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البند 8

تقرير بشأن المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية



منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة تخضر. كل وثائق الجمعية العامة موجودة على موقع منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة على الإنترنت www.untourism.int/ar أو على رمز الاستجابة السريعة هنا.

ملخص تنفيذي

عقد فريق العمل المعني بالمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية التابعة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة خمسة اجتماعات. ويرفع فريق العمل تقريراً حول التقدم المحرز، ويقدم مشروع تقرير نهائي مشفوعاً بالتوصية المتعلقة بتحسين الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لاختيار المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية وإنشائها.

يقدم التقرير أيضاً معلومات محدثة بشأن التقدم المحرز في المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية القائمة والمقبلة، فضلاً عن الطلبات الجديدة. ويشمل أيضاً التعديل الذي اقترحه اليابان.



مشروع قرار¹

البند 8
تقرير بشأن المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية
(الوثيقة A/26/8 rev.1)

إن الجمعية العامة،

إذ تشير إلى قراراتها [656\(XXI\)](#) و [740\(XXIV\)](#) و [763\(XXV\)](#).

وقد نظرت في تقرير المجلس التنفيذي بشأن حالة المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية (A/26/8 rev.1) ومقرر المجلس التنفيذي [xx] في دورته 124،

1. تحيط علماً بمقرر المجلس التنفيذي الذي وافق على تقرير فريق العمل المتعلق بتحسين الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لاختيار المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية وإنشائها، المعتمد بموجب القرار [740\(XXIV\)](#) والمدرج في المرفق الأول لهذا التقرير؛
2. توافق على الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي المنقح بشأن اختيار المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية وإنشائها بموجب المرفق الأول لتقرير فريق العمل؛
3. تحيط علماً بالتقدم المحرز بعد دورتها الخامسة والعشرين وتشكر الأمين العام على جميع المساهمات؛
4. تكرر التأكيد على الأهمية القصوى للالتزام بجميع المتقدمين بطلب استضافة المكاتب الإقليمية و/أو المواضيعية التابعة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة بالإطار القانوني والتشغيلي المعتمد في هذا القرار، والمتطلبات المعيارية التي يتعين إدراجها في اتفاقية البلد المضيف ذي الصلة، مع النظر بشكل مستفيض في سياسات وممارسات منظومة الأمم المتحدة في حال نشوب تحديات خلال مرحلة المشاورات بين الأمانة والدول الأعضاء بشأن إنشاء مكاتب منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة؛
5. تصادق على المقررات التي اعتمدها المجلس التنفيذي والمتعلقة بالترتيبات اللازمة لدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين جمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية حيز النفاذ، وذلك بشأن المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين في ريو دي جانيرو؛
6. توافق على البروتوكول المبرم بين جمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن المساهمة المالية السنوية التي تقدمها البرازيل إلى المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، والاتفاق المبرم بين جمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين؛
7. تهنئ البرازيل على استكمال شروط دخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف بشأن إنشاء المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين في ريو دي جانيرو حيز النفاذ، وفقاً لقرارها [763\(XXV\)](#)، كما تهنئها على افتتاح المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين وبدء عملياته؛
8. تصادق على مقرر المجلس التنفيذي بالموافقة على اقتراح الحكومة المغربية بإنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا في الرباط بدلاً من المكتب الإقليمي لأفريقيا في مراكش؛
9. توافق على اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين حكومة المملكة المغربية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا في الرباط؛
10. تصادق على مقرر المجلس التنفيذي بشأن الترتيبات اللازمة لدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف المتعلق بالمكتب المواضيعي المعني بالابتكار في أفريقيا حيز النفاذ؛
11. توافق على الاتفاقية المبرمة بين حكومة المملكة المغربية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية لمكتب الأمم المتحدة المواضيعي للسياحة المعني بالابتكار في أفريقيا في المملكة المغربية؛

¹ هذا مشروع قرار. وللاطلاع على القرار النهائي الذي تتخذه الجمعية، يرجى مراجعة وثيقة القرارات التي تصدر في نهاية الدورة.

12. تشجع حكومة المغرب على استكمال جميع الإجراءات المتبقية المطلوبة للسماح بدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف المتعلقة بالمكتب المواضيعي المعني بالابتكار في أفريقيا حيز النفاذ.
13. تصادق على مقرر المجلس التنفيذي بالموافقة على إنشاء مرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي في مونتيفيديو، أوروغواي؛
14. تصادق كذلك، على أساس استثنائي، على مقرر المجلس التنفيذي بتطبيق أحكام الاتفاق المبرم بين برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي وأوروغواي على مرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي، مع مراعاة ما يقتضيه اختلاف الحال، وذلك خلال الفترة المتبقية إلى حين إبرام اتفاقية البلد المضيف مع أوروغواي؛
15. توافق على الاتفاقية المبرمة بين منظمة السياحة العالمية وجمهورية أوروغواي الشرقية بشأن الصفة القانونية المؤقتة لمرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي؛
16. تصادق على مقرر المجلس التنفيذي بشأن الترتيبات القانونية والمالية والإدارية لإنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للسياحة على طريق الحرير في سمرقند؛
17. توافق على اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين جمهورية أوزبكستان ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للسياحة على طريق الحرير في سمرقند؛
18. تشجع الأمانة على مواصلة العملية التشاورية والتفاوضية مع حكومة أوزبكستان بشأن المتطلبات المالية والإدارية لإنشاء المكتب المواضيعي المعني بالسياحة على طريق الحرير في سمرقند وفقاً للإطار القانوني والتشغيلي المعتمد في قرارها (XXIV)740؛
19. ترحب باقتراح حكومة الصين بإنشاء مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي وفقاً للمتطلبات المنصوص عليها في الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لإنشاء المكاتب الإقليمية التابعة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة المعتمد في قرارها (XXIV)740؛
20. تحيط علماً بالتعليقات الواردة إلى الأمانة من أعضاء لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا؛

[الخيار 1]

- توافق على اقتراح حكومة الصين بإنشاء مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي رهناً بإجراء مزيد من المناقشات في الاجتماعات المشتركة للجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا، بشأن توزيع أدوار المكتب الإقليمي في الصين ومكتب الدعم الإقليمي في اليابان؛
- تأذن للأمين العام بأن يعدّ، بالتعاون مع حكومة الصين، الترتيبات القانونية والمالية والإدارية لإنشاء المكتب الإقليمي في شنغهاي وفقاً للإطار القانوني والتشغيلي المعتمد في هذا القرار؛

[الخيار 2]

- تدعو الأمين العام وحكومة الصين إلى إجراء مزيد من المناقشات، بالتشاور مع لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا، بشأن الاقتراح الداعي إلى إنشاء مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي؛
- تأذن للمجلس التنفيذي بالنظر في اقتراح حكومة الصين بإنشاء مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي والموافقة عليه بعد هذه المشاورات، شرط أن يتوافق الاقتراح مع الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي المعتمد في هذا القرار؛
- تطلب إلى الأمين العام أن يقدم إلى المجلس التنفيذي تقريراً حول نتائج هذه المناقشات؛

21. تحيط علماً مع التقدير بالخطوات التي اتخذتها اليابان لإضفاء الطابع الرسمي على الصفة القانونية لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ، والتفاوض على إطار قانوني جديد لتوفير أساس قانوني واضح لعملياته بما من شأنه أن يصون مصالح المنظمة؛
22. تلاحظ أن اليابان تعهدت بتطبيق أحكام اتفاقية امتيازات الوكالات المتخصصة وحصاناتها لعام 1947 والمرفق الثامن عشر على منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة اعتباراً من 20 تموز/يوليو 2020؛
23. توافق كتدبير مؤقت على الترتيبات المبرمة بين وكالة السياحة اليابانية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ [بهدف تمهيد الطريق ليصبح هيئة من الفئة الأولى / بهدف تمهيد الطريق لإدراجه في إطار نموذج هيئات الفئة الأولى]2؛
24. تشجع حكومة اليابان على استكمال الإجراءات الداخلية المطلوبة لضمان أن تصبح الترتيبات القانونية والمالية والإدارية المتعلقة بمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ ملزمة قانوناً لكل من منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة واليابان، وذلك وفقاً للشروط والمعايير المعتمدة

² تعديل اقترحه اليابان (انظر الفقرة 66 من التقرير).

لهيئات الفئة الأولى بموجب القرار (XXI)656، بما يتيح للمكتب العمل بشكل كامل كمكتب إقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ يتبع منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة وفقاً للشروط المذكورة؛

25. وتطلب إلى الأمانة أن تقدم تقريراً إلى المجلس التنفيذي بشأن المفاوضات مع حكومة اليابان خلال عملية إصلاح مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ وفقاً للشروط والمعايير المعتمدة لهيئات الفئة الأولى عملاً بالولاية التي أسندتها الجمعية العامة في القرار (XXI)656 بهدف إدماجه بالكامل في الإطار القانوني والمؤسسي لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة.

أولاً. فريق العمل المعني بالمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية

1. أنشأ المجلس التنفيذي فريق العمل المعني بالمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية في دورته 118 بموجب المقرر (CXVIII)7. وفي دورته 119، أقرّ المجلس اختصاصات فريق العمل (الصفحات 6-7) وفقاً للمقرر (CXIX)7، على النحو الذي اعتمده فريق العمل في 27 أيلول/سبتمبر 2023. وأقرت الجمعية العامة اختصاصات فريق العمل في دورتها الخامسة والعشرين بموجب القرار (XXV)763.
2. يقضي الهدف الرئيسي لفريق العمل مناقشة مدخلات الدول الأعضاء في الفترة 2022-2023 بشأن الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لاختيار المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية وإنشائها، الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة في دورتها الرابعة والعشرين بموجب القرار (XXIV)740، بهدف إعداد تقرير يتضمن توصيات لتحسين الإطار يُرفع إلى المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 124.
3. تماشياً مع مقرر المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 118، وضعت الأمانة الصيغة النهائية لخطوات إنشاء فريق العمل، وقدمت 37 دولة عضواً ترشيحاتها لعضويته، وهي تشمل 6 دول من أفريقيا، و6 من الأمريكيتين، و6 من آسيا والمحيط الهادئ، و6 من أوروبا، و13 من الشرق الأوسط. يضم فريق العمل البلدان التالية بحسب المناطق: أفريقيا - بنن، بوركينا فاسو، المغرب، نيجيريا، السودان، جمهورية تنزانيا المتحدة؛ الأمريكيتان - البرازيل، كولومبيا، هايتي، نيكاراغوا، بيرو، أوروغواي؛ آسيا والمحيط الهادئ - أفغانستان، الصين، إندونيسيا، اليابان، ميانمار، سريلانكا؛ أوروبا - أرمينيا، بيلاروسيا، لیبوانيا، جمهورية مولدوفا، رومانيا، إسبانيا؛ الشرق الأوسط - البحرين، مصر، العراق، الأردن، الكويت، لبنان، ليبيا، عُمان، قطر، المملكة العربية السعودية، الجمهورية العربية السورية، الإمارات العربية المتحدة، اليمن
4. بعد أن وافق فريق العمل على الإطار الزمني وخطة العمل المتعلقة بالاجتماعات (ص. 8 و10)، عقد فريق العمل خمسة جلسات (إلكترونيًا) بدلاً من الجلسات الستة المقررة في البداية، وتمّ الجمع بين الاجتماعين الرابع والخامس بسبب التأجيلات والحاجة إلى وضع خطة العمل في صيغتها النهائية في الوقت المحدد لتجهيزها. وقد تم هذا التأجيل بناءً على طلب الأمانة. ونتيجة لذلك، أصدر فريق العمل تقريرًا أوليًا (ص. 7-10)، رُفع إلى المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 122، وأُحيط علمًا به في المقرر (CXXII)6. ولم يتم إعداد التقرير الثاني لأن الاجتماع الرابع عقد بعد الدورة 123 للمجلس التنفيذي.
5. ضم الاجتماع الأول لفريق العمل الذي عقد في 4 تموز/يوليو 2024 ممثلين من 29 دولة عضوًا، إلى جانب عضو مشارك وعضو منتسب واحد. واستعرض الاجتماع الوضع الراهن للمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية القائمة، وركز على المسائل التنظيمية الضرورية لعمل الفريق. وناقش الأعضاء، وقرروا، انتخاب الرئيس ونائب الرئيس بما يتماشى مع الاختصاصات، وتوصلوا في النهاية إلى توافق في الآراء بشأن تولي مصر منصب الرئيس وأوروغواي منصب نائب الرئيس. ونظر فريق العمل أيضًا في الإطار الزمني وخطة العمل الرسميين، ووافق عليهما.
6. عُقد الاجتماع الثاني لفريق العمل في 2 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2024، بمشاركة 26 دولة عضوًا وعضو منتسب واحد، إلى جانب الرئيس ونائب الرئيس والأمانة. وافتُتح الاجتماع بملاحظات استهلاكية وإقرار جدول الأعمال، الذي تمت الموافقة عليه دون تعديلات. وفي إطار بند جدول الأعمال المعنون "حالة المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية - المكاتب الجديدة والقائمة"، ناقش الأعضاء التمييز بين المكاتب الإقليمية والمكاتب المواضيعية وأطرها القانونية والتشغيلية، مع مقترحات لضمان مزيد من التوضيح في الإطار المقبل للأمانة. واقترح بعض الأعضاء أن تقتصر المكاتب المقبلة على نطاقها الجغرافي وأولوياتها المواضيعية المحددة، بينما طلب آخرون توضيحًا إضافيًا بشأن اقتراح الأمانة. وتم تناول "الإطار القانوني للمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية"، بما في ذلك الآراء المتباينة بشأن تطبيق اتفاقية عام 1947 والمعايير المرجعي لاتفاقيات البلد المضيف؛ وتم التأكيد على أن اتفاقية عام 1947 ستشكل المعيار الأدنى. وفي إطار "وضع اتفاق نموذجي"، قدمت الأمانة نموذجًا مرئيًا للتفاوض، بينما سلط بعض الأعضاء الضوء على الحاجة إلى التشاور مع وزارات الخارجية الوطنية؛ وأرجحت المناقشة إلى نهاية ولاية فريق العمل. وأكد الرئيس أن الاجتماع المقبل سيعقد افتراضيًا في شباط/فبراير 2025، وتم اعتماد إجراءات التقرير الأول وفقًا لآلية الصمت لمدة 72 ساعة، مما يضمن تسجيل وجهات النظر المتباينة في حال تعذر التوصل إلى توافق في الآراء. واختتم الاجتماع بالتركيز على توضيح تعاريف ومهام المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية المقبلة، والتأكيد على أن الامتيازات ستلتزم باتفاقية عام 1947 باعتبارها الحد الأدنى من المعايير، مع إمكانية إدراج عناصر إضافية متفق عليها مع الدول المضيفة.
7. انعقد الاجتماع الثالث لفريق العمل المعني بالمكاتب الإقليمية التابعة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة في 24 حزيران/يونيو 2025، بناءً على طلب الأمانة أولاً، ثم من الرئيس، لتأجيل الموعد المتفق عليه مبدئيًا للاجتماع المذكور لأسباب تنظيمية. وشاركت فيه 29 دولة عضوًا، والرئيس، ونائب الرئيس، والأمانة. وافتُتح الاجتماع بملاحظات استهلاكية أدلى بها الرئيس أكد على الدقة الإجرائية والشفافية والحاجة إلى توثيق المداخلات بأمانه، وتلاها اعتماد جدول الأعمال بالإجماع. وفي إطار بندي جدول الأعمال بشأن "معلومات عن نماذج وكالات الأمم المتحدة الأخرى (المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية)" ومقترحات الأمانة في أعقاب الاجتماع الثاني لفريق العمل، قدمت الأمانة بحثًا حول نماذج المكاتب الخارجية لـ 12 منظمة تابعة للأمم المتحدة، واقترحت تمييزًا واضحًا بين المكاتب الإقليمية والمكاتب المواضيعية، مع تسليط الضوء على الطابع المتغير لمكاتب منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة والقيود التشغيلية والمالية التي تواجهها. وتناولت المناقشات حول "الإطار القانوني للمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية" التنقيحات لضمان تطبيق البلدان المضيفة أحكام اتفاقية عام 1947 كحد أدنى، حيث أيد بعض الأعضاء التنقيحات، وكرر آخرون آراءهم بأنه لا حاجة إلى اتفاق جديد إذا كان البلد موقعًا على الاتفاقية. وتم النظر في بند جدول الأعمال بشأن "الإطار القانوني للمكاتب الإقليمية - الحصانات الضريبية"، دون إبداء أي تعليقات أخرى. وفي إطار "الميزانية والترتيبات المالية للمكاتب"، استعرض فريق العمل المساهمات والدعم العيني والمرافق والمعدات والقوى العاملة والمتطلبات الأمنية، مع طرح الدول الأعضاء أسئلة في هذا الصدد. وسلطت المناقشة الضوء على الاعتماد على المساهمات الطوعية، ومخاطر التمويل غير المتكافئ، والحاجة إلى إجراء تقييمات داخلية للبلد المضيف لضمان الاستدامة. واتفق أعضاء فريق العمل على أن يطلبوا إلى المجلس التنفيذي أن ينظر في إمكانية تخصيص جزء من الموارد المالية للمنظمة لدعم الدول الأعضاء في إنشاء مكاتب إقليمية ومواضيعية، بما يكفل عدم اقتصر مكاتب المنظمة على بلدان معينة، مع مراعاة الوضع المالي الراهن للمنظمة. وشملت المسائل الأخرى التي تم تناولها توضيح الامتيازات والحصانات، والتأكيد على أن التقرير النهائي سيضمن جميع التوصيات، وتحسين شكل الاجتماع لتعزيز المشاركة والوثائق. ووافق فريق العمل على توحيد الاجتماعات المتبقية في اجتماع نهائي واحد في نهاية أيلول/سبتمبر 2025، مع تمهيم الوثائق التحضيرية مسبقًا، وتقديم تعليقات مكتوبة على مقترحات الأمانة للاسترشاد بها في التقرير النهائي للدورة 124 للمجلس التنفيذي. وأكدت

الملاحظات الختامية على أهمية التعاريف الأكثر وضوحًا وآليات التمويل المستدامة، ودعم مؤسسي أقوى للمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية، مع الإشارة إلى أن بعض الدول الأعضاء قدّمت مداخلات محدودة بسبب شكل الاجتماع.

8. انعقد الاجتماعان الرابع والخامس لفريق العمل المعني بالمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة في 23 أيلول/سبتمبر 2025 بمشاركة 32 دولة عضوًا، وعضو منتسب واحد، إلى جانب الرئيس ونائب الرئيس والأمانة. وأقر جدول الأعمال دون اعتراض، وركز على ثلاثة بنود رئيسية هي: استعراض تعليقات الأعضاء من الاجتماع السابق، والترتيبات المتعلقة بالميزانية والترتيبات المالية، والإطار التنفيذي وبرنامجه العمل. وفي إطار استعراض التعليقات، طلب أحد الأعضاء توضيحًا بشأن الامتيازات والحصانات، وبنية التقرير النهائي، ونطاق المكتب الإقليمي المقترح في الصين، مؤكدًا من جديد عزمه على استضافة هذا المكتب عبر رسائل رسمية تؤكد الامتثال للإطار المعمول به. وشدد عضو آخر على الحاجة إلى إطار قانوني متميز للمكاتب المواضيعية، وأثار تساؤلات بشأن اتفاقيات البلدان المضيفة وامتيازاتها بموجب اتفاقيتي عامي 1946 و 1947، وأعرب عن قلقه إزاء عدم وضوح الإجراءات. وظهرت آراء متباينة بشأن الإعفاء الضريبي ودور اتفاقيات البلد المضيف، وأوضحت الأمانة أن الاتفاقيات ضرورية لحسن سير العمل والمساءلة.
9. في إطار الترتيبات المتعلقة بالميزانية والترتيبات المالية، لم ترد أي تعليقات جديدة، حيث تناولت المناقشات السابقة هذه المسألة بشكل كافٍ. وفي سياق الإطار التشغيلي وبرنامجه العمل، سلطت الدول الأعضاء الضوء على المسائل المتعلقة بالجدول الزمني، والولاية، والإجراءات الحكومية الداخلية، ودور اللجان الإقليمية في صنع القرار. وبرز اختلاف بشأن ما إذا كان ينبغي تقديم طلبات إنشاء المكاتب الجديدة من خلال اللجان الإقليمية أو تقديمها مباشرة إلى المجلس التنفيذي، حيث أيد بعض الأعضاء الخيار الثاني، في حين شدد آخرون على الحصول على التأييد الإقليمي. كما أثار العديد من الأعضاء شواغل بشأن وضوح الولاية القضائية، وتقليص الصلاحيات، والتوسع غير المنظم، مما دفع الأمانة إلى التأكيد على الاتساق الاستراتيجي، والتمثيل العادل، والنطاق الإقليمي للمكاتب المواضيعية. وقدمت الأمانة اقتراحًا منقحًا يميّز بين المكاتب الإقليمية والمكاتب المواضيعية، يستند بأبحاث مقارنة في 12 منظمة تابعة للأمم المتحدة وآراء الدول الأعضاء، وعرّفت المكاتب الإقليمية على أنها مكاتب تُعنى بقضايا ذات طابع جغرافي، في حين تُعنى المكاتب المواضيعية بموضوعات محددة، وقد تمتد عبر أكثر من إقليم.
10. شملت المسائل الحاسمة الأخرى التوازن بين صنع القرار الجماعي والتشاور الإقليمي، ونطاق اتفاقيات البلد المضيف، وضمان الجدوى المالية للدول الأعضاء التي تستضيف مكاتب المنظمة. واتفق أعضاء فريق العمل على أن يطلبوا إلى المجلس التنفيذي أن ينظر في إمكانية تخصيص جزء من الموارد المالية للمنظمة لدعم الدول الأعضاء في إنشاء مكاتب إقليمية ومواضيعية، بما يكفل عدم إقتصار مكاتب المنظمة على بلدان معينة، والأت تشكل القدرة المالية عائقًا في هذا الصدد. وسلط الرئيس الضوء أيضًا على أهمية لفت انتباه المجلس التنفيذي إلى أن الشكل الافتراضي لاجتماعات مجموعة العمل يحذ من قدرة ممثلي الدول الأعضاء على المشاركة الواسعة والنشطة، وطلب إلى المجلس النظر في إمكانية عقد الاجتماعات المقبلة للجان ومجموعات العمل بشكل حضوري، من خلال سفارات الدول الأعضاء في مدريد.
11. أكدت الأمانة أنها ستعمّم مشروع التقرير في إطار إجراء الصمت لمدة 72 ساعة، مع دعوة الأعضاء إلى تقديم تعليقات أو تحفظات، بما يكفل التعبير عن الآراء المتباينة على النحو الواجب. واختتمت الاجتماعات بتأكيد الالتزام المشترك بجدول أعمال اللامركزية، مع الإقرار بأن التوصيات النهائية ستوجه المجلس التنفيذي والجمعية العامة في عملية صنع القرار.
12. عقب تفويض فريق العمل، تم تعميم مشروع التقرير النهائي (انظر المرفق الأول) على أعضائه في إطار إجراء الصمت لمدة 72 ساعة للسماح للدول الأعضاء بتقديم ملاحظاتها النهائية. ووفقًا للقسم الرابع "طرائق العمل" من اختصاصات فريق العمل، الذي ينص على أنه "في حال تعذر التوصل إلى توافق في الآراء بشأن مسألة معينة، تُدرج الآراء المتباينة في تقرير فريق العمل المقدم إلى المجلس التنفيذي"، ومع الأخذ في الاعتبار بطبيعة التعليقات المقدمة من اليابان والمدرجة في المرفق الثالث من مشروع التقرير النهائي، تُعرض الوثيقة الراهنة على المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 124 لاتخاذ قرار بشأنها.

ثانيًا. حالة المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية القائمة

ألف. المملكة العربية السعودية – المكتب الإقليمي للشرق الأوسط

13. تأسس المكتب الإقليمي للشرق الأوسط في مدينة الرياض بموجب اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين المملكة العربية السعودية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية المبرمة في تبليسي في جورجيا في 17 أيلول/سبتمبر 2020، بناء على التفويض الذي تلقاه المجلس التنفيذي في المقرر 5(CXII) المعتمد في دورته 112، والذي صادقت عليه الجمعية العامة بموجب القرار [740\(XXIV\)](#) المعتمد في دورتها 24. ودخلت اتفاقية البلد المضيف حيز التنفيذ في 21 نيسان/أبريل 2021.
14. وفقًا للمادة 15 (ب) من النظام الأساسي للموظفين، عيّن الأمين العام السيد سامر الخراشي من المملكة العربية السعودية مديرًا للمكتب الإقليمي للشرق الأوسط.
15. يمكن الاطلاع على معلومات بشأن تنفيذ أنشطة المكتب الإقليمي للشرق الأوسط في الوثيقة [A/26/4\(b\)](#).

باء. البرازيل – المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكتين

16. تأسس المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكتين في مدينة ريو دي جانيرو بموجب اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين جمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية المبرمة في سمرقند، أوزبكستان، في 19 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2023، بعد التفويض الذي تلقتة الجمعية العامة في القرار [763\(XXV\)](#) المعتمد في دورتها الخامسة والعشرين.
17. كما نصّ القرار المذكور على أن إبرام اتفاقية البلد المضيف وافتتاح المكتب الإقليمي مشروطان بإبرام اتفاقية تكميلية بين منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة وجمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب، وباستكمال البرازيل للإجراءات الداخلية اللازمة

لإنشاء المكتب، وذلك وفقاً للإطار القانوني والتشغيلي الناظم لعمل مكاتب منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، على النحو الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة في قرارها (XXIV)740.

18. خلال المفاوضات بشأن الاتفاقية التكميلية عملاً بالقرار (XXV)763، بادرت الأمانة العامة وحكومة البرازيل إلى فصلها إلى ترتيبين مختلفين مكملين لاتفاقية البلد المضيف:

(أ) اتفاقية أولى لتحديد المساهمة المالية السنوية التي ستقدمها البرازيل لإنشاء المكتب وتنظيمه وصيانته،

(ب) واتفاقية لاحقة بشأن الشروط والأحكام التفصيلية الناظمة لمساهمة المكتب وترتيباته الإدارية.

19. في 26 كانون الثاني/يناير 2024، وقعت منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة والبرازيل البروتوكول بين جمهورية البرازيل الفيدرالية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن المساهمة المالية السنوية التي تقدمها البرازيل إلى منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، من أجل إنشاء المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين، وتنظيمه وصيانته في الفترة 2024-2026. وأبلغت الأمانة المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 121 بموجب المقرر (CXXI)6 الذي حث فيه الأمانة على استكمال الصيغة النهائية للاتفاقيات اللازمة لدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف حيز النفاذ. ودخل البروتوكول حيز التنفيذ في 2 آب/أغسطس 2024.

20. أبلغت الأمانة عبر مذكرة شفوية من سفارة البرازيل في إسبانيا بتاريخ 7 آب/أغسطس 2024، بأن البرازيل استكملت الإجراءات الداخلية اللازمة لدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف حيز النفاذ. وبناءً عليه، فإن الشرط الوحيد المتبقي لدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف حيز النفاذ يتمثل في إبرام اتفاقية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية الخاصة بالمكتب.

21. في 1 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2024، وقعت منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة والبرازيل الاتفاقية المبرمة بين جمهورية البرازيل الفيدرالية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين، بهدف وضع الشروط والأحكام التفصيلية الناظمة للمساهمة المالية السنوية التي تقدمها البرازيل إلى منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، بالإضافة إلى الترتيبات والتسهيلات الإدارية للمكتب وفقاً لاتفاقية البلد المضيف والبروتوكول. ودخلت الاتفاقية حيز النفاذ في تاريخ توقيعها.

22. مع دخول كل من البروتوكول والاتفاقية حيز النفاذ، وهو ما أحاط به المجلس التنفيذي علماً في المقرر (CXXII)6، واستكمال البرازيل لإجراءاتها الداخلية، تكون جميع الشروط المنصوص عليها في اتفاقية البلد المضيف قد استوفيت، وذلك وفقاً لقرار الجمعية العامة (XXV)763. وبناءً على ذلك، بدأت الأمانة في اتخاذ خطوات لتنفيذ هذه الاتفاقيات.

23. وفقاً للمادة 15 (ب) من النظام الأساسي للموظفين، عين الأمين العام السيد هيتور كادري من البرازيل مديراً للمكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين.

24. يمكن الاطلاع على معلومات بشأن تنفيذ أنشطة المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين في الوثيقة A/26/4(b).

25. وفقاً للمادتين 12 (ل)3 و20 من النظام الأساسي، يتعين على الجمعية العامة الموافقة على الاتفاقيات التالية: البروتوكول المبرم بين جمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن المساهمة المالية السنوية التي تقدمها البرازيل إلى المكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، المبرم في 26 كانون الثاني/يناير 2024، والاتفاقية المبرمة بين جمهورية البرازيل الاتحادية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب الإقليمي للأمريكيتين، المبرمة في 1 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2024.

ثالثاً - التقدم المحرز في إنشاء المكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية

ألف. المغرب - المكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا

26. وافق المجلس التنفيذي، بموجب المقرر (CXV)5، على اقتراح حكومة المغرب المتعلق بإنشاء مكتب إقليمي لأفريقيا، رهناً بتصديق الجمعية العامة عليه، شريطة أن يتوافق مع الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي الناظم للمكاتب الإقليمية والمواضيعية، على النحو الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة من خلال القرار (XXIV)740.

27. أذنت الجمعية العامة للأمين العام بالتوقيع على اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة والمملكة المغربية، عملاً بالقرار (XXV)763 الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة في دورتها الخامسة والعشرين، وذلك بهدف إنشاء المكتب الإقليمي لأفريقيا في مدينة مراكش، وحثت الحكومة المغربية والأمانة على مواصلة المفاوضات لوضع المسات الأخيرة على الاتفاقية التكميلية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب. وبناءً على ذلك، عملت الأمانة وحكومة المغرب معاً لإعداد اتفاقية البلد المضيف بثلاث لغات أصلية (العربية والإنجليزية والفرنسية)، وهي عملية اختتمت في أوائل نيسان/أبريل 2024.

³ المادة 12 (ل) من النظام الأساسي: تتمثل اختصاصات الجمعية، في جملة أمور، في "الموافقة على إبرام الاتفاقيات مع الحكومات والمنظمات الدولية أو تفويضها بسلطة الموافقة عليها"

⁴ المادة 20 من النظام الأساسي: "في الفترة الفاصلة بين دورات الجمعية العامة، وفي حال عدم وجود أحكام مخالفة في هذا النظام الأساسي، يتخذ المجلس ما قد يلزم من مقررات إدارية وفتية، ضمن حدود اختصاصات المنظمة ومواردها المالية، على أن يقدم تقريراً لاحقاً عنها إلى الجمعية العامة في دورتها التالية للموافقة عليها"

28. بعد مزيد من المناقشات بين حكومة المغرب والأمانة، تلقت الأمانة اقتراحًا من المملكة المغربية لإنشاء مكتب مواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا في الرباط، بدلًا من المكتب الإقليمي لأفريقيا في مراكش، على النحو الذي وافقت عليه الجمعية العامة في قرارها (763(XV)) (الفقرات 8-11).
29. وفقًا للإجراءات المتبعة لإنشاء المكاتب المواضيعية، على النحو الذي اعتمدهت الجمعية العامة في قرارها (740(XIV))، واستكماله المجلس التنفيذي في مقرره (8(CXVI))، ستنتظر لجنة البرنامج والميزانية (المشار إليها في ما يلي بـ "لجنة البرنامج والميزانية") في إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي المعني بالابتكار من أجل أفريقيا، وبناء على توصيتها، ينظر فيه المجلس التنفيذي للموافقة عليه.
30. في 28 كانون الثاني/يناير 2025، وقعت حكومة المغرب ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة اتفاقية البلد المضيف بشأن إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة في المملكة المغربية. وفي 29 أيار/مايو 2025، وقعت الاتفاقية المتعلقة بالترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا في المملكة المغربية، وذلك بهدف وضع الشروط والأحكام التفصيلية الناظمة للمساهمة المالية التي تقدمها المغرب في منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، فضلًا عن الترتيبات والتسهيلات الإدارية للمكتب المواضيعي وفقًا لاتفاقية البلد المضيف.
31. يتضمن كل من اتفاقية البلد المضيف واتفاقية الترتيبات شروطًا تنص على أنهما سيدخلان حيز التنفيذ عند إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي الذي توافق عليه لجنة البرنامج والميزانية والمجلس التنفيذي، ريثما تصادق عليه الجمعية العامة؛ كما تخضع اتفاقية البلد المضيف لاستلام إخطار خطي من حكومة المغرب باستكمال إجراءاتها الداخلية اللازمة لتصبح سارية المفعول.
32. بناء على ذلك، قدمت الأمانة إلى المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 123 اقتراح المملكة المغربية بتغيير طبيعة المكتب المقترح ومكانه، وقدمت أيضًا اتفاقية البلد المضيف واتفاقية الترتيبات، ووافق المجلس عليها جميعها بناءً على توصية لجنة البرنامج والميزانية بموجب [المقرر 7\(CXXIII\)](#). وطلب المجلس التنفيذي كذلك إلى الأمين العام أن يقدم اتفاقية البلد المضيف، بما في ذلك اتفاقية الترتيبات، إلى الدورة الحالية للجمعية العامة للتصديق عليها.
33. لم تنلق الأمانة بعد إخطارًا خطيًا من حكومة المغرب باستكمال إجراءاتها الداخلية اللازمة لدخول اتفاقية البلد المضيف حيز النفاذ.
34. عملاً بالمادة 520 من النظام الأساسي، يتعين على الجمعية العامة الموافقة على مقرر المجلس التنفيذي بقبول اقتراح حكومة المغرب بإنشاء مكتب مواضيعي للابتكار في أفريقيا في الرباط، بدلًا من المكتب الإقليمي لأفريقيا في مراكش، على النحو الذي قرره الجمعية العامة في القرار [763\(XV\)](#).
35. وفقًا للمادتين 12 (ل) و 20 من النظام الأساسي، يتعين على الجمعية العامة الموافقة على الاتفاقيات التالية: اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين حكومة المملكة المغربية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا في المملكة المغربية التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، المبرمة في 28 كانون الثاني/يناير 2025، والاتفاقية المبرمة بين حكومة المملكة المغربية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب المواضيعي للابتكار من أجل أفريقيا في المملكة المغربية، المبرمة في 29 أيار/مايو 2025.
- باء. أوروغواي - مرصد قانون السياحة لمنطقة أمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي (المكتب المواضيعي)**
36. في أعقاب القرار (757(XV)) الذي اعتمدهت الجمعية العامة في دورتها الخامسة والعشرين، وافق المجلس التنفيذي، في مقرره (6(CXXI)) المعتمد في دورته 121، على إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي المعني بمرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي في مونتيفيديو (يشار إليه في ما يلي بـ "مرصد أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريبي")، رهنًا بتصديق الجمعية العامة عليه في دورتها السادسة والعشرين، وشريطة أن يتوافق إنشاء مرصد أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريبي مع الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي الناظم لمكاتب منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة الذي اعتمدهت الجمعية العامة في قرارها (740(XIV)).
37. في 3 أيلول/سبتمبر 2024، أبرمت منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة ووزارة السياحة في أوروغواي اتفاقية تعاون تحدد الشروط المالية والإدارية لإنشاء مرصد أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريبي، وصيانته وتشغيله في عامي 2025 و2026. ودخلت الاتفاقية، التي وافق عليها المجلس التنفيذي في مقرره (6(CXXII))، حيز النفاذ في تاريخ التوقيع.
38. يجري حاليًا التفاوض على اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة وحكومة أوروغواي بشأن الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لمرصد أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريبي، بما يتماشى مع اتفاقية البلد المضيف مع كلٍّ من البرازيل والمغرب.
39. بغية السماح لمرصد أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريبي ببدء عملياته في بداية عام 2025، أذن المجلس التنفيذي للأمين العام، في مقرره (6(CXXII)) الذي اعتمده في دورته 122، بأن يبرم اتفاقًا مع حكومة أوروغواي لتطبيق أحكام اتفاق برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي أو اتفاقية مكتب الأمم المتحدة لخدمات المشاريع على مرصد أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريبي، مع مراعاة ما يقتضيه اختلاف الحال، إلى حين إبرام اتفاقية البلد المضيف.
40. في 7 أيار/مايو 2025، تلقت الأمانة تأكيدًا من حكومة أوروغواي لتطبيق الاتفاقية الموقعة بين أوروغواي وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي على منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، والتي أحاط المجلس التنفيذي علمًا بها في دورته 123 في المقرر [7\(CXXIII\)](#).

5 المرجع نفسه.

6 المرجع نفسه.

41. وعملاً بما سبق، أبرمت منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة وحكومة أوروغواي اتفاقية بشأن الصفة القانونية المؤقتة لمرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي في مونتيفيديو من خلال تبادل المذكرات بين الأمين العام ووزير العلاقات الخارجية في أوروغواي، بتاريخ 2 و 11 أيلول/سبتمبر 2025 على التوالي. ودخلت الاتفاقية حيز التنفيذ في 11 أيلول/سبتمبر 2025.

42. وفقاً للمادتين 12 (ل) 7 و 20⁸ من النظام الأساسي، يتعين على الجمعية العامة الموافقة على الاتفاقيات التالية: اتفاقية التعاون بين منظمة السياحة العالمية ووزارة السياحة في أوروغواي المعنية بمرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي، المبرمة في 3 أيلول/سبتمبر 2024، والاتفاقية المبرمة بين منظمة السياحة العالمية وأوروغواي بشأن الصفة القانونية المؤقتة لمرصد قانون السياحة لأمريكا اللاتينية والبحر الكاريبي في مونتيفيديو المبرمة عبر تبادل المذكرات بتاريخ 2 و 11 أيلول/سبتمبر 2025.

جيم. أوزبكستان - المكتب المواضيعي للسياحة على طريق الحرير

43. رحبت الجمعية العامة، من خلال القرار 763(XXV) المعتمد في دورتها الخامسة والعشرين، باقتراح أوزبكستان إنشاء مكتب مواضيعي بشأن "السياحة على طريق الحرير" في مدينة سمرقند.

44. خلال المفاوضات بين الأمانة وحكومة أوزبكستان، تم الاتفاق على تقسيم المناقشات إلى قسمين:

(أ) اتفاقية البلد المضيف التي تنشئ الإطار القانوني للمكتب المواضيعي (المشار إليها في ما يلي باسم "اتفاقية البلد المضيف")،

(ب) واتفاقية تكميلية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب (يشار إليها في ما يلي باسم "الاتفاقية التكميلية").

45. وافق المجلس التنفيذي، في مقرره 7(CXXIII) المعتمد في دورته 123، على اتفاقية البلد المضيف وطلب إلى الأمين العام أن يقدمها إلى الدورة الحالية للجمعية العامة للتصديق عليها، إلى حين إبرام الاتفاقية التكميلية واستكمال أوزبكستان الإجراءات الداخلية اللازمة لإنشاء المكتب المواضيعي وفقاً للإطار القانوني والتشغيلي الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة بموجب القرار 740(XXIV).

46. تم التوقيع على اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين حكومة جمهورية أوزبكستان ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للسياحة على طريق الحرير التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة في سمرقند في 2 تموز/يوليو 2025.

47. وفقاً للمادة 14 (1)، تدخل اتفاقية البلد المضيف حيز النفاذ بالشروط التالية: (1) موافقة المجلس التنفيذي، إلى حين تصديق الجمعية العامة عملاً بالمادة 12 من النظام الأساسي، (2) إخطار خطي من حكومة أوزبكستان باستكمال متطلباتها القانونية الداخلية اللازمة لتصبح الاتفاقية سارية المفعول؛ و (3) دخول الاتفاقية التكميلية بشأن الترتيبات المالية والإدارية للمكتب المواضيعي حيز النفاذ.

48. تجري حالياً المفاوضات بشأن الاتفاقية التكميلية. وتبقى الأمانة الدول الأعضاء على علم بالتقدم المحرز في هذه المفاوضات من خلال ملحق لهذا التقرير.

49. وفقاً للمادتين 12 (ل) 9 و 20¹⁰ من النظام الأساسي، يتعين على الجمعية العامة الموافقة على الاتفاقية المبرمة بين حكومة جمهورية أوزبكستان ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن إنشاء المكتب المواضيعي للسياحة على طريق الحرير في سمرقند، المبرمة في 2 تموز/يوليو 2025.

رابعاً. إنشاء مكاتب إقليمية وموضوعية جديدة

ألف. الصين - المكتب الإقليمي

50. في 1 آب/أغسطس 2025، تلقت الأمانة مذكرة شفوية من وزارة الثقافة والسياحة في جمهورية الصين الشعبية تقدم اهتمام الصين باستضافة مكتب إقليمي في مدينة شنغهاي وتطلب من الأمانة تقديم مسودة لاتفاقية البلد المضيف.

51. في 10 أيلول/سبتمبر 2025، تلقى الأمين العام رسالة من السيد غاو تشنغ، نائب وزير الثقافة والسياحة، تناول استضافة مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي، ونقل فيها التزام الصين بالامتثال للمتطلبات المنصوص عليها في الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لإنشاء المكاتب الإقليمية التابعة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة والمعتمد بموجب قرار الجمعية العامة 740(XXIV).

52. أخيراً، تلقت الأمانة في 8 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2025 رسالة من وزارة الثقافة والسياحة الصينية تطلب فيها تعميم طلبها المتعلق باستضافة مكتب إقليمي، وذلك بين الدول الأعضاء في لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا بغية الحصول على دعمها وتوصياتها، وطلبت أيضاً إبلاغ هذه الدول الأعضاء بأن الخطة التفصيلية لتشغيل المكتب الإقليمي ستقدم في الاجتماع المشترك للجنة شرق آسيا

⁷ المرجع نفسه.

⁸ المرجع نفسه.

⁹ المرجع نفسه.

¹⁰ المرجع نفسه.

والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا في عام 2026، بغية التشاور مع الدول الأعضاء وتلقي تعليقاتها ومقترحاتها بشأن الإطار التشغيلي للمكتب الإقليمي.

53. وفقاً لإجراء إنشاء المكاتب الإقليمية، على النحو الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة في القرار (XXIV)740¹¹، أبلغت الأمانة عبر مذكرة شفوية في 10 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2025 الدول الأعضاء في لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا بطلب الصين استضافة مكتب إقليمي، وطلب من الأعضاء النظر فيه حتى 28 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2025. وفي حال عدم ورود أي اعتراض على الطلب من أعضاء لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا بحلول الموعد النهائي المحدد، يُعتبر موسى به من قبل لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا. وتقوم الأمانة بإبلاغ المجلس التنفيذي بذلك في دورته 124 وكذلك الجمعية العامة في دورتها السادسة والعشرين لاتخاذ قرار بهذا الشأن.

54. ضمن الموعد النهائي المحدد، تلقت الأمانة تعليقات من الأعضاء التالية أسماؤهم، حسب الترتيب الزمني: جمهورية كوريا، وجمهورية إيران الإسلامية، واليابان، والهند، وإندونيسيا، بتاريخ 28 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2025. وعقب تعميم هذه التعليقات على أعضاء لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا في اليوم نفسه، تلقت الأمانة في وقت لاحق تعليقات من جمهورية الصين الشعبية في 30 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر، إجابةً على تعليقات الدول الأعضاء الخمس المذكورة أعلاه، وعمت تعليقاتها على أعضاء لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا في اليوم نفسه. وترد في المرفق الثاني لهذا التقرير جميع التعليقات والآراء الواردة من أعضاء اللجنتين.

55. في سياق التعليقات الواردة من الدول الأعضاء المذكورة أعلاه، وإذ تضع الأمانة في اعتبارها أنه لا توجد قيود صريحة على عدد المكاتب لكل منطقة بموجب الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي الذي وافقت عليه الجمعية العامة في قرارها (XXIV)740، تود الأمانة أن تذكر بسابقة حيث أن المجلس التنفيذي وافق على طلبين لاستضافة مكتبين إقليميين في نفس المنطقة، بموجب المقرر (CXV)5 الذي اعتمده المجلس التنفيذي في دورته 115 حيث وافق على إنشاء مكتبين إقليميين في الأرجنتين والبرازيل، رهناً بتصديق الجمعية العامة وشريطة الامتثال للإطار القانوني والتشغيلي الذي اعتمده الجمعية العامة.

56. علاوة على ذلك، تذكر الأمانة كذلك، عملاً بالمادة 12 (ي) من النظام الأساسي، بأن الجمعية العامة هي الجهاز الوحيد الذي يتمتع بسلطة إنشاء مكاتب للمنظمة.

57. على هذا النحو، فإن المجلس التنفيذي، وفقاً للمادة 19 (ج) من النظام الأساسي¹²، مدعو إلى:

(أ) التوصية للجمعية العامة بالموافقة على الطلب المقدم من الصين لاستضافة مكتب إقليمي، رهناً بمزيد من المشاورات في اجتماع لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا في عام 2026 بشأن توزيع أدوار المكتب الإقليمي في الصين ومكتب الدعم الإقليمي في اليابان،

أو

(ب) الطلب بأن تأذن الجمعية العامة للمجلس التنفيذي الموافقة على الطلب رهناً بإجراء مزيد من المشاورات في اجتماع لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ ولجنة جنوب آسيا في عام 2026 بشأن المسألة نفسها.

58. وفيما بعد، تُدعى الجمعية العامة أيضاً إلى القيام بما يلي:

(أ) الموافقة على إنشاء مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي رهناً بإجراء مزيد من المشاورات في اجتماع لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ - لجنة جنوب آسيا في عام 2026 حول توزيع أدوار المكتب الإقليمي في الصين ومكتب الدعم الإقليمي في اليابان،

أو

(ب) تفويض سلطتها بموجب المادة 12 (ي) من النظام الأساسي إلى المجلس التنفيذي، وأن تأذن له بالموافقة على إنشاء مكتب إقليمي في شنغهاي رهناً بإجراء مزيد من المشاورات في اجتماع لجنة شرق آسيا والمحيط الهادئ - لجنة جنوب آسيا في عام 2026 بشأن المسألة نفسها.

خامساً. التقدم المحرز في إصلاح مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ

59. وفقاً للولاية المنصوص عليها بموجب قرار الجمعية العامة (XXI)656، عملت حكومة اليابان ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة على معالجة الثغرات والتوصل إلى حلّ يحافظ على فوائد الدعم الياباني، مع تضمين مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ ضمن الإطار القانوني والمؤسسي لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة. ويدرك كلا الطرفين أهمية مواصلة مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ مع معايير هيئات الفئة الأولى لضمان شرعيته وفعالته واستدامته. وقد أعربت السلطات اليابانية عن استعدادها لإضفاء الطابع الرسمي على الصفة القانونية للمكتب، والتفاوض على إطار قانوني جديد لتوفير أساس قانوني واضح لعمليات المكتب في اليابان ومنحه الاستقلالية والسلطة التي يحتاجها للعمل كمكتب تابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة، وبالتالي حماية مصالح المنظمة. وإبرازاً للالتزام اليابان بهذا الشأن، وافقت حكومة

¹¹ "إن تقوم أمانة منظمة السياحة العالمية بتعميم طلب فيما بين الدول الأعضاء في المنطقة أو إدراج الموضوع في اجتماع اللجنة الإقليمية لدعمه وتقديم المزيد من التوصيات" (الفقرة 37، (A/24/10 rev.1).

¹² المادة 19 (ج) من النظام الأساسي: تتمثل مهام المجلس في: (...) (ج) "تقديم مقترحات إلى الجمعية".

اليابان على تطبيق اتفاقية امتيازات وحصانات الوكالات المتخصصة لعام 1947 ومرفقها الثامن عشر في عام 2020 بما يتماشى مع الشروط المطبقة على هيئات الفئة الأولى المشار إليها في القرار (XXI) 656.¹³

60. في أعقاب مفاوضات مكثفة بين الأمانة وحكومة اليابان، أحرز تقدم كبير في هذا الصدد. في شباط/فبراير 2025، من خلال تبادل المذكرات بين الأمين العام ومفوض وكالة السياحة اليابانية، اتفقت منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة وحكومة اليابان على الترتيبات المتعلقة بعمليات المنظمة بهدف الامتثال للشروط والمعايير المطبقة على مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ بصفته هيئة من الفئة الأولى، وضمان تمتعه بالإطار القانوني المناسب في اليابان. ومن خلال هذه الترتيبات، تقر الحكومة اليابانية بأن جميع مبادئ ومعايير هيئات الفئة الأولى تنطبق على مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ؛ وتعترف بشخصيته القانونية كجزء لا يتجزأ من المنظمة؛ وتتعهد بأن تتلقى منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة معاملة لا تقل تفضيلاً عن تلك التي تتمتع بها الأمم المتحدة والوكالات المتخصصة الأخرى في اليابان. ويُذكر كذلك أن "وكالة السياحة اليابانية تعزم بحمل التكاليف اللازمة لدعم أنشطة مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ، كمساهمة طوعية كل عام رهناً باعتماداتها في الميزانية"، وسيتم الاتفاق على مبلغ المساهمة سنوياً، ليتم تحديدها في "مذكرة تعاون منفصلة بين منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة ووكالة السياحة اليابانية".

61. أحبط المجلس التنفيذي علماً في دورته 123 بتبادل المذكرات، باعتباره الجزء الأول من الترتيبات المقترحة لإدماج مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ ضمن هيكل منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة بصفته هيئة من الفئة الأولى، وتشكل "مذكرة التعاون" المشار إليها الجزء الثاني من هذه الترتيبات (CE/123/5 Add.1)). وشجع المجلس التنفيذي الأمانة في مقرره (CXXIII/7) على مواصلة المفاوضات مع حكومة اليابان لوضع اللمسات الأخيرة على الترتيبات المالية المطلوبة لإدماج مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ بالكامل في منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة بصفته هيئة من الفئة الأولى" (الفقرة 5) كما "طلب من الأمانة تقديم تقرير بشأن المفاوضات مع حكومة اليابان حول عملية إصلاح مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ وفقاً للشروط والمعايير المعتمدة لهيئات الفئة الأولى عملاً بالولاية المنصوص عليها في قرار الجمعية العامة (XXI) 656" (الفقرة 12).

62. تتمثل إحدى الخطوات الحاسمة لدمج مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ في النظام المؤسسي والقانوني لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة كهيئة من الفئة الأولى في إبرام اتفاقية البلد المضيف بين منظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة واليابان - سواء كان ذلك من خلال اتفاقية رسمية أو مذكرة تفاهم أو تبادل مذكرات - تكون ملزمة لكلي الطرفين. والواقع أن اتفاقية البلد المضيف الملزمة قانوناً تشكل الأداة الوحيدة التي تحدد الالتزامات القانونية والمالية القابلة للتنفيذ على كل من اليابان ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة، مما يوفر العمود الفقري للحكومة المطلوب في إطار عمل هيئات الفئة الأولى. ومن الجدير بالذكر أن وكالات الأمم المتحدة تنشئ عادة مكاتب من خلال اتفاقيات مباشرة مع الحكومات المضيفة لإضفاء الشخصية القانونية على المكاتب ومنح الامتيازات والحصانات لها ولموظفيها، مع تزويد هذه المكاتب بالموظفين وإدارتها كجزء لا يتجزأ من الوكالة المعنية. ومن منظور مقارن، يعد النموذج الحالي لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ غريباً داخل منظومة الأمم المتحدة.

63. وبالمثل، ينبغي تضمين أي مساهمة مالية من حكومة اليابان لدعم مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ في اتفاقية ملزمة قانوناً وفقاً للوائح والقواعد المالية لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة.

64. لا يستوفي الهيكل الحالي لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ بالكامل المعايير القانونية والتشغيلية المعتمدة لهيئات من الفئة الأولى، لكن الجهود الجارية (بما في ذلك قبول اليابان تطبيق اتفاقية عام 1947 واستعدادها لتحسين الإطار القانوني والمالي لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ) تمهد المسار الانتقالي نحو تحقيق الامتثال. وتتمثل الخطوات الرئيسية المتبقية في توقيع اتفاقية البلد المضيف، وإعادة هيكلة ترتيبات موظفي مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ، ودمج الشؤون المالية. وتتطلب هذه الخطوات تنسيقاً وثيقاً بين الأمانة واليابان لتجنب تعطيل العمل الجاري للمكتب. وبناءً عليه، قد ترغب الجمعية العامة، كتدبير مؤقت في هذه الفترة الانتقالية، في النظر في الموافقة على تبادل المذكرات لعام 2025 بينما تواصل الأمانة مناقشات مع حكومة اليابان بهدف دمج مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ بالكامل ضمن الإطار القانوني والمؤسسي لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للسياحة كهيئة من الفئة الأولى.

65. عملاً بالمادة 12 (ل) من النظام الأساسي، فإن الجمعية العامة مدعوة إلى الموافقة، كتدبير مؤقت، على الترتيبات المبرمة بين وكالة السياحة اليابانية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ، الذي تم من خلال تبادل المذكرات في 2 شباط/فبراير و13 شباط/فبراير 2025.

66. وفي 31 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر، تلقت الأمانة رسالة من اليابان تطلب فيها إدخال تعديلات على الفقرة 23 من مشروع القرار، والفقرة 61 من التقرير الراهن. وترد هذه الرسالة في المرفق الثالث من التقرير الراهن. وفي سياق التعديل المقترح لمشروع القرار، تود الأمانة أن تضيف النص أدناه بخط مائل لتوضيح أن تبادل المذكرات لعام 2025، كما هو موضح أعلاه، يشكل خطوة ضمن التدبير الانتقالي، أثناء المناقشات الجارية لدمج مكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ كهيئة من الفئة الأولى:

"لوافق كتدبير مؤقت على الترتيبات المبرمة بين وكالة السياحة اليابانية ومنظمة السياحة العالمية بشأن الإطار القانوني والتشغيلي لمكتب الدعم الإقليمي لآسيا والمحيط الهادئ [بهدف تمهيد الطريق ليصبح هيئة من الفئة الأولى / بهدف تمهيد الطريق لإدراجه في إطار نموذج هيئات الفئة الأولى]."

¹³ تعديل اقترحه اليابان (انظر الفقرة 66 من التقرير).

Annex I: Report of the Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices

Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices

Final Report

Introduction

The Executive Council, through its [decision 7\(CXVIII\)](#), decided to establish a Working Group on Regional and Thematic Offices, composed of Member States and supported by the Secretariat.

Subsequently, Terms of Reference establishing the mandate, composition and working methods of the Working Group were approved by the 119th session of the Executive Council through [decision 7\(CXIX\)](#) and subsequently further noted by the 25th session of the General Assembly through [Resolution 763\(XXV\)](#).

The Working Group, composed by Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Egypt, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, and Yemen have reviewed the input previously received by the Secretariat regarding the Legal and Operational Framework for UN Tourism Offices during the period 2022-2023 and, on this basis, prepared a recommendation for the improvement of the Framework, requesting the Secretary-General to submit it to the Executive Council at its 124th session for approval.

The Working Group convened five meetings. A summary and overview of the discussions are presented in the Report on Regional and Thematic Offices submitted to the 124th session of the Executive Council (CE/124/5).

The Report consists of three annexes. Annex I provides the final, revised version of the recommendations on the improvement of the Legal and Operational Framework for the Selection and Establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices, based on comments received from Member States and the outcomes of discussions held during the five meetings of the Working Group. To ensure greater clarity and transparency, Annex II provides a comparative chart with four columns: the initial text of the Report on the “Establishment of UNWTO Regional Offices (A/24/10 rev.1)”; any further developments or refinements made during subsequent Executive Council sessions; the final and proposed text of the Working Group, or indications where no changes were made; and comments with specific notes, including divergent views from Member States. Annex III contains the comments received from Japan during the circulation of the draft Final Report among the Working Group Members under the 72-hour silence procedure.

NOTE

The Working Group Members kindly request the Executive Council to look into the possibility of allocating part of the organization’s financial resources to support Member States in establishing Regional and Thematic Offices, ensuring that the Organization’s Offices are not limited to certain Countries, and that financial capacity does not constitute a barrier in this regard.

The Chair also wishes to inform the Executive Council the virtual format of the Working Group Meetings prevented Members’ Representatives from wide participation and active engagement, requesting the Council to look into the possibility of holding upcoming Committees and Working Groups’ Meetings in-person through the Member States’ Embassies in Madrid.

Actions to be taken by the 124th session of the Executive Council:

The Executive Council is invited to:

1. Thank the Working Group members, its Chair, Vice Chair and the Secretariat for the overall work undertaken and to take note of its activities on the review of the legal and operational framework for UN Tourism Offices;

2. Approve the report with the recommendation on the legal and operational framework for UN Tourism Offices made by the Working Group for the improvement of the legal and operational framework on the selection and establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices and to submit the report to the 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly for consideration;
3. Further approve the revised Legal and Operational Framework on the Selection and Establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices, and submit this revised framework to the 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly for approval;
4. Consider the mandate of the Working Group as completed.

Annex I: Recommendation of the Working Group on the improvement of the Legal and Operational Framework on the Selection and Establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices¹

Differentiation between Regional and Thematic Offices

1. **UN Tourism Regional Offices** are established to bring the Organization's strategic vision and initiatives closer to Member States by translating global policies and programmatic priorities into regionally adapted actions. Their core objective is to ensure that UN Tourism's work remains responsive to the specific needs, opportunities, and challenges of each geographic area. Operating as decentralized structures under the full supervision of the UN Tourism Secretariat—which retains oversight of the Organization's political engagement—**Regional Offices** enhance the relevance and impact of the Programme of Work (PoW) by aligning global objectives with regional priorities. They play a proactive role in implementing UN Tourism's mandate in ways that reflect regional policy frameworks, cultural contexts, and development agendas, while delivering tailored support and services to Member States to ensure that measures are both targeted and effective.
2. **Regional Offices** serve as key structures for outreach and advocacy, forging strategic partnerships with international and regional organizations, donor institutions, and other stakeholders. Depending on the needs and specificities of the regions they serve, **Regional Offices** may operate at regional and/or sub-regional levels.
3. **UN Tourism Thematic Offices** may be established to address specialized subject areas requiring focused expertise and sustained attention. Operating as decentralized structures under the full supervision of the UN Tourism Secretariat—which retains oversight of the Organization's political engagement—**Thematic Offices** serve as dedicated hubs for research, policy input, and the advancement of thematic priorities. Their scope of work aligns with the UN Tourism Programme of Work (PoW) but may also extend beyond it to address emerging trends and evolving needs of Member States. **Thematic Offices** are responsible for knowledge creation and dissemination, training, capacity development, and policy guidance, while ensuring active coordination with national tourism administrations, destination management organizations, industry associations, and other relevant stakeholders.
4. They may also produce publications, studies, and tailored academic and practitioner research in close collaboration with universities and academic institutions. Overall, **Thematic Offices** support the achievement of sustainable tourism development and resilience in Member States.
5. Depending on the needs and specificities of the subject areas, **Thematic Offices** may operate at regional, sub-regional, or other geographically defined levels. These scopes may encompass groups of countries within the same region or across different regions, based on thematic relevance and spatial linkages.

Establishment of Offices

Procedure for the establishment of Offices

6. Submission of an official letter of intent (application) by a Member State to host a Regional or Thematic Office, addressed to the Secretary-General of UN Tourism, along with a commitment to all requirements stipulated in the Host Country Agreement, including compliance with the applicable legal framework.
7. Dissemination by the UN Tourism Secretariat among the Members of the corresponding Regional Commission(s) of the application and detailed proposal for hosting a Regional or Thematic Office — covering the proposed scope of work, financial aspects, and other relevant matters — prepared by the applicant country in consultation with the UN Tourism Secretariat, for subsequent recommendation by the Regional Commission(s), or inclusion of these documents in the agenda

¹ Unless expressly stated otherwise in the text, "Offices" shall be understood as both Regional and Thematic Offices.

of the corresponding Regional Commission meeting(s) for discussion and subsequent recommendation. In the case of Thematic Offices, in addition to the recommendation of the corresponding Regional Commission(s), the Secretariat shall also disseminate the application and detailed proposal among the Members of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC), for subsequent recommendation by the PBC, or include them in the agenda of the PBC for discussion and subsequent recommendation.

8. Submission by the UN Tourism Secretariat of the recommended application to the Executive Council for its endorsement, including any information relevant to the conclusion of the agreement for the hosting of the Office.
9. Submission by the UN Tourism Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification.

Host country agreement

10. The establishment of Offices is subject to the conclusion of an agreement with the host State that ensures the appropriate legal framework and, in particular, the principles and conditions for external entities established under Category I as adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 656(XXI). The full list of conditions applying to Category I entities is included in General Assembly [document A/21/8\(I\)\(f\)](#).

Operational Framework and Programme of Work

11. Insofar as they constitute an integral part of the Organization, Offices shall carry out the mandate assigned to them by the General Assembly under the supervision of the Secretary-General.
12. Offices shall be administered from the Organization's Headquarters and be headed by an official appointed by the Secretary-General.
13. The timeline for the operationalization of the Offices may be prepared and proposed by the UN Tourism Secretariat; however, it is not possible to establish a concrete schedule, as the overall process depends not only on negotiations between the Organization's Secretariat and the host country, but also on internal procedures within the host country involving various governmental entities.
14. UN Tourism's institutional responsibility is to ensure the smooth, timely and high-quality functioning of its Offices, as well as to foster coordination and collaboration between them.
15. In terms of the overall planning and improvement of the global layout of the Offices and clarifying their respective scope of work under the premise of full consideration of regional balance and the specific context of each host country, it is important that (1) equitable regional representation is ensured; (2) mandates and specialization of each Office are defined; (3) a decision is made on how many Offices are to be established globally; (4) a rationale is established for how countries are selected to host these Offices; and (5) the network of Offices is cohesive and not redundant.

Legal Framework

Status of the Offices

16. Offices are an integral part of the Secretariat and shall be recognized as representing a specialized agency of the United Nations in the territory of the host State. Therefore, the host State must undertake to apply to the proposed Office, at a minimum, the provisions of either the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, adopted by the General

Assembly of the United Nations on 21 November 1947 (“the 1947 Convention”), and its Annex XVIII, or, alternatively, where the host State has not ratified said Convention, it shall undertake to apply at a minimum, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946, (“the 1946 Convention”), as may be applicable to UN Tourism *mutatis mutandis*.

Their application shall be without prejudice to the granting of additional privileges and immunities required in practice for the correct functioning of the Office, and to align with those afforded to other offices of the UN in the country or to those enjoyed by the Organization at the Headquarters.

1 7. These are essential, in line with the practice of UN Tourism and other organizations of the UN system, to guarantee the independence of the operations of the Organization, the privileges and immunities necessary to its personnel and to the representatives of UN Tourism Members. Further, they are necessary to ensure that the legal status and framework of the Organization is respected regardless of the country hosting the office and to prevent any legal or financial liability to the Organization.

1 8. Furthermore, the Organization shall be exempt from all indirect taxes when making important purchases intended for official use, in particular from value added taxes and/or duties which constitute part of the cost of goods purchased by or services rendered to the Organization. In such instances, the host State shall make appropriate arrangements for the remission or reimbursement of the amount of duty or tax.

1 9. As a general principle, the Organization shall enjoy treatment in respect of its privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities not less favourable than those accorded by the host State to the United Nations and other specialized agencies. The Secretariat will conduct benchmarking exercises as appropriate to review other agreements signed between other UN Agencies and the individual host country to ensure that the same conditions are provided to UN Tourism Offices and its personnel.

Status of Office Personnel

2 0. All officials of the Organization shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for under Article VI of the 1947 Convention while persons having the status of “experts”² shall be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent and effective exercise of their functions and, in particular, those provided for under paragraph 3 of the Annex XVIII.

2 1. For the purpose of enabling them to discharge their functions independently and efficiently, all individuals, irrespective of their nationality or residence, engaged by the Organization to perform services in the execution of the mandate of the Office should be considered by the host State as “officials” within the meaning of Section 18, Article VI, of the 1947 Convention³. Subsidiarily, when having the status of “experts” they shall be also entitled to the privileges and immunities provided for in Sections 19 and 20 of the 1947 Convention at a minimum.

2 2. In addition to the privileges and immunities granted to officials, the Head of the Office, and his or her spouse and relatives dependent on him or her, shall be accorded the same privileges, immunities and facilities as are enjoyed by diplomatic agents and their families in the host State.

2 3. All personnel of the Office shall be provided with a personal identity card certifying their status and the privileges and immunities afforded under the host country agreement.

² Experts are defined under paragraph 3 of Annex XVIII to the Convention as persons other than officials within the scope of Article VI of the Convention serving on organs and bodies of, or performing missions for, the Organization.

³ Each specialized agency will specify the categories of officials to which the provisions of this article and of article VIII shall apply. It shall communicate them to the Governments of all States parties to this Convention in respect of that agency and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The names of the officials included in these categories shall from time to time be made known to the abovementioned Governments (Section 18, Article VI, Convention)

Transit

- 2 4. All personnel of the Office shall be granted facilities enabling them to enter and leave the duty station and to be repatriated in times of international crisis. To this end, the host State shall issue to all Office personnel promptly, free of charge and without restrictions all necessary visas, permits and authorizations.
- 2 5. Likewise, the Host Country shall take appropriate measures to facilitate the entry into, sojourn in and departure of all representatives of Members of the Organization and any other persons who, by reason of their functions, must have access to the Office in an official capacity.

Prevention of Abuses

- 2 6. The privileges and immunities provided to the Organization and the personnel of the Office are only granted with a view to ensuring the effective fulfilment of the Organization's aims and purposes. The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any member of personnel if it would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Organization.
- 2 7. The Organization and the host State shall cooperate in order to facilitate the proper administration of justice, assure the observance of police regulations and prevent any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities granted to the Organization and its personnel.

Financial and Administrative Framework

Budget and Financial Arrangements

- 2 8. Regarding the requirement of the conditions applying to Category I entities adopted by the General Assembly, it should be noted that although Offices should be an integral part of UN Tourism's budget, this would not be possible unless assessed contributions would be increased to allow for the operation of such offices.
- 2 9. Therefore, the only possibility at the present moment for the establishment, organization and maintenance of an Office to carry out its mandate effectively is that it be financed by the host State through a voluntary contribution. This voluntary contribution is managed by the Secretariat to comply with the Programme of Work approved by the Governing Bodies for the Office and to ensure its correct functioning as well as the necessary support to the Office and coordination extended by the Headquarters of the Organization. Furthermore, the management of the Office is subject to UN Tourism's Financial Regulations and Rules.
- 3 0. In particular, the host State's contribution to the functioning of the Office shall cover:
- ا) The salaries of the Director and officials of the Office and such other personnel as may be assigned to the Office from time to time, including regional allowances and recruitment costs for local employees; and
 - ب) Institutional strengthening, modernization and other management issues of the Organization that have an impact on the Office.
- 3 1. Additionally, the host State shall bear the following costs:
- ا) Labour, equipment, supplies and other services or property as may be needed.
- 3 2. The premises of the Office in the location agreed with the host State shall be provided to the Organization free of charge.

Staffing

- 3 3. The selection, recruitment and contracts of all personnel of the Office shall be subject to the rules and regulations and policies of the Organization.
- 3 4. Therefore, all Office personnel, including the Head of the Office, shall be recruited by the Organization and be subject to the supervision of the Secretary-General or a designated Senior Officer, as in the practice of the United Nations, and shall not seek or accept instructions from any external authority.
- 3 5. In addition to officials, the Organization may also hire individuals on a fixed-term contract as service contract holders or experts to support the activities of the Office.

Security

- 3 6. Insofar as the premises of the Offices are inviolable, irrespective of their owner, no agent of the host State shall enter them without consent of the Secretary-General.
- 3 7. The host State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of the building and premises of the Office and its personnel in line with the mandatory security standards required by UNDSS.

Meetings

- 3 8. The 1947 Convention and Annex XVIII shall be applicable in respect of meetings and conferences convened by the Organization in the host State. Without prejudice to the provisions of the 1947 Convention, all participants and persons performing functions in connection with a meeting or conference of the Organization in the host State shall enjoy such privileges and immunities, facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection thereto.
- 3 9. Meetings and conferences held outside of the premises of the Office shall require prior notification to the authorities of the host State.

Review of operations

- 4 0. The Organization will conduct evaluations as to ascertain whether an Office constitutes a significant contribution to the Organization's aims and objectives and will report periodically on the functioning and operations of Offices to the General Assembly and the Executive Council.

Annex II – Comparative Chart¹⁷¹⁸

Initial text (2021) (A/24/10 rev.1) ¹⁹	Further development and refinements made at the Executive Council sessions EC116 (2022) (CE/116/4(b)); EC 117th (2022) (CE/117/5), other subsequent sessions	The final and proposed text (2025) and/or no changes were made	Comments
<p>Host country agreement</p> <p>10. The establishment of a Regional Office is subject to the conclusion of an agreement with the host State that ensures the appropriate legal framework and, in particular, the principles and conditions for external entities established under Category I as adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 656(XXI). The full list of conditions applying to Category I entities is annexed to the present document.</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Host country agreement</p> <p>The establishment of Offices is subject to the conclusion of an agreement with the host State that ensures the appropriate legal framework and, in particular, the principles and conditions for external entities established under Category I as adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 656(XXI). The full list of conditions applying to Category I entities is included in General Assembly document A/21/8(l)(f).</p>	<p>Comment received from Japan following the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group</p> <p>Following the fourth and fifth meetings, Japan submitted the following comment "...in the Resolution 763 adopted in 2023, the General Assembly 'reiterates the utmost importance that all applicants to host UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices comply...with the requirements of the host country agreement.' However, as Japan has already hosted RSOAP ever since its establishment in 1995 based on the exchange of letters, Japan is not an 'applicant(s) to host UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices' referred to in the said resolution. Importantly, Japan also wishes to point out that UN Tourism explained to us that the subject to be heeded in the present Working Group is new regional and thematic offices to be established.</p> <p>In the wake of the foregoing, in the Decision 7 of the 123rd Executive Council this year, the Executive Council 'Encourages the Secretariat to continue negotiations with the Government of Japan to finalize the required</p>

¹⁷ The order of the sections under Annex II is based on the order adopted at the 24th General Assembly (A/24/10 rev.1). The order of the sections under Annex I has been updated.

¹⁸ Unless expressly stated otherwise in the text, "Offices" shall be understood as both Regional and Thematic Offices.

¹⁹ By virtue of Resolution 740(XXIV), the legal and operational framework established under document A/24/10 rev.1 applies to both Regional and Thematic Offices, as such, it should be read as applying to both categories of Office.

			<p>financial arrangements for integrating RSOAP fully into UN Tourism as a Category 1 entity.’ As the said decision shows that the condition for the RSOAP to be upgraded to the Category 1 entity will be met once the financial arrangement (i.e. MoC) has been signed, over which the negotiation is ongoing, it is of utmost importance that the MoC is signed at an earliest timing possible.”</p> <p>“We would also like to additionally note that there are no preceding cases where Japan, in addition to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, has concluded additional agreements with other UN specialized agencies when they established their offices in Japan. Besides, Japan reiterates that the facility of the United Nations University located in Japan is its headquarters, not its office. Therefore, a simple comparison between the headquarters of the United Nations University and the RSOAP as done in the Response from the Secretariat is fundamentally inappropriate.”</p> <p>Comment received from China following the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group</p> <p>China replied to the comments submitted by Japan following the fourth and fifth meetings of the Working Group that “According to General Assembly resolutions 656(XXI) and 740(XXIV), a Cat 1 entity requires Host Country Agreement. It is our understanding that without HCA, any office would not be qualified to become a Cat 1 office. We believe that the Secretariat will and should act in accordance with the GA resolutions.”</p>
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<p>Status of Regional Offices</p> <p>11. Regional Offices shall be recognized as representing a specialized agency of the United Nations in the territory of the host State. Therefore, the host State must undertake to apply to the Organization at minimum the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 November 1947, and its Annex XVIII, without prejudice to granting additional privileges and immunities for the correct functioning of the Office and to align with those afforded to other offices of the UN in the country or to those enjoyed by the Organization at the Headquarters.</p> <p>12. These are essential, in line with the practice of UNWTO and other organizations of the UN system, to guarantee the independence of the operations of the Organization, the privileges and immunities necessary to its personnel and to the representatives of UNWTO Members. Further, they are necessary to ensure that the legal status and framework of the Organization is respected regardless of the country hosting the office and to prevent any legal or financial liability to the Organization.</p>		<p>Final text (WG):</p> <p>Status of Regional Offices</p> <p>Regional Offices are an integral part of the Secretariat and shall be recognized as representing a specialized agency of the United Nations in the territory of the host State. Therefore, the host State must undertake to apply to the proposed Office, to the Organization at a minimum, the provisions of either the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 November 1947 (“the 1947 Convention”), and its Annex XVIII, or, alternatively, where the host State has not ratified said Convention, it shall undertake to apply at a minimum, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946, (“the 1946 Convention”), as may be applicable to UN Tourism <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p> <p>Their application shall be without prejudice to the granting of additional privileges and immunities required in practice for the correct functioning of the Office, and to align with those afforded to other offices of the UN in the country or to those enjoyed by the Organization at the Headquarters.</p> <p>These are essential, in line with the practice of UN Tourism and other organizations of the UN system, to guarantee the independence of the</p>	<p>Comment received from Japan following the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group</p> <p>Following the fourth and fifth meetings, Japan submitted the following comments</p> <p>“The General Assembly Resolution 656 adopted in 2015 set forth the 11 conditions applying to Category 1 entities, which were also reiterated in the General Assembly Resolution 740 adopted in 2021. Over the past years, Japan and UN Tourism have bilaterally coordinated matters concerning the 11 conditions, although Japan refrains from openly elaborating here all the details of the negotiation given its nature. However, it should be noted that the sole condition explicitly stated with respect to privileges and immunities in the aforesaid resolutions is to ‘apply the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 1947 and its Annex XVIII,’ both of which Japan has already concluded.</p> <p>Moreover, it should be also noted that Japan and UN Tourism have formed common understanding on personnel and budget necessary for the Regional Office (RSOAP), leading to the exchange of letters in February this year which confirmed that the conditions and criteria applicable to Category 1 entities are complied with vis-à-vis RSOAP through the arrangements made in the exchange of letters.”</p> <p>“Regarding VAT exemption which UN Tourism is requesting, Japan already has a consumption tax (equivalent to VAT) exemption scheme* in place based on Article</p>
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<p>13. Furthermore, the Organization shall be exempt from all indirect taxes when making important purchases intended for official use, in particular from value added taxes and/or duties which constitute part of the cost of goods purchased by or services rendered to the Organization. In such instances, the host State shall make appropriate arrangements for the remission or reimbursement of the amount of duty or tax.</p> <p>14. As a general principle, the Organization shall enjoy treatment in respect of its privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities not less favourable than those accorded by the host State to the United Nations and other specialized agencies.</p>		<p>operations of the Organization, the privileges and immunities necessary to its personnel and to the representatives of UN Tourism Members. Further, they are necessary to ensure that the legal status and framework of the Organization is respected regardless of the country hosting the office and to prevent any legal or financial liability to the Organization.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Organization shall be exempt from all indirect taxes when making important purchases intended for official use, in particular from value added taxes and/or duties which constitute part of the cost of goods purchased by or services rendered to the Organization. In such instances, the host State shall make appropriate arrangements for the remission or reimbursement of the amount of duty or tax.</p> <p>As a general principle, the Organization shall enjoy treatment in respect of its privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities not less favourable than those accorded by the host State to the United Nations and other specialized agencies. The Secretariat will conduct benchmarking exercises as appropriate to review other agreements signed between other UN Agencies and the individual host country to ensure that the same conditions are provided to UN Tourism Offices and its personnel.</p>	<p>3, Paragraph 10 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies. Under this scheme, UN Tourism already enjoys exemption in the same way as other UN organizations. (*Under the scheme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, international organizations in Japan can enjoy the tax exemption regarding consumption tax when purchasing eligible official goods at designated duty-free stores, by using a tax exemption card issued upon request in the name of official of the office in Japan specified by the organization.)</p> <p>As is the case with the abovementioned consumption tax exemption scheme, the RSOAP already enjoys the equal treatment with other UN specialized agencies' offices in Japan.</p> <p>In the light of the foregoing, it should be concluded that the RSOAP in Japan fulfils the requirement for the Category 1 entity once the MoC, over which the negotiation is ongoing, is signed, and that the RSOAP, as an already existing Regional Office, falls outside of the scope of the present Working Group."</p>
<p>Programme of work</p> <p>15. Insofar as they constitute an integral part of the Organization,</p>		<p>Final text (WG):</p> <p><u>Operational Framework and the Programme of work</u></p>	

<p>Regional Offices shall carry out the mandate assigned to them by the General Assembly under the supervision of the Secretary-General.</p> <p>16. Offices shall be administered from the Organization's Headquarters and be headed by an official appointed by the Secretary-General.</p>		<p>Insofar as they constitute an integral part of the Organization, Offices shall carry out the mandate assigned to them by the General Assembly under the supervision of the Secretary-General.</p> <p>Offices shall be administered from the Organization's Headquarters and be headed by an official appointed by the Secretary-General.</p> <p>The timeline for the operationalization of the Offices may be prepared and proposed by the UN Tourism Secretariat; however, it is not possible to establish a concrete schedule, as the overall process depends not only on negotiations between the Organization's Secretariat and the host country, but also on internal procedures within the host country involving various governmental entities.</p> <p>UN Tourism's institutional responsibility is to ensure the smooth, timely and high-quality functioning of its Offices, as well as to foster coordination and collaboration between them.</p> <p>In terms of the overall planning and improvement of the global layout of the Offices and clarifying their respective scope of work under the premise of full consideration of regional balance and the specific context of each host country, it is important that (1) equitable regional representation is ensured; (2)</p>	
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		<p>mandates and specialization of each Office are defined; (3) a decision is made on how many Offices are to be established globally; (4) a rationale is established for how countries are selected to host these Offices; and (5) the network of Offices is cohesive and not redundant.</p>	
<p>Budget and financial arrangements</p> <p>17. The establishment, organization and maintenance of a Regional Office to carry out its mandate shall be financed by the host State. In particular, the host State's contribution to the functioning of the Office shall cover:</p> <p>(a) The salaries of the Director and officials of the Office and such other personnel as may be assigned to the Office from time to time, including regional allowances and recruitment costs for local employees;</p> <p>(b) Institutional strengthening, modernization and other management issues of the Organization that have an impact on the Office.</p> <p>18. Additionally, the host State shall bear the following costs:</p> <p>(a) Labour, equipment, supplies and other services or property as may be needed.</p> <p>19. The premises of the Office in the location agreed with the host State</p>	<p>Budget and financial arrangements</p> <p>27. Regarding the requirement of the conditions applying to category I entities adopted by the General Assembly, it should be noted that although Regional/thematic offices should be an integral part of UNWTO's budget, this would not be possible unless assessed contributions would be increased to allow for the operation of such offices.</p> <p>28. Therefore, the only possibility at the present moment for the establishment, organization and maintenance of a Regional/Thematic Office to carry out its mandate effectively is that it be financed by the host State through a voluntary contribution. This voluntary contribution is managed by the Secretariat to comply with the program of work approved by the Governing Bodies for the Office and to ensure its correct functioning as well as the</p>	<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (EC116):</p> <p>Budget and financial arrangements</p> <p>Regarding the requirement of the conditions applying to Category I entities adopted by the General Assembly, it should be noted that although Offices should be an integral part of UN Tourism's budget, this would not be possible unless assessed contributions would be increased to allow for the operation of such offices.</p> <p>Therefore, the only possibility at the present moment for the establishment, organization and maintenance of an Office to carry out its mandate effectively is that it be financed by the host State through a voluntary contribution. This voluntary contribution is managed by the Secretariat to comply with the Programme of Work approved by the Governing Bodies for the Office and to ensure its correct functioning as well as the necessary support to the Office and coordination extended by the Headquarters of the Organization. Furthermore, the management of the</p>	<p>The Chair of the Working Group recommended that, in the future, a portion of the Organization's regular budget be considered for allocation to the operation of the Offices, following a thorough preliminary assessment and taking into account the convenience and affordability within the Organization's overall financial situation.</p>

<p>shall be provided to the Organization free of charge.</p>	<p>necessary support to the Office and coordination extended by the Headquarters of the Organization. Furthermore, the management of the office is subject to UNWTO Financial Regulations and Rules.</p> <p>The establishment, organization and maintenance of a Regional Office to carry out its mandate shall be financed by the host State.</p> <p>In particular, the host State's contribution to the functioning of the Office shall cover:</p> <p>(a) The salaries of the Director and officials of the Office and such other personnel as may be assigned to the Office from time to time, including regional allowances and recruitment costs for local employees; and</p> <p>(b) Institutional strengthening, modernization and other management issues of the Organization that have an impact on the Office.</p> <p>29. Additionally, the host State shall bear the following costs:</p> <p>(a) Labour, equipment, supplies and other services or property as may be needed.</p> <p>30. The premises of the Office in the location agreed with the host State shall be provided to the Organization free of charge.</p>	<p>Office is subject to UN Tourism's Financial Regulations and Rules.</p> <p>In particular, the host State's contribution to the functioning of the Office shall cover:</p> <p>(a) The salaries of the Director and officials of the Office and such other personnel as may be assigned to the Office from time to time, including regional allowances and recruitment costs for local employees; and</p> <p>(b) Institutional strengthening, modernization and other management issues of the Organization that have an impact on the Office.</p> <p>Additionally, the host State shall bear the following costs:</p> <p>(a) Labour, equipment, supplies and other services or property as may be needed.</p> <p>The premises of the Office in the location agreed with the host State shall be provided to the Organization free of charge.</p>	
<p>Staffing</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p>	

<p>20. The selection, recruitment and contracts of all personnel of the Office shall be subject to the rules and regulations and policies of the Organization.</p> <p>21. Therefore, all Office personnel, including the Head of the Office, shall be recruited by the Organization and be subject to the supervision of the Secretary-General or a designated Senior Officer, as in the practice of the United Nations, and shall not seek or accept instructions from any external authority.</p> <p>22. In addition to officials, the Organization may also hire individuals on a fixed-term contract as service contract holders or experts to support the activities of the Office.</p>		<p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Staffing</p> <p>The selection, recruitment and contracts of all personnel of the Office shall be subject to the rules and regulations and policies of the Organization.</p> <p>Therefore, all Office personnel, including the Head of the Office, shall be recruited by the Organization and be subject to the supervision of the Secretary-General or a designated Senior Officer, as in the practice of the United Nations, and shall not seek or accept instructions from any external authority.</p> <p>In addition to officials, the Organization may also hire individuals on a fixed-term contract as service contract holders or experts to support the activities of the Office.</p>	
<p>Status of Office personnel</p> <p>23. All officials of the Organization shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for under Article VI of the Convention while persons having the status of “experts”⁴ shall be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent and effective exercise of their functions and, in particular, those provided for under paragraph 3 of the Annex XVIII.</p> <p>⁴ Experts are defined under paragraph 3 of Annex XVIII to the</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Status of Office personnel</p> <p>All officials of the Organization shall enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for under Article VI of the Convention while persons having the status of “experts”⁴ shall be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent and effective exercise of their functions and, in particular, those provided for under paragraph 3 of the Annex XVIII.</p>	

<p>Convention as persons other than officials within the scope of Article VI of the Convention serving on organs and bodies of, or performing missions for, the Organization.</p> <p>24. For the purpose of enabling them to discharge their functions independently and efficiently, all individuals, irrespective of their nationality or residence, engaged by the Organization to perform services in the execution of the mandate of the Office should be considered by the host State as “officials” within the meaning of Section 18, Article VI, of the Convention⁵. Subsidiarity, when having the status of “experts” they shall be also entitled to the privileges and immunities provided for in Sections 19 and 20 of the Convention at a minimum.</p> <p>⁵ Each specialized agency will specify the categories of officials to which the provisions of this article and of article VIII shall apply. It shall communicate them to the Governments of all States parties to this Convention in respect of that agency and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The names of the officials included in these categories shall from time to time be made known to the abovementioned Governments (Section 18, Article VI, Convention)</p> <p>25. In addition to the privileges and immunities granted to officials, the</p>		<p>⁴ Experts are defined under paragraph 3 of Annex XVIII to the Convention as persons other than officials within the scope of Article VI of the Convention serving on organs and bodies of, or performing missions for, the Organization.</p> <p>For the purpose of enabling them to discharge their functions independently and efficiently, all individuals, irrespective of their nationality or residence, engaged by the Organization to perform services in the execution of the mandate of the Office should be considered by the host State as “officials” within the meaning of Section 18, Article VI, of the Convention⁵. Subsidiarily, when having the status of “experts” they shall be also entitled to the privileges and immunities provided for in Sections 19 and 20 of the Convention at a minimum.</p> <p>⁵ Each specialized agency will specify the categories of officials to which the provisions of this article and of article VIII shall apply. It shall communicate them to the Governments of all States parties to this Convention in respect of that agency and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The names of the officials included in these categories shall from time to time be made known to the abovementioned Governments (Section 18, Article VI, Convention)</p> <p>In addition to the privileges and immunities granted to officials, the Head of the Office, and his or her spouse and relatives dependent on him or her, shall be accorded the same privileges, immunities</p>	
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<p>Head of the Office, and his or her spouse and relatives dependent on him or her, shall be accorded the same privileges, immunities and facilities as are enjoyed by diplomatic agents and their families in the host State.</p> <p>26. All personnel of the Office shall be provided with a personal identity card certifying their status and the privileges and immunities afforded under the host country agreement.</p>		<p>and facilities as are enjoyed by diplomatic agents and their families in the host State.</p> <p>All personnel of the Office shall be provided with a personal identity card certifying their status and the privileges and immunities afforded under the host country agreement.</p>	
<p>Transit</p> <p>27. All personnel of the Office shall be granted facilities enabling them to enter and leave the duty station and to be repatriated in times of international crisis. To this end, the host State shall issue to all Office personnel promptly, free of charge and without restrictions all necessary visas, permits and authorizations.</p> <p>28. Likewise, the Host Country shall take appropriate measures to facilitate the entry into, sojourn in and departure of all representatives of Members of the Organization and any other persons who, by reason of their functions, must have access to the Office in an official capacity.</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Transit</p> <p>All personnel of the Office shall be granted facilities enabling them to enter and leave the duty station and to be repatriated in times of international crisis. To this end, the host State shall issue to all Office personnel promptly, free of charge and without restrictions all necessary visas, permits and authorizations.</p> <p>Likewise, the Host Country shall take appropriate measures to facilitate the entry into, sojourn in and departure of all representatives of Members of the Organization and any other persons who, by reason of their functions, must have access to the Office in an official capacity.</p>	
<p>Security</p> <p>29. Insofar as the premises of Regional Offices are inviolable, irrespective of their owner, no agent</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Security</p>	

<p>of the host State shall enter them without consent of the Secretary-General.</p> <p>30. The host State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of the building and premises of the Office and its personnel in line with the mandatory security standards required by UNDSS.</p>		<p>Insofar as the premises of Offices are inviolable, irrespective of their owner, no agent of the host State shall enter them without consent of the Secretary-General.</p> <p>The host State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of the building and premises of the Office and its personnel in line with the mandatory security standards required by UNDSS.</p>	
<p>Meetings</p> <p>31. The Convention and Annex XVIII shall be applicable in respect of meetings and conferences convened by the Organization in the host State. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Convention, all participants and persons performing functions in connection with a meeting or conference of the Organization in the host State shall enjoy such privileges and immunities, facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection thereto.</p> <p>32. Meetings and conferences held outside of the premises of the Office shall require prior notification to the authorities of the host State.</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes to the existing text.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>The Convention and Annex XVIII shall be applicable in respect of meetings and conferences convened by the Organization in the host State. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Convention, all participants and persons performing functions in connection with a meeting or conference of the Organization in the host State shall enjoy such privileges and immunities, facilities and courtesies as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection thereto.</p> <p>Meetings and conferences held outside of the premises of the Office shall require prior notification to the authorities of the host State.</p>	
<p>Prevention of abuses</p> <p>33. The privileges and immunities provided to the Organization and the</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p>	

<p>personnel of the Office are only granted with a view to ensuring the effective fulfilment of the Organization's aims and purposes. The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any member of personnel if it would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Organization.</p> <p>34. The Organization and the host State shall cooperate in order to facilitate the proper administration of justice, assure the observance of police regulations and prevent any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities granted to the Organization and its personnel.</p>		<p>Prevention of abuses</p> <p>The privileges and immunities provided to the Organization and the personnel of the Office are only granted with a view to ensuring the effective fulfilment of the Organization's aims and purposes. The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any member of personnel if it would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Organization.</p> <p>The Organization and the host State shall cooperate in order to facilitate the proper administration of justice, assure the observance of police regulations and prevent any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities granted to the Organization and its personnel.</p>	
<p>Review of operations</p> <p>35. The Organization will conduct evaluations as to ascertain whether an Office constitutes a significant contribution to the Organization's aims and objectives and will report periodically on the functioning and operations of Regional Offices to the General Assembly and the Executive Council.</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Review of operations</p> <p>The Organization will conduct evaluations as to ascertain whether an Office constitutes a significant contribution to the Organization's aims and objectives and will report periodically on the functioning and operations of Offices to the General Assembly and the Executive Council.</p>	
<p>Procedure for the establishment of a Regional Office – steps to follow</p>	<p>Procedure for the establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices – steps to follow (EC116), (CE/116/4(b));</p>	<p>Final text (WG):</p>	<p>Two divergent views presented and additional comments:</p> <p>China</p>

<p>36. Submission of an official letter of intent (application) of hosting a Regional Office by a Member State to the UNWTO's Secretariat and commitment to all requirements within the host country agreement;</p> <p>37. Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation.</p> <p>38. Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the recommended application to the Executive Council for its endorsement, including any information relevant to the conclusion of the agreement for the hosting of the Office;</p> <p>39. Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification.</p>	<p>47. Submission of an official letter of intent (application) of hosting a Regional/Thematic Office by a Member State to the UNWTO's Secretariat and commitment to all requirements within the host country agreement;</p> <p>48. For a Thematic Office only: Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat the application received from a member State (strictly responding to the key thematic approved in the Programme of Work by the General Assembly of the same biennial period) for the review and further recommendation of the Programme and Budget Committee, a subsidiary body of the Organization's Executive Council Unlike a Regional Office, the application for the establishment of a Thematic Office is not a subject to the inclusion in the agendas of the respective Regional Commission meetings.</p> <p>49. Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation.</p> <p>50. Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the recommended</p>	<p>Procedure for the establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices – steps to follow</p> <p>Submission of an official letter of intent (application) by a Member State to host a Regional or Thematic Office, addressed to the Secretary-General of UN Tourism, along with a commitment to all requirements stipulated in the Host Country Agreement, including compliance with the applicable legal framework.</p> <p>Dissemination by the UN Tourism Secretariat among the Members of the corresponding Regional Commission(s) of the application and detailed proposal for hosting a Regional or Thematic Office — covering the proposed scope of work, financial aspects, and other relevant matters — prepared by the applicant country in consultation with the UN Tourism Secretariat, for subsequent recommendation by the Regional Commission(s), or inclusion of these documents in the agenda of the corresponding Regional Commission meeting(s) for discussion and subsequent recommendation. In the case of Thematic Offices, in addition to the recommendation of the corresponding Regional Commission(s), the Secretariat shall also disseminate the application and detailed proposal among the Members of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC), for subsequent recommendation by the PBC, or include them in the agenda of the PBC for discussion and subsequent recommendation.</p>	<p>China proposed an amendment to the wording in the 117th Executive Council report (CE/117/5) with the following formulation: "The application to host the Office should be submitted directly to the Executive Council by the UN Tourism Secretariat. The Member States of the corresponding regional commission shall be informed by the UN Tourism Secretariat of such application." (discussed at the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group).</p> <p><u>Japan</u></p> <p>Japan proposed amendment of the wording in the 116th Executive Council report (CE/116/4(b)) with the following formulation: "When considering the establishment of a new Regional Office, it should be endorsed by consensus of the Regional commission meeting to which it belongs, before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, consistent with past practice. If considering a new office in a region where a Regional Office already exists, the division of roles with the existing Regional Office should be fully discussed in the regional commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the Regional Commission." (discussed at the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group).</p> <p>Comment received from Japan following the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group</p>
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	<p>application to the Executive Council for its endorsement, including any information relevant to the conclusion of the agreement for the hosting of the Office.</p> <p>51. Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification.</p> <p>(EC117), (CE/117/5, Annex I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The State wishing to host the Office must submit a letter of the Secretary-General undertaking to comply with the required legal framework. - The application to host the Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council. - The establishment of the Office must be approved by the General Assembly upon endorsement by the Executive Council. 	<p>Submission by the UN Tourism Secretariat of the recommended application to the Executive Council for its endorsement, including any information relevant to the conclusion of the agreement for the hosting of the Office.</p> <p>Submission by the UN Tourism Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification.</p>	<p>Japan submitted that “We support the recently expressed Secretariat’s views that it is of critical importance to ensure a broader discussion on a wide ranges of relevant matters and concerns in the corresponding regional commission before establishing new regional office, in line with the report on the “Establishment of UNWTO Regional Offices” of the 24th session of the General Assembly and the “Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices.” Otherwise, it may result in duplication and inefficiency of operations and could adversely affect UN Tourism’s human and financial resources. In particular, when a new regional office is going to be established in the region subject to the jurisdiction of an existing one, we are of the view that sufficient consultations on the division of roles between the existing and the new offices should be exhausted within the corresponding regional commission, as this would serve the interests of UN Tourism, and the sequence of procedures—deliberations in the regional commission, endorsement by the Executive Council, and reporting to the General Assembly—is indispensable for ensuring the transparency of the Organization.</p> <p>Japan also concurs with the Resolution 763 “Progress report on the establishment of the UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices (A/25/9 rev.1)” adopted in the 25th General Assembly; namely that the establishment of a new regional office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission before being submitted to the Executive Council and subsequently to the General Assembly.</p>
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			<p>16. in accordance with the conditions applying to UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 656(XXI) and 740(XXIV), <u>an application to host an Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council for endorsement prior to being ultimately submitted for approval by the General Assembly.</u> Accordingly, Uzbekistan's application will be examined by the Commission for Europe at its 65th meeting to be held on 16 October 2023."</p> <p>Comment received from China following the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group</p> <p>China submitted that "Following the 4th and 5th Meeting of the Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices and the request raised by China, according to the Agenda Item 10 "Establishment of UNWTO Regional Offices" adopted by the 24th General Assembly (A/24/10 Rev.1) point 37, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China would like to request the Secretariat to disseminate China's application among member states of Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and Commission for South Asia for their support and recommendation, in order to submit it to the 124th Executive Council and the 26 session of the General Assembly for endorsement."</p> <p>China also replied to the comments submitted by Japan following the fourth and fifth meetings of the Working Group that "1. According to General Assembly resolutions</p>
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		<p>656(XXI) and 740(XXIV), an application to host an Office requires "Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation", "Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the recommended application to the Executive Council for its endorsement, including any information relevant to the conclusion of the agreement for the hosting of the Office", and "Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification".</p> <p>The above resolutions clearly states that the Executive Council and the General Assembly are the bodies to decide on the establishment of a regional office. The Secretariat should disseminate the application among the member states of the regional commission, whether a result could be reached, the application should be submitted to the Executive Council and the General Assembly for approval, which is also agreed by the legal counsel and reached as decisions during our last working group meeting.</p> <p>2. At present, no official regional office in the Asia Pacific region has been approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly, because no country in the region has yet signed the Host Country Agreement and committed to complying with the operational and legal framework of regional office of UN Tourism. Currently, there is no such problem as duplication or roles division. Additionally, there is no restriction limiting the establishment to only one regional office within the same region.</p>
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			<p>3. The purpose of establishing a regional office is to serve the member states and the development of UN Tourism. With the continuing input of the Host country, the office, as part of the Organization, will further contribute to the prosperity of the International Tourism sector. We believe it will only improve the efficiency and truly assist the Secretariat to lay the groundwork for future development.”</p>
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Annex III - Comments received from Japan (21.10.2025) during the circulation of the draft Final Report among the Working Group Members under the 72-hour silence procedure (extract of comments received)

1 Introduction

- First of all, Japan wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to the UN Tourism Secretariat for its dedicated efforts.
- In response to the Note Verbale dated 15 October 2025 circulated by the UN Tourism for the examination of the draft Final Report of Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices, Japan hereby submits the following comments.

2 Financial Resources (NOTE on Page 2 of the draft Final Report)

- We have concern that if the financial resources of the UN Tourism organization are used as funding for the establishment of regional/thematic offices in member states, it may lead to a decrease in financial resources within the UN Tourism organization and a proliferation of regional/thematic offices.
- Taking into account the efforts made under the UN80 Initiative, when allocating UN Tourism's core funds for the establishment of regional/thematic offices, it is desirable to allocate them after examining "the global layout of the Offices and clarifying their respective scope of work under the premise of full consideration of regional balance", as mentioned in paragraph 15 of the draft Final Report.

3 The Process of the Establishment of Regional Offices (Paragraph 7 on Page 4, Paragraph 15 on Page 5, Annex 2 Comparative Chart on Page 13 and 31-34)

- The process of establishing regional offices was discussed at the 4th and 5th Meetings of the Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices held on 23 September 2025. In the said Meetings, there was not much support from the participating countries for the claim that discussion at the corresponding regional commission is unnecessary. In other words, we have not reached the conclusion at all that it suffices to disseminate application documents and solicit opinions from member countries of the regional commission when establishing a new office.
- Having said that, Japan believes that, according to the UN Tourism documents, it is a prerequisite for the establishment of regional offices that prior consultations are held at the regional commission to which the member state intending to establish a regional office belongs.
- As explained in the written comments, "Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices" contained in the Decision of the 117th Executive Council in 2022 (Appendix 1) states that "The application to host the Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council."
- In addition, "Progress report on the establishment of the UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices" of the 2023 General Assembly (Appendix 2) states that "an application to host an Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council for endorsement prior to being ultimately submitted for approval by the General Assembly." These documents should not be ignored.
- On a different note, the 2015 General Assembly Resolution 656 is cited in the Comments from China dated 8 October 2025 as the basis for the claim that "Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region" would suffice when establishing a new regional office, but there is no such sentence in the said resolution.
- With respect to the 2021 General Assembly Resolution 740 (Appendix 3) that is also cited, its Attachment states that "Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation" is one of the steps to follow for the establishment of a Regional Office, and this procedure leaves certain ambiguity. On this point, the concrete step to follow has been clarified by the aforesaid Decision of the 2022 Executive Council and 2023 Progress Report.

○Furthermore, practices of member states subsequent to the 2021 General Assembly Resolution also support the view of Japan. Specifically, for Brazil, Morocco, Uzbekistan, and Uruguay, where the process of establishing regional/thematic offices is already underway, the establishment of regional/thematic offices has been on the agenda at their corresponding regional commissions. This means that the discussion at the regional commission has been held as a step to follow towards the establishment of new offices.

○It should be also underlined that the UN Tourism Secretariat has expressed in writing the view that it is important to fully consult at the regional commission before establishing a regional office (Appendix 4).

○In view of the above, it is prerequisite procedures that deliberations at the corresponding regional commission are held for the establishment of a regional office, both in documents and in practice. Should any country establishing a new regional office in future be exempted from deliberations at the corresponding regional commission, it would be unfair in relation to such countries as Brazil, Morocco, Uzbekistan and Uruguay which have adhered to due process, and may undermine equality among member states.

○Notably, as there has been no precedent of multiple regional offices being established within the same region, a proposal to establish a new regional office within the jurisdiction of an existing one must be given careful consideration. Otherwise, regional offices could be rampantly established in various regions without being adequately scrutinized in their corresponding Regional Commissions, which could have adverse effects on UN Tourism's human and financial resources.

4 Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (RSOAP) in Nara, Japan (Paragraph 7 on Page 4, Paragraph 15 on Page 5, Annex 2 Comparative Chart on Page 13 and 31-34)

○The comments from China cited in the draft Final Report states that “At present, no official regional office in the Asia Pacific region has been approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly.” We would like to point out that this statement is contradicted with the facts.

○First and foremost, 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 (with China being a member thereof) jointly decided to “recommend to the Executive Council that the Regional office should be located in the territory of Japan” (Appendix 5).

○This decision was subsequently endorsed by the 1993 Executive Council Decision (Appendix 6), the 1993 General Assembly Resolution 305 (Appendix 7) and the 1993 General Assembly Resolution 319 (Appendix 8), and the Office was officially established in 1995.

○As explicitly recognized in the 2021 General Assembly Resolution 740 (Appendix 3), the RSOAP is “The first Regional Office” of the UN Tourism. Over the past 30 years, the Office has played a role in promoting tourism development, sustainable tourism and tourism resilience in the Asia–Pacific region.

5 Conclusion

○**In the light of the foregoing, Japan respectfully requests that the Final Report be revised accordingly.**

Appendix

1 “Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices” decided at the 117th Executive Council

“The application to host the Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council”

https://pre-webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-10/CE117_05_Report_Status_Legal_Operational_Framework_Regional_and_Thematic_Offices_En.pdf?VersionId=WkE7cSMdaSEMufvIVa_bs6QWcRpL6.Wr

2 “Progress report on the establishment of the UNWTO Regional and Thematic Office” adopted in the 25th General Assembly

16. in accordance with the conditions applying to UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 656(XXI) and 740(XXIV), an application to host an Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council for endorsement prior to being ultimately submitted for approval by the General Assembly. Accordingly, Uzbekistan’s application will be examined by the Commission for Europe at its 65th meeting to be held on 16 October 2023.

https://pre-webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-10/A25_9_Progress%20report%20on%20UNWTO%20Regional%20and%20Thematic%20Offices_rev1_En.pdf?VersionId=DTJ.c6Jy.WkdCKtLrq0nz74f.sAftuAj

3 The Resolution 740 “Establishment of UNWTO Regional Office”

(Attachment)

9. The first Regional Office, the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific, was established in 1995 in Osaka, Japan, to assist with the development and promotion of tourism in the region. In 2012, the office moved to its current location in Nara, Japan.

Procedure for the establishment of a Regional Office – steps to follow

37. Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation.

(https://pre-webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-12/A24_10_Establishment_Regional%20Offices_rev.1_En.pdf?VersionId=N.5jhgFVNYwjyq32zWN1aXy2gpR7kLI3)

4 Comments of Japan and Secretariat

The Comment of Japan	The Comment of Secretariat
<p>Japan</p> <p>Verbal comments received during the 116th session of the Executive Council:</p> <p>Expressed belief that the establishment of a new regional office should be endorsed by consensus of the regional commission meeting to which it belongs before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly. In particular, if considering a new office in a region where a regional office already exists, it serves all Members interest to obtain the endorsement of the regional commission after fully discussing the division of laws with the existing regional offices.</p> <p>Written comments receive prior to the 116th session of the Executive Council:</p> <p>Considered that it is necessary to discuss respective functions and roles of the regional offices and also interrelationship between them before such establishing new offices since it may result in duplication and inefficiency of operations and could adversely affect UN Tourism's human and financial resources. As one of the largest financial contributors to UN Tourism, expressed that they will continue to seek clarification from the Secretariat on this point.</p> <p>Expressed belief that it is important that new offices will be established after thorough discussion and support by the Member States. Therefore, proposed the following text to be added to the paragraph 49 of the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UN Tourism Regional Offices.</p> <p>[Proposed text to be added in paragraph 49] "When considering the establishment of a new Regional Office, it should be endorsed by consensus</p>	<p>Japan's consideration and proposal is closely interlinked with the viewpoint of the Secretariat. While elaborating from the initial stage the procedure for the establishment of a regional office—as outlined in the report on the "Establishment of UNWTO Regional Offices" of the 24th session of the General Assembly (A/24/10 rev.1, p.7)—and subsequently refining it by including it in Annex I (p.8) of the "Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices" (GE/117/D), the Secretariat's primary consideration was to ensure that the entire process of establishing the offices is fully based on the need to submit any application to those statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies whose engagement in the phases of discussion, consultation, endorsement, and approval is of critical importance.</p> <p>The Secretariat believes that having a broader discussion of any application for hosting regional or thematic offices during the corresponding regional commission meeting—or meetings, in the case of thematic offices where the scope of the Office may encompass more than one region—will ensure that: (1) Member States' concerns, needs, and proposals are addressed transparently; (2) the rationale for the number of offices, as well as their scope of work and other functions, is defined in the best and most optimal way; and (3) the establishment of offices is well-coordinated, including their interrelationships with other existing or upcoming offices, and serves the needs of Member States to comply with the biennium Programme of Work approved by the General Assembly every two years.</p> <p>As for the proposed text of Japan to be added in paragraph 49, namely:</p>
<p>of the Regional commission meeting to which it belongs, before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, consistent with past practice. If considering a new office in a region where a Regional Office already exists, the division of roles with the existing Regional Office should be fully discussed in the regional commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the Regional Commission."</p> <p>Written comments receive prior to the 116th Executive Council session:</p> <p>Expressed view that when a country proposes to establish a new regional office, that the proposal should be endorsed by consensus at the meeting of the regional commission to which it belongs, before submitting the proposal to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, in order to be consistent with past practice. Expressed belief that this process contributes to smooth review and endorsement at the Executive Council and the General Assembly. If the proposal aims for the establishment of a new office in a region where a regional office already exists, the division of roles with the existing regional office should be fully discussed in the regional commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the regional commission by consensus.</p>	<p>"When considering the establishment of a new Regional Office, it should be endorsed by consensus of the Regional Commission Meeting to which it belongs, before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, consistent with past practice. If considering a new office in a region where a Regional Office already exists, the division of roles with the existing Regional Office should be fully discussed in the Regional Commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the Regional Commission."— it is entirely up to the Working Group to decide how to proceed further, subject to reflection in the final report of recommendations.</p>

5 Decision 2 by the 10th WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO commission for South Asia (CPA/CSA/DEC/2(X))

Establishment of a support office for the Asian Region

The Commissions,

2. Recommend to the Executive Council that the Regional Office should be located in the territory of Japan.

(<https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2019-12/csacap10decisions.pdf>)

6 The Decision 5 of the 46th Executive Council (CE/DEC/5 (XLVI))

The Executive Council,

Having been informed that the tenth joint meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO Commission for South Asia, held on 1 October 1993, recommended that the Regional Support Office for the Asia and Pacific region should be located in Japan,

5. Decides to refer this recommendation to the General Assembly for approval.

(https://webunwto.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/imported_images/45603/046dec.pdf)

7 The Resolution 305 of the 10th General Assembly (A/RES/305 (X))

The General Assembly,

4. Records with satisfaction the strengthening under way of the Organization's presence in the field, as called for at its ninth session, and approves the entering of a new stage in this regard with the opening, on an experimental basis, of a regional support office for Asia and the Pacific, established in Japan.

(https://webunwto.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/imported_images/45233/10res.pdf)

8 The Resolution 319 of the 10th General Assembly (A/RES/319 (X))

The General Assembly,

Having been informed that, at their joint meeting in Bali on 1 October 1993, the Regional Commissions for South Asia and for East Asia and the Pacific decided that Japan should host the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific,

(https://webunwto.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/imported_images/45233/10res.pdf)

Annex II: Comments and feedback received from Members of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the Commission for South Asia (CSA) regarding the application of the People's Republic of China to host a UN Tourism Regional Office in Shanghai (extract from emails and other documentation)

Republic of Korea (28.10.2025)

I would like to provide comments regarding China's application to host a Regional Office in Shanghai, as follows:

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea deeply appreciates the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China and its willingness to further contribute to the development of tourism in the Asia and the Pacific region through the proposed establishment of a Regional Office.

However, the Ministry is of the view that this matter would benefit from further discussion and consultation at the Regional Commission level, to allow Member States to exchange views and ensure full transparency in the member-driven decision-making process.

Accordingly, the Ministry wishes to inform that it is not in a position, at this stage, to join a recommendation for submission to the 124th session of the Executive Council and the 26th session of the General Assembly.

Should you require any further communication or clarification regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Official from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Islamic Republic of Iran (28.10.2025)

With reference to your communication regarding China's application to host a UN Tourism Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific – South Asia in Shanghai, I am pleased to convey the position of the Tourism Deputy of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After due consideration, the Tourism Deputy has expressed its agreement with the establishment of the proposed UN Tourism Regional Office in Shanghai, China. The Deputy has also indicated support for this initiative within the framework of the Commissions for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia, recognizing its potential to facilitate cooperation and communication among the member countries of the respective regions.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Islamic Republic of Iran supports China's application to host the Regional Office, in line with the broader objectives of promoting regional tourism development and strengthening collaboration among UN Tourism member states.

Official from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts

Japan (28.10.2025)

○First of all, Japan wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to the UN Tourism Secretariat for its dedicated efforts. In response to the Secretariat's request dated 10 October 2025 to examine the application of China to host a Regional Office, Japan hereby submits the following comments.

1 **The Process of the Establishment of Regional Offices**

○The process of establishing regional offices was discussed at the 4th and 5th Meetings of the Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices held on 23 September 2025. In the said Meetings, there was not much support from the participating countries for the claim that discussion at the corresponding regional commission is unnecessary. In other words,

we have not reached the conclusion at all that it suffices to disseminate application documents and solicit opinions from member countries of the regional commission when establishing a new office.

○Therefore, the circulation of the application documents in question should not be construed as constituting a part of the process towards establishing a regional office. At the same time, Japan's submission of opinions this time should not be interpreted as implicitly approving the claim that this opinion-solicitation is a step towards establishing a new regional office.

○Having said that, Japan believes that, according to the UN Tourism documents, it is a prerequisite for the establishment of regional offices that prior consultations are held at the regional commission to which the member state intending to establish a regional office belongs.

○As explained in the written comments, "Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices" contained in the Decision of the 117th Executive Council in 2022 (Appendix 1) states that "The application to host the Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council."

○In addition, "Progress report on the establishment of the UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices" of the 2023 General Assembly (Appendix 2) states that "an application to host an Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council for endorsement prior to being ultimately submitted for approval by the General Assembly." These documents should not be ignored.

○On a different note, the 2015 General Assembly Resolution 656 is cited in the Comments from China dated 8 October 2025 as the basis for the claim that "Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region" would suffice when establishing a new regional office, but there is no such sentence in the said resolution.

○With respect to the 2021 General Assembly Resolution 740 (Appendix 3) that is also cited, its Attachment states that "Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation" is one of the steps to follow for the establishment of a Regional Office, and this procedure leaves certain ambiguity.

○However, the aforesaid Decision of the 2022 Executive Council, made after the 2021 General Assembly Resolution, clearly states that the "application to host the Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission". In the light of this 2022 Executive Council Decision, it has been already clarified that mere dissemination of an application among the Member States of the Region does not suffice. This understanding is also endorsed by the aforementioned 2023 Progress Report which reiterates the same position as the 2022 Executive Council Decision.

○Furthermore, practices of member states subsequent to the 2021 General Assembly Resolution also support the view of Japan. Specifically, for Brazil, Morocco, Uzbekistan, and Uruguay, where the process of establishing regional/thematic offices is already underway, the establishment of regional/thematic offices has been on the agenda at their corresponding regional commissions. This means that the discussion at the regional commission has been held as a step to follow towards the establishment of new offices.

*Annotation: It is unclear whether discussions were held at the corresponding regional commission when opening the Riyadh office. However, at the time of the office's opening (May 2021), the General Assembly Resolution 740 (November-December 2021) had not yet

been adopted, and the said opening had to be carried out under the circumstances where a consented due process was non-existent. This means that it was infeasible at that time for the Riyadh office to foresee the presently applicable due process (i.e. discussion at the Corresponding Regional Commission) consolidated only after its opening. Hence, we should rather examine how countries have carried out the procedures for the establishment of offices after the adoption of the 2021 General Assembly Resolution 740.

○It should be also underlined that the UN Tourism Secretariat has expressed in writing the view that it is important to fully consult at the regional commission before establishing a regional office (Appendix 4).

○In view of the above, it is prerequisite procedure that deliberations at the corresponding regional commission are held for the establishment of a regional office, both in documents and in practice. Should any country establishing a new regional office in future be exempted from deliberations at the corresponding regional commission, it would be unfair in relation to such countries as Brazil, Morocco, Uzbekistan and Uruguay which have adhered to due process, and may undermine equality among member states.

○Notably, as there has been no precedent of multiple regional offices being established within the same region, the present proposal to establish a new regional office within the jurisdiction of an existing one must be given careful consideration. Otherwise, regional offices could be rampantly established in various regions without being adequately scrutinized in their corresponding Regional Commissions, which could have adverse effects on UN Tourism's human and financial resources.

2 Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (RSOAP) in Nara, Japan

○China claimed in its comments dated 8 October 2025 that "At present, no official regional office in the Asia Pacific region has been approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly." We would like to point out that this statement is contradicted with the facts.

○First and foremost, 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 (with China being a member thereof) jointly decided to "recommend to the Executive Council that the Regional office should be located in the territory of Japan" (Appendix 5).

○This decision was subsequently endorsed by the 1993 Executive Council Decision (Appendix 6), the 1993 General Assembly Resolution 305 (Appendix 7) and the 1993 General Assembly Resolution 319 (Appendix 8), and the Office was officially established in 1995.

○Since then, RSOAP has played a role in promoting tourism development, sustainable tourism and tourism resilience in the Asia-Pacific region and has gained recognition within UN Tourism as the regional office for Asia-Pacific. The 2021 General Assembly Resolution 740 (Appendix 3) also explicitly recognizes the RSOAP as "the first Regional Office" of the UN Tourism.

3 **Conclusion**

○In the light of the foregoing, Japan believes that thorough deliberations and the subsequent recommendation at the joint meetings of the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Commission for South Asia to be held after 2026 are indispensable before any further steps are taken. Thus, the submission of the present opinion by Japan constitutes the “objection” referred to in the Note Verbale dated 10 October 2025 circulated by UN Tourism.

1 “Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices” decided at the 117th Executive Council

“The application to host the Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council”

(https://pre-webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-10/CE117_0_5_Report_Status_Legal_Operational_Framework_Regional_and_Thematic_Offices_En.pdf?VersionId=WkE7cSMdaSEMUfvIva_bs6QWcRpL6.Wr)

2 “Progress report on the establishment of the UNWTO Regional and Thematic Office” adopted in the 25th General Assembly

16. in accordance with the conditions applying to UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 656(XXI) and 740(XXIV), an application to host an Office must be recommended by the corresponding regional commission for submission to the Executive Council for endorsement prior to being ultimately submitted for approval by the General Assembly. Accordingly, Uzbekistan’s application will be examined by the Commission for Europe at its 65th meeting to be held on 16 October 2023.

(https://pre-webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-10/A25_9_Progress%20report%20on%20UNWTO%20Regional%20and%20Thematic%20Offices_rev1_En.pdf?VersionId=DTJ.c6Jy.WkdCKtLrq0nz74f.sAftuAj)

3 The Resolution 740 “Establishment of UNWTO Regional Office” (Attachment)

9. The first Regional Office, the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific, was established in 1995 in Osaka, Japan, to assist with the development and promotion of tourism in the region. In 2012, the office moved to its current location in Nara, Japan.

Procedure for the establishment of a Regional Office – steps to follow

37. Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation.

(https://pre-webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-12/A24_10_Establishment_Regional%20Offices_rev.1_En.pdf?VersionId=N.5jhgFVNYwjyq32zW_N1aXy2gpR7kLI3)

Comments of Japan and the Secretariat

The Comment of Japan

The Comment of Secretariat

<p>Japan</p>	<p>Verbal comments received during the 116th session of the Executive Council:</p> <p>Expressed belief that the establishment of a new regional office should be endorsed by consensus of the regional commission meeting to which it belongs before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly. In particular, if considering a new office in a region where a regional office already exists, it serves all Members interest to obtain the endorsement of the regional commission after fully discussing the division of laws with the existing regional offices.</p> <p>Written comments receive prior to the 116th session of the Executive Council:</p> <p>Considered that it is necessary to discuss respective functions and roles of the regional offices and also interrelationship between them before such establishing new offices since it may result in duplication and inefficiency of operations and could adversely affect UN Tourism's human and financial resources. As one of the largest financial contributors to UN Tourism, expressed that they will continue to seek clarification from the Secretariat on this point.</p> <p>Expressed belief that it is important that new offices will be established after thorough discussion and support by the Member States. Therefore, proposed the following text to be added to the paragraph 49 of the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UN Tourism Regional Offices.</p> <p>[Proposed text to be added in paragraph 49] "When considering the establishment of a new Regional Office, it should be endorsed by consensus</p>	<p>Japan's consideration and proposal is closely interlinked with the viewpoint of the Secretariat. While elaborating from the initial stage the procedure for the establishment of a regional office—as outlined in the report on the "Establishment of UNWTO Regional Offices" of the 24th session of the General Assembly (A/24/10 rev.1, p.7)—and subsequently refining it by including it in Annex I (p.8) of the "Report on the status on the legal and operational framework for the establishment of UNWTO Regional and Thematic Offices" (CE/117/5), the Secretariat's primary consideration was to ensure that the entire process of establishing the offices is fully based on the need to submit any application to those statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies whose engagement in the phases of discussion, consultation, endorsement, and approval is of critical importance.</p> <p>The Secretariat believes that having a broader discussion of any application for hosting regional or thematic offices during the corresponding regional commission meeting—or meetings, in the case of thematic offices where the scope of the Office may encompass more than one region—will ensure that: (1) Member States' concerns, needs, and proposals are addressed transparently; (2) the rationale for the number of offices, as well as their scope of work and other functions, is defined in the best and most optimal way; and (3) the establishment of offices is well-coordinated, including their interrelationships with other existing or upcoming offices, and serves the needs of Member States to comply with the biennium Programme of Work approved by the General Assembly every two years.</p> <p>As for the proposed text of Japan to be added in paragraph 49, namely:</p>
	<p>of the Regional commission meeting to which it belongs, before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, consistent with past practice. If considering a new office in a region where a Regional Office already exists, the division of roles with the existing Regional Office should be fully discussed in the regional commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the Regional Commission."</p> <p>Written comments receive prior to the 116th Executive Council session:</p> <p>Expressed view that when a country proposes to establish a new regional office, that the proposal should be endorsed by consensus at the meeting of the regional commission to which it belongs, before submitting the proposal to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, in order to be consistent with past practice. Expressed belief that this process contributes to smooth review and endorsement at the Executive Council and the General Assembly. If the proposal aims for the establishment of a new office in a region where a regional office already exists, the division of roles with the existing regional office should be fully discussed in the regional commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the regional commission by consensus.</p>	<p>"When considering the establishment of a new Regional Office, it should be endorsed by consensus of the Regional Commission Meeting to which it belongs, before submitting to the Executive Council and the General Assembly, consistent with past practice. If considering a new office in a region where a Regional Office already exists, the division of roles with the existing Regional Office should be fully discussed in the Regional Commission. The General Assembly and the Executive Council consider the establishment of such an office only after it is endorsed by the Regional Commission."—it is entirely up to the Working Group to decide how to proceed further, subject to reflection in the final report of recommendations.</p>

5 Decision 2 by the 10th WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO commission for South Asia (CPA/CSA/DEC/2(X))

Establishment of a support office for the Asian Region The Commissions,

2. Recommend to the Executive Council that the Regional Office should be located in the territory of Japan.

(<https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2019-12/csacap10decisions.pdf>)

6 The Decision 5 of the 46th Executive Council (CE/DEC/5 (XLVI))

The Executive Council,

Having been informed that the tenth joint meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO Commission for South Asia, held on 1 October 1993, recommended that the Regional Support Office for the Asia and Pacific region should be located in Japan,

5. Decides to refer this recommendation to the General Assembly for approval. (https://webunwto.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/imported_images/45603/046dec.pdf)

7 The Resolution 305 of the 10th General Assembly (A/RES/305 (X))

The General Assembly,

4. Records with satisfaction the strengthening under way of the Organization's presence in the field, as called for at its ninth session, and approves the entering of a new stage in this regard with the opening, on an experimental basis, of a regional support office for Asia and the Pacific, established in Japan.

(https://webunwto.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/imported_images/45233/10res.pdf)

8 The Resolution 319 of the 10th General Assembly (A/RES/319 (X))

The General Assembly,

Having been informed that, at their joint meeting in Bali on 1 October 1993, the Regional Commissions for South Asia and for East Asia and the Pacific decided that Japan should host the Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific, (https://webunwto.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/imported_images/45233/10res.pdf)

India (28.10.2025)

This has reference to UN Tourism's communication No. NV/OFSG/30/2025 dated 10 October 2025 regarding the proposal to host a Regional Office in Shanghai, China.

It may be recalled that during the 4th Meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group and the G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting held in Goa from 19–21 June 2023 under India's G20 Presidency, a bilateral meeting took place between the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Government of India, and the Secretary-General, UNWTO. During this meeting, both sides discussed the possibility of establishing a UNWTO Regional Office in New Delhi to serve the South and Southeast Asia region. The matter remains under active consideration and has not yet been concluded.

At present, UNWTO maintains a Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific, which was originally established in Osaka in 1995 and later relocated to Nara, Japan, in 2012. In addition, a Regional Office for the Middle East was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2021.

Given that a Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific already exists in Japan and that discussions regarding possibilities of establishing a UNWTO Regional office in New Delhi is still under consideration,

India may not be in a position to endorse the proposal for establishing another UNWTO Regional Office in the region.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Official from the Ministry of Tourism

Indonesia (28.10.2025)

On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia, we acknowledge receipt of the Note Verbale from China concerning the intention to establish a Regional Office in Shanghai.

We welcome China's initiative to expand the UN Tourism presence in the region and have reviewed the proposal for the new office. We appreciate its long contributions to the work of UN Tourism and its commitment to fully cover the operational costs of the proposed Regional Office.

As a member of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, we must underscore the importance of collective decision-making on such matters. We also recognize that a Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific has been established in Nara, Japan, since 1995.

Therefore, we believe it is essential to first convene a discussion within the regional commission to facilitate an exchange of views among member states. This discussion would aim to clearly distinguish the function and mandate of the existing office in Japan and the proposed new office in Shanghai.

Accordingly, we propose that this initiative be discussed at the joint CAP-CSA meeting prior to its submission to the Executive Council meeting and General Assembly for final consideration.

Should you require further information or clarification regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Official from the Ministry of Tourism

People's Republic of China (30.10.2025)

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China would like to thank the Secretariat and the relevant member states for their support, engagement and efforts in the process of the application to establish a Regional Office in Shanghai.

We noted comments from relevant countries and hereby provide the following comments.

1. China remains committed to supporting the work of UN Tourism and will cover all the expenses of the Regional Office in Shanghai.

The Regional Office in Shanghai will be financed by China through a voluntary contribution. It will increase the financial resources of the UN Tourism, which will further contribute to the prosperity of the International Tourism sector. We believe it will only improve the efficiency and truly assist the Secretariat to lay the groundwork for future development.

2. The process of establishing a Regional Office in Shanghai is fully aligned with the relevant UN Tourism resolutions. This proposal has received recognition from the Secretariat and the overwhelming majority of Member States.

The comments from certain country, for example, "there was not much support from the participating countries for the claim that discussion at the corresponding regional commission is unnecessary at the 4th and 5th Meetings of the Working Group on UN Tourism Regional and Thematic Offices held on 23 September 2025" and "there is no such sentence in the said resolution for the claim that *Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region*", are contradictory to the facts and misleading.

According to General Assembly resolutions 656(XXI) and 740(XXIV)(paragraph 37 on page 7), an application to host an Office requires “Dissemination by the UNWTO Secretariat of an application among the Member States of the Region or inclusion of the subject at the Regional Commission Meeting for its support and further recommendation”, “Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the recommended application to the Executive Council for its endorsement, including any information relevant to the conclusion of the agreement for the hosting of the Office”, and “Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification”.

The proposal from China has been disseminated by the Secretariat among the member states of East Asia and the Pacific and of South Asia, and will be reviewed during the 124th Session of the Executive Council and the 26th Session of the UN Tourism General Assembly, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 7 to 11 November 2025. We are also scheduled to brief our detailed plan on the operation of the Regional Office at the Joint Commission Meeting for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia in 2026, in order to consult with the commission member states, and accommodate comments and proposals for the work plan of the Regional Office in Shanghai.

China is pleased to note that the consultation process with the member states of commissions has demonstrated clear and broad-based support for the proposal. 25 out of 29 countries supported or raised no objection, signifying the proposal has secured the recommendation of the majority of countries.

With a solid development foundation, vast market resources, extensive experience in hosting international organizations, as well as an open and inclusive partnership network, and Shanghai as a world-renowned port city and tourist destination, China has full confidence and capability to fulfill the responsibilities of hosting a UN Tourism Regional Office in Shanghai. We regard this as a significant opportunity to enhance practical cooperation with all Member States and the UN Tourism, advancing our shared interests and contributing to the sustainable development of tourism both in the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide.

3. At present, no official regional office in the Asia Pacific region has been approved by the Executive Council and the General Assembly, because no country in the region has yet signed the Host Country Agreement and committed to complying with the operational and legal framework of the Regional Office of UN Tourism.

Regional office and supporting office are not the same type of entity. According to General Assembly resolutions 656(XXI) and 740(XXIV), a Category 1 entity requires a Host Country Agreement. It is our understanding that without an HCA, any office would not be qualified to become a Category 1 office. We believe that the Secretariat will and should act in accordance with the GA resolutions. We would also like to point out that there is no restriction limiting the establishment to only one regional office within the same region.

The purpose of establishing a regional office is to serve the member states and the development of the UN Tourism. China has long provided firm support to the work of the UN Tourism, and we propose to establish the Regional Office in Shanghai, which will be financed by China and carry out the mandate assigned by the General Assembly with the work plan proposed by the UN Tourism Secretariat and fully consulted with all relevant member states. We believe it will make greater contributions to the prosperity and development of the international tourism sector.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Annex III: Comments received by Japan on 31 October 2025

1. Re: draft Resolution proposed in the Report on the Regional and Thematic Offices (A/26/8)
To add the following phrase after para 20.

... Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific as Category I entity / under the model of Category I entity

2. Re: V. of the Report A/26/8

Japan requests the Secretariat to add the following sentence (fact) in the end of paragraph 55.

... the Organization's interests. Demonstrating Japan's commitment thereto, the Government of Japan concluded the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 1947 and its Annex XVIII in 2020 in line with the Conditions applying to Category entities referred to in the Resolution 656(XXI).