the Secretariat's proactive approach to maintaining active dialogue at both the political and technical levels with Iceland and Luxembourg, as well as to engaging with Ireland, Kiribati, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the context of renewed interest and new expressions of interest from these countries; and

5. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Affiliate Members listed in Annex I cease to be Affiliate Members as of 1 July 2026 and *requests* the Secretary-General to submit this recommendation to the General Assembly at its 27th session for approval.

[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. Overall approach and scope of engagement

1. 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

2. The Secretariat has engaged in direct communication, through both in-person and online meetings, with line ministries, other governmental entities and diplomatic representatives of non-member States. It has also sought to maximize opportunities provided by various events to engage with key decision-makers from non-member States and discuss the prospects for membership.

3. Recognizing the practical value of membership as an important consideration for States when assessing the benefits of joining UN Tourism, the Organization has strengthened its technical outreach to non-member States by involving them in core knowledge-creation initiatives and activities. These efforts aim to demonstrate the practical benefits of membership and the support that UN Tourism can provide in advancing a sustainable and resilient tourism sector.

4. From a geographical perspective, the current set of targeted actions covers non-member States across the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. At the subregional level, the main activities have been undertaken in the Caribbean and South America in the Americas; Oceania in Asia and the Pacific; and Northern and Western Europe in Europe.

5. From a development perspective, the targeted non-member States comprise both developed and developing economies, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and a least developed country (LDC).

II. New membership application

6. The process concerning the membership of Suriname was further advanced between the 126th and 127th sessions of the Executive Council, progressing from the expression of interest in membership to the submission of a formal letter containing the required commitments concerning the Organization's legal and financial frameworks. The application for membership of Saint Lucia has also been received. Both applications are to be submitted to the 27th session of the General Assembly for consideration and approval in accordance with Article 5.3 of the Statutes.

7. The Secretary-General received a letter dated 1 October 2026 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation of Suriname, and a letter dated 6 November 2026 from the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, formally adopting the Statutes and Financing Rules of the Organization, together with all amendments adopted to date, and accepting the obligations of membership in accordance with Article 5.

III. Country-specific overview

8. In addition to the concrete progress achieved with Saint Lucia and Suriname, the Secretariat pursued further engagement with countries with which discussions on membership are ongoing, including Iceland and Luxembourg. It also reactivated engagement with Ireland and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, while a new expression of interest in membership from Kiribati was also examined.

9. Within the World Island Cities Conference in Yeosu, Republic of Korea (3-5 September 2026), bilateral meetings were held with the Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs of Kiribati and the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aiming at substantively exploring the prospects of membership in the UN Tourism and the required procedure.

10. Prior to the submission of the official letter of application for membership dated 6 November 2026, the Secretariat received on 19 October 2026, a communication from the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Investment, Creative Industries, Culture and Heritage of Saint Lucia indicating that the country was exploring the possibility of joining UN Tourism and undertaking a preliminary assessment.

11. Following the visit of the Minister of Industries of Iceland on 20 April 2026, the Secretariat continued exchanges at the technical level with the Icelandic authorities, providing additional information, including a comparative analysis of UN Tourism membership in relation to membership in other comparable international organizations, to support the Government's ongoing considerations. With regard to Luxembourg, the Secretariat held further technical meetings with the Ministry of the Economy to discuss procedural aspects related to a possible future communication concerning Luxembourg's membership status in the Organization.

12. The Secretariat has reactivated bilateral engagement with Ireland at various levels, including through a dedicated meeting with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to discuss Ireland's engagement with the Organization and its interest in further strengthening this relationship. Ireland continues to participate actively in UN Tourism initiatives open to the wider membership of the United Nations, most recently through the Survey on Food Systems in Tourism. At the time of preparation of the present report, UN Tourism's participation in two autumn events to be held under the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union was under consideration.

IV. Affiliate Members of the Organization

13. As of the date of this document, the total number of Affiliate Members (AMs) of the Organization is 469.

14. The list of new candidatures for Affiliate Membership will be considered by the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership at its 10th meeting, to be held on 23 November 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Committee will then propose candidates for provisional admission by the Executive Council at its 127th session. See document CE/127/CMAM/10.

15. Due to the accumulation of two years of unpaid membership dues, 35 Affiliate Members may, upon a decision by the General Assembly, cease their membership as of 1 July 2026, in accordance with Detailed Financial Rule IV.2. The Secretary-General will propose to the General Assembly that the Affiliate Members cease from membership as of 1 July 2026 (see Annex I).

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Annex I. Affiliate Members proposed to cease membership as of 1 July 2026, subject to approval by the General Assembly at its 27th session

No.	Entity	Country
1.	Adventure Travel Trade Association	USA
2.	African School of Economics	Benin
3.	Baku Tourism Information Center (BTIC)	Azerbaijan
4.	Bedouin Limited	Nigeria
5.	Bella Vista Institute of Higher Education	Netherlands
6.	BigData Business Support Unit KT Korea Telecom Corp.	South Korea
7.	Blue Purple Vail LLC	USA
8.	Center for Global Understanding of Sustainable and Experimental Tourism	USA
9.	CONFCOMMERCIO - Imprese per l´Italia	Italy
10.	Costa Crociere S.P.A	Italy
11.	Cote d'Ivoire Tourisme	Cote D'Ivoire
12.	Decanter Enterprises	Zimbabwe
13.	EarthTV Network Gmbh	Germany
14.	Etudes Sup. De Tourisme et d'Hotellerie (IUP-ESTHUA)	France
15.	Facultad de Turismo Gastronómico de la Universidad Autónoma Estado de México	Mexico
16.	Gino Holding A.S	Slovakia
17.	Green Climate International	Netherlands
18.	Groupement Europeen Odyssea Tourisme et Croissance Bleue	France
19.	Instituto Nacional de Formación Técnico Professional - INFOTEP	Dominican Republic
20.	Instituto Superior de Derecho y Economía S.A	Spain
21.	IPK – International – World Tourism Marketing Consultants	Germany
22.	LT Luxy Conciergerie	Cote D'Ivoire
23.	National Inbound and Domestic Tourism Association of Moldova	Moldova
24.	Outlook Publishing PVT. LTD.	India
25.	Pakistan Association of Tour Operators - PATO	Pakistan
26.	Patronato Provincial de Turismo de Granada	Spain
27.	Turium Institute S.L.U (Spain)	Spain
28.	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Japan
29.	Scientific Research Institute for Tourism Development - TDI	Uzbekistan
30.	Seoul Tourism Organization (STO)	South Korea
31.	Tourism Generis	Greece
32.	Travel World Escape Tour Operator	Italy
33.	Jacobs Media Group (Travel Weekly)	United Kingdom
34.	Universitá degli Studi del Molise – Faculty of Economics	Italy
35.	University of Hawaii at Manoa	USA