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Point 8 de l'ordre du jour
Rapport sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques

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**Résumé**

Le groupe de travail sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques d'ONU Tourisme a tenu cinq réunions. Il rend compte de ses progrès et soumet un projet de rapport final contenant une recommandation sur l'amélioration du cadre juridique et opérationnel régissant la sélection et l'établissement des bureaux régionaux et thématiques.

Le rapport présente également des informations actualisées sur les progrès réalisés concernant les bureaux régionaux et thématiques existants et à venir, ainsi que sur les nouvelles candidatures. Il comprend également l'amendement proposé par le Japon.

PROJET DE RÉSOLUTION¹

Point 8 de l'ordre du jour

Rapport sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques
(document A/26/8 rev.1)

L'Assemblée générale,

Rappelant ses résolutions [656\(XXI\)](#), [740\(XXIV\)](#) et [763\(XXV\)](#),

Ayant examiné le rapport sur l'état d'avancement des bureaux régionaux et thématiques (A/26/8 rev.1) ainsi que la décision [xx] du Conseil exécutif à sa cent vingt-quatrième session,

1. *Prend note* de la décision du Conseil exécutif d'approuver le rapport du groupe de travail sur l'amélioration du cadre juridique et opérationnel régissant la sélection et l'établissement des bureaux régionaux et thématiques, adopté par sa résolution 740(XXIV) figurant à l'annexe I du présent rapport ;
2. *Approuve* le cadre juridique et opérationnel révisé relatif à la sélection et à l'établissement des bureaux régionaux et thématiques, figurant à l'annexe I du rapport du groupe de travail ;
3. *Prend note* des progrès accomplis depuis sa vingt-cinquième session et remercie le Secrétaire général pour ses contributions ;
4. *Réaffirme* l'importance capitale pour tous les candidats à l'accueil de bureaux régionaux et/ou thématiques d'ONU Tourisme de se conformer au cadre juridique et opérationnel adopté par la présente résolution ainsi qu'aux exigences types à inclure dans l'accord de siège correspondant, tout en tenant pleinement compte des politiques et pratiques du système des Nations Unies en cas de difficultés rencontrées lors des discussions entre le secrétariat et les États membres relatives à l'établissement de bureaux d'ONU Tourisme ;
5. *Ratifie* les décisions adoptées par le Conseil exécutif concernant les dispositions nécessaires à l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif au Bureau régional pour les Amériques à Rio de Janeiro ;
6. *Approuve* le protocole entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à la contribution financière annuelle du Brésil à ONU Tourisme au titre du Bureau régional pour les Amériques, ainsi que l'accord entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau régional pour les Amériques ;
7. *Félicite* le Brésil d'avoir rempli les conditions requises pour l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège relatif à l'établissement du Bureau régional pour les Amériques à Rio de Janeiro, conformément à la résolution 763(XXV), ainsi que pour l'inauguration du Bureau régional pour les Amériques et le début de ses activités ;
8. *Ratifie* la décision du Conseil exécutif d'approuver la proposition du Gouvernement du Maroc visant à établir un Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique à Rabat plutôt qu'un Bureau régional pour l'Afrique à Marrakech ;

¹ Ceci est un projet de résolution. Pour la résolution finale adoptée par l'Assemblée, voir le document des résolutions publié à la fin de la session.

9. Approuve l'accord de siège conclu entre le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à l'établissement du Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique à Rabat ;
10. *Ratifie* la décision du Conseil exécutif concernant les dispositions nécessaires à l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège concernant le Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique ;
11. *Approuve* l'accord entre le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique au Royaume du Maroc ;
12. *Encourage* le Gouvernement du Maroc à achever toutes les procédures restantes nécessaires à l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège relatif au Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique ;
13. *Ratifie* la décision du Conseil exécutif d'approuver l'établissement de l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes à Montevideo (Uruguay) ;
14. *Ratifie en outre*, à titre exceptionnel, la décision du Conseil exécutif d'appliquer, *mutatis mutandis*, les dispositions de l'accord entre le PNUD et l'Uruguay à l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, jusqu'à la conclusion d'un accord de siège avec l'Uruguay ;
15. *Approuve* l'accord entre l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme et la République orientale de l'Uruguay portant sur le statut juridique provisoire de l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes ;
16. *Ratifie* la décision du Conseil exécutif relative aux dispositions juridiques, financières et administratives concernant l'établissement du Bureau thématique pour le tourisme le long de la Route de la soie à Samarcande ;
17. *Approuve* l'accord de siège conclu entre la République d'Ouzbékistan et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à l'établissement du Bureau thématique pour le tourisme le long de la Route de la soie à Samarcande ;
18. *Encourage* le secrétariat à poursuivre le processus de consultation et de négociation avec le Gouvernement de l'Ouzbékistan concernant les exigences financières et administratives liées à l'établissement du Bureau thématique pour le tourisme le long de la Route de la soie à Samarcande, conformément au cadre juridique et opérationnel adopté dans la résolution 740(XXIV) ;
19. *Accueille favorablement* la proposition du Gouvernement chinois visant à créer un Bureau régional à Shanghai, conformément aux exigences énoncées dans le cadre juridique et opérationnel relatif à l'établissement des bureaux régionaux d'ONU Tourisme adopté dans la résolution 740(XXIV) ;
20. *Prend note* des observations reçues par le secrétariat de la part des membres de la Commission pour l'Asie de l'Est et le Pacifique (CAP) et de la Commission pour l'Asie du Sud (CSA) ;

[Option 1]

Approuve la proposition du Gouvernement chinois visant à créer un Bureau régional à Shanghai, sous réserve de discussions ultérieures lors des réunions conjointes de la CAP et de la CSA sur la répartition des rôles entre le Bureau régional en Chine et le Bureau d'appui régional au Japon ;

Autorise le Secrétaire général à préparer, en collaboration avec le Gouvernement chinois, les dispositions juridiques, financières et administratives nécessaires à l'établissement du Bureau

régional à Shanghai, conformément au cadre juridique et opérationnel adopté par la présente résolution ;

[Option 2]

Invite le Secrétaire général et le Gouvernement chinois à poursuivre les discussions, en consultation avec la CAP et la CSA, sur la proposition visant à établir un Bureau régional à Shanghai ;

Autorise le Conseil exécutif à examiner et à approuver la proposition du Gouvernement chinois visant à établir un Bureau régional à Shanghai, après les consultations susmentionnées et à condition que ladite proposition soit conforme au cadre juridique et opérationnel adopté par la présente résolution ;

Demande au Secrétaire général de rendre compte au Conseil exécutif des résultats de ces discussions ;

21. *Prend note avec satisfaction* des mesures prises par le Japon pour officialiser le statut juridique du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique et négocier un nouveau cadre juridique visant à établir une base légale claire à ses activités, tout en préservant intérêts de l'Organisation ;
22. *Note* que le Japon s'est engagé à appliquer les dispositions de la Convention de 1947 sur les privilèges et immunités des institutions spécialisées, ainsi que de son annexe XVIII relative à ONU Tourisme, à compter du 20 juillet 2020 ;
23. *Approuve*, à titre provisoire, les arrangements conclus entre l'Agence japonaise du tourisme et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme concernant le cadre juridique et opérationnel du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique [visant à ouvrir la voie à son accession au statut d'**entité de catégorie I** / visant à ouvrir la voie à son alignement **sur le modèle d'entité de catégorie I**]² ;
24. *Encourage* le Gouvernement japonais à mener à bien les procédures internes nécessaires afin que toutes les dispositions juridiques, financières et administratives relatives au Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique deviennent juridiquement contraignantes pour ONU Tourisme et pour le Japon, conformément aux conditions et critères applicables aux entités de catégorie I adoptés dans la résolution 656(XXI), afin de permettre au Bureau de fonctionner pleinement en tant que Bureau régional d'ONU Tourisme pour l'Asie et le Pacifique ;
25. *Demande* au secrétariat de rendre compte au Conseil exécutif des négociations menées avec le Gouvernement japonais dans le cadre du processus de réforme du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, dans le respect des conditions et critères applicables aux entités de catégorie I, conformément au mandat reçu de l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 656(XXI), en vue de son intégration complète dans le cadre juridique et institutionnel d'ONU Tourisme ;

² Amendement proposé par le Japon (voir paragraphe 66 du rapport).

I. Groupe de travail sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques

1. Le groupe de travail sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques a été institué par le Conseil exécutif à sa cent dix-huitième session aux termes de la décision 7(CXVIII), et son [mandat](#) (pp.6-7), tel qu'adopté par le groupe de travail le 27 septembre 2023, a été entériné par le Conseil exécutif à sa cent dix-neuvième session dans sa décision 7(CXIX) et par l'Assemblée générale à sa vingt-cinquième session dans sa résolution 763(XXV).
2. L'objectif premier du groupe de travail était de délibérer sur les contributions soumises par les États membres au cours de la période 2022-2023 portant sur le cadre juridique et opérationnel pour la sélection et l'établissement des bureaux régionaux et thématiques, adopté par l'Assemblée générale à sa vingt-quatrième session dans la résolution 740(XXIV), afin de remettre un rapport contenant des recommandations sur son amélioration à la cent-vingt-quatrième session du Conseil exécutif.
3. Faisant suite à la décision de la cent-dix-huitième session du Conseil exécutif, le secrétariat a finalisé les démarches nécessaires à l'établissement du groupe de travail, et 37 États membres ont présenté leur candidature pour en faire partie : 6 pour l'Afrique, 6 pour les Amériques, 6 pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, 6 pour l'Europe et 13 pour le Moyen-Orient. Les pays suivants siègent au sein du groupe de travail, répartis par région : Afrique – Bénin, Burkina Faso, Maroc, Nigéria, République-Unie de Tanzanie, Soudan ; Amériques – Brésil, Colombie, Haïti, Nicaragua, Pérou, Uruguay ; Asie et Pacifique – Afghanistan, Chine, Indonésie, Japon, Myanmar, Sri Lanka ; Europe – Arménie, Bélarus, Espagne, Lituanie, République de Moldova, Roumanie ; Moyen-Orient – Arabie saoudite, Bahreïn, Égypte, Émirats arabes unis, Iraq, Jordanie, Koweït, Liban, Libye, Oman, Qatar, République arabe syrienne, Yémen.
4. Après avoir approuvé le [calendrier et le plan de travail](#) des réunions (pp. 8-10), le groupe de travail a tenu cinq réunions (en ligne) au lieu des six initialement prévues, les quatrième et cinquième réunions ayant été fusionnées en raison de reports et de la nécessité d'achever le plan de travail à temps pour examen. Ces reports ont été effectués à la demande du secrétariat. En conséquence, le groupe de travail a élaboré un [premier rapport](#) (pp. 7-10) présenté à la cent-vingt-deuxième session du Conseil exécutif, dont celui-ci a pris note dans sa décision 6(CXXII), tandis qu'aucun deuxième rapport n'a été préparé, la quatrième réunion s'étant tenue après la cent-vingt-troisième session du Conseil exécutif.
5. La première réunion du groupe de travail, tenue le 4 juillet 2024, a rassemblé des représentants de 29 États membres, ainsi qu'un Membre associé et un Membre affilié. La réunion a permis d'examiner la situation des bureaux régionaux et thématiques existants et d'aborder les questions organisationnelles essentielles au bon fonctionnement du groupe de travail. Les membres ont délibéré et décidé de l'élection de la présidence et de la vice-présidence, conformément au mandat, et sont parvenus à un consensus désignant l'**Égypte** à la présidence et l'**Uruguay** à la vice-présidence. Le groupe de travail a également examiné et approuvé le calendrier et le plan de travail officiels.
6. La deuxième réunion du groupe de travail s'est tenue le 2 octobre 2024, avec la participation de 26 États membres et d'un Membre affilié, ainsi que de la présidence, de la vice-présidence et du secrétariat. La réunion a débuté par des propos liminaires, suivis de l'adoption de l'ordre du jour, approuvé sans modification. Lors de l'examen du point « Situation des bureaux régionaux et thématiques – Bureaux nouveaux et existants », les membres ont discuté de la distinction entre bureaux régionaux et bureaux thématiques ainsi que de leurs cadres juridiques et opérationnels, et ont formulé des propositions visant à assurer une plus grande clarté dans le futur cadre du secrétariat. Certains Membres ont proposé de limiter les futurs bureaux à leur sphère géographique et à des priorités thématiques précises, tandis que d'autres ont demandé des précisions supplémentaires sur la proposition du secrétariat. Le point relatif au « Cadre juridique des bureaux régionaux et thématiques » a été abordé, donnant lieu à des divergences de vues sur l'application de la Convention de 1947 et sur la référence à retenir pour les accords de siège ; il a été confirmé que la Convention de 1947 servirait de norme minimale. Lors de l'examen du point « Élaboration d'un modèle d'accord », le secrétariat a présenté un modèle de négociation flexible, tandis que certains Membres ont souligné la nécessité de consulter leurs ministères des affaires étrangères ; la discussion a été reportée à la fin du mandat du groupe de travail. La présidence a confirmé que la prochaine réunion se tiendrait en ligne en février 2025, et qu'une

procédure d'approbation tacite de 72 heures serait appliquée pour le premier rapport, garantissant la consignation des divergences de vues en cas d'absence de consensus. La réunion s'est conclue en insistant sur la nécessité de clarifier les définitions et les fonctions des futurs bureaux régionaux et thématiques, et en confirmant que les privilèges accordés respecteraient au minimum les dispositions de la Convention de 1947, avec la possibilité d'ajouter des éléments supplémentaires convenus avec les pays hôtes.

7. La troisième réunion du groupe de travail sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques d'ONU Tourisme s'est tenue le 24 juin 2025, après avoir été reportée à la demande du secrétariat puis de la présidence pour des raisons d'organisation. Y ont participé 29 États membres, la présidence, la vice-présidence et le secrétariat. La réunion s'est ouverte par des propos liminaires de la présidence mettant l'accent sur la précision procédurale, la transparence et la consignation fidèle des interventions, suivis de l'adoption à l'unanimité de l'ordre du jour. Lors de l'examen des points « Informations sur les modèles d'autres institutions des Nations Unies (bureaux régionaux et thématiques) » et « Propositions du secrétariat à la suite de la deuxième réunion du groupe de travail », le secrétariat a présenté une étude portant sur les modèles de bureaux extérieurs de douze institutions des Nations Unies et proposé une distinction claire entre bureaux régionaux et bureaux thématiques, en soulignant la nature changeante des bureaux d'ONU Tourisme ainsi que leurs contraintes opérationnelles et financières. Les discussions sur le « Cadre juridique des bureaux régionaux et thématiques » ont porté sur des révisions visant à garantir que les pays hôtes appliquent au minimum les dispositions de la Convention de 1947. Certains Membres ont soutenu ces révisions, tandis que d'autres ont réaffirmé leur position selon laquelle aucun nouvel accord n'est nécessaire lorsqu'un pays est déjà signataire de la Convention. Le point à l'ordre du jour intitulé « Cadre juridique des bureaux régionaux – immunités fiscales » a été examiné, sans autres observations. Lors de l'examen du point « Budget et dispositions financières des bureaux », le groupe de travail a passé en revue les contributions, l'appui en nature, les services, les équipements, les ressources humaines et les exigences en matière de sécurité, et plusieurs États membres ont posé des questions. La discussion a mis en évidence la dépendance à l'égard des contributions volontaires, les risques de financement inégal et la nécessité pour les pays hôtes de procéder à des évaluations internes afin d'assurer la viabilité du modèle. Les Membres du groupe de travail sont convenus de demander au Conseil exécutif d'examiner la possibilité d'allouer une partie des ressources financières de l'Organisation afin d'aider les États membres à établir des bureaux régionaux et thématiques, de manière à ce que ces bureaux ne soient pas concentrés dans certains pays, en tenant compte de la situation financière actuelle de l'Organisation. Les autres points abordés ont porté sur la clarification des privilèges et immunités, la confirmation que le rapport final inclura l'ensemble des recommandations, ainsi que l'amélioration du format des réunions afin de favoriser la participation et la documentation. Le groupe de travail est convenu de regrouper les réunions restantes en une réunion finale prévue à la fin de septembre 2025, avec les documents préparatoires diffusés à l'avance. Le groupe de travail a également décidé de soumettre des observations écrites sur les propositions du secrétariat afin de contribuer à l'élaboration du rapport final destiné à la cent-vingt-quatrième session du Conseil exécutif. En conclusion, les participants ont réaffirmé l'importance de disposer de définitions plus claires, de mécanismes de financement pérennes et d'un appui institutionnel plus solide pour les bureaux régionaux et thématiques. Ils ont également noté que la participation de certains États membres avait été limitée en raison du format adopté pour la réunion.
8. Les quatrième et cinquième réunions du groupe de travail sur les bureaux régionaux et thématiques d'ONU Tourisme se sont tenues le 23 septembre 2025, avec la participation de 32 États membres, d'un Membre associé, de la présidence, de la vice-présidence et du secrétariat. L'ordre du jour a été adopté sans objection et a porté sur trois points principaux : l'examen des observations formulées par les membres lors de la précédente réunion, les dispositions budgétaires et financières, ainsi que le cadre opérationnel et le programme de travail. Lors de l'examen des observations, un Membre a demandé des précisions concernant les privilèges et immunités, la structure du rapport final et la portée du projet de Bureau régional en Chine, réaffirmant son intention d'accueillir un tel bureau et confirmant, par communications officielles, sa conformité avec le cadre établi. Un autre Membre a souligné la nécessité d'un cadre juridique distinct pour les bureaux thématiques, a soulevé des questions relatives aux accords de siège et aux privilèges prévus par les Conventions de 1946 et de 1947, et a exprimé ses préoccupations quant au manque de clarté procédurale. Des divergences de vues sont apparues concernant les exonérations fiscales et le rôle des accords de siège, et le secrétariat a précisé que ces accords sont indispensables pour assurer le bon fonctionnement et la reddition de comptes.

9. S'agissant des dispositions budgétaires et financières, aucune nouvelle observation n'a été formulée, et il a été noté que la question avait déjà été suffisamment traitée lors des discussions précédentes. En ce qui concerne le cadre opérationnel et le programme de travail, les États membres ont soulevé des questions relatives aux calendriers, aux mandats, aux procédures gouvernementales internes et au rôle décisionnel des commissions régionales. Une divergence est apparue quant à la procédure à suivre pour les nouvelles demandes d'ouverture de bureaux : certains Membres ont estimé qu'elles devaient être soumises directement au Conseil exécutif, tandis que d'autres ont insisté pour qu'elles soient approuvées par les commissions régionales. Plusieurs Membres ont également exprimé des inquiétudes quant à la clarté des compétences, à la dilution des mandats et à une expansion non encadrée, amenant le secrétariat à rappeler l'importance d'assurer une cohérence stratégique, une représentation équilibrée et la portée interrégionale des bureaux thématiques. Le secrétariat a présenté une proposition affinée qui établit la distinction entre les bureaux régionaux et les bureaux thématiques. Cette proposition est fondée sur une étude comparative de douze institutions des Nations Unies ainsi que sur les observations formulées par les États membres. Elle définit les bureaux régionaux comme ayant un ancrage géographique et les bureaux thématiques comme axés sur un domaine spécifique et pouvant avoir une portée interrégionale.
10. Les principales questions en suspens concernaient l'équilibre entre la prise de décision collective et la concertation régionale, la portée des accords de siège et la nécessité de garantir la faisabilité financière pour les États membres accueillant des bureaux. Les membres du groupe de travail sont convenus de demander au Conseil exécutif d'examiner la possibilité d'allouer une partie des ressources financières de l'Organisation afin d'aider les États membres à établir des bureaux régionaux et thématiques, de manière à ce que ces bureaux ne soient pas concentrés dans certains pays et que les capacités financières ne constituent pas un obstacle à cet égard. La présidence a également souligné l'importance d'attirer l'attention du Conseil exécutif sur le fait que le format en ligne des réunions du groupe de travail avait restreint la participation et l'implication des représentants des Membres, et a demandé au Conseil d'examiner la possibilité de tenir les prochaines réunions des comités et groupes de travail en présentiel, par l'intermédiaire des ambassades des États membres à Madrid.
11. Le secrétariat a confirmé qu'un projet de rapport serait distribué en appliquant une procédure d'approbation tacite de 72 heures, et a invité les membres à soumettre leurs observations ou réserves afin de garantir que les divergences de vues soient dûment prises en compte. Les réunions se sont achevées sur un engagement commun à faire progresser le processus de décentralisation et sur l'idée que les recommandations finales serviront de base aux décisions du Conseil exécutif et de l'Assemblée générale.
12. Après l'autorisation du groupe de travail, le projet de rapport final (voir annexe I) a été distribué aux membres en appliquant une procédure d'approbation tacite de 72 heures afin de permettre aux États membres de formuler leurs observations finales. Conformément à la section IV, « Modalités de travail », du mandat du groupe de travail, qui stipule que « lorsqu'il n'est pas possible de parvenir à un consensus sur une question spécifique, les avis divergents seront exposés dans le rapport du groupe de travail au Conseil exécutif », et compte tenu de la nature des observations reçues du Japon, présentées à l'annexe III du projet de rapport final, le document est par la présente soumis à la cent-vingt-quatrième session du Conseil exécutif pour décision.

II. Statut des bureaux régionaux et thématiques établis

A. Arabie saoudite – Bureau régional pour le Moyen-Orient

13. Le Bureau régional pour le Moyen-Orient a été établi dans la ville de Riyad, conformément à l'accord de siège conclu entre le Royaume d'Arabie saoudite et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme, signé à Tbilissi (Géorgie) le 17 septembre 2020, à la suite de l'autorisation accordée par le Conseil exécutif dans sa décision 5(CXII) adoptée à sa cent-douzième session et ratifiée par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution [740\(XXIV\)](#) adoptée à sa vingt-quatrième session. L'accord de siège est entré en vigueur le 21 avril 2021.
14. Conformément à l'article 15 b) du Règlement du personnel, le Secrétaire général a nommé M. Samer Al-Kharashi (Arabie saoudite) directeur du Bureau régional pour le Moyen-Orient.

15. Les informations relatives à la mise en œuvre des activités du Bureau régional pour le Moyen-Orient figurent dans le document A/26/4(b).

B. Brésil – Bureau régional pour les Amériques

16. Le Bureau régional pour les Amériques a été établi dans la ville de Rio de Janeiro, conformément à l'accord de siège conclu entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme, signé à Samarcande (Ouzbékistan) le 19 octobre 2023, à la suite de l'autorisation accordée par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution [763\(XXV\)](#), adoptée à sa vingt-cinquième session.
17. Ladite résolution précisait en outre que la signature de l'accord de siège et l'ouverture du Bureau régional seraient subordonnées à la conclusion d'un accord complémentaire entre ONU Tourisme et la République fédérative du Brésil relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau, ainsi qu'à l'achèvement par le Brésil des procédures internes nécessaires à l'établissement du Bureau, conformément au cadre juridique et opérationnel régissant les bureaux d'ONU Tourisme, adopté par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV).
18. Au cours des négociations relatives à l'accord complémentaire visé par la résolution 763(XXV), le secrétariat et le Gouvernement du Brésil sont convenus de le scinder en deux instruments distincts, complémentaires à l'accord de siège :
- (a) un premier accord visant à fixer la contribution financière annuelle à verser par le Brésil pour l'établissement, l'organisation et le fonctionnement du Bureau ; et
 - (b) un accord ultérieur définissant en détail les conditions régissant la contribution et les dispositions administratives applicables au Bureau.
19. Le 26 janvier 2024, ONU Tourisme et le Brésil ont signé le protocole entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à la contribution financière annuelle du Brésil à ONU Tourisme pour le Bureau régional pour les Amériques, fixant la contribution annuelle que le Brésil doit verser à ONU Tourisme pour l'établissement, l'organisation et le fonctionnement du Bureau sur la période 2024-2026. Le secrétariat a présenté un rapport à la cent-vingt-et-unième session du Conseil exécutif qui, dans sa décision 6(CXXI), a demandé au secrétariat de finaliser les accords nécessaires à l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège. Le protocole est entré en vigueur le 2 août 2024.
20. Le secrétariat a été informé, par note verbale de l'Ambassade du Brésil en Espagne reçue le 7 août 2024, de l'achèvement par le Brésil des procédures internes requises pour l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège. Dès lors, la seule condition restant en suspens pour l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège était la conclusion d'un accord relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau.
21. Le 1^{er} novembre 2024, ONU Tourisme et le Brésil ont également signé l'accord entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau régional pour les Amériques, en vue de fixer les modalités détaillées de la contribution financière annuelle du Brésil à ONU Tourisme ainsi que les dispositions administratives et les installations du Bureau, conformément à l'accord de siège et au protocole. L'accord est entré en vigueur à la date de sa signature.
22. Avec l'entrée en vigueur du protocole et de l'accord, dont le Conseil exécutif a pris note dans sa décision [6\(CXXII\)](#), ainsi que l'achèvement par le Brésil de ses procédures internes, toutes les conditions prévues dans l'accord de siège pour son entrée en vigueur, conformément à la résolution 763(XXV) de l'Assemblée générale, ont été remplies. À la suite de l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège, le secrétariat a entrepris les démarches nécessaires à la mise en œuvre de ces accords.
23. Conformément à l'article 15 b) du Règlement du personnel, le Secrétaire général a nommé M. Heitor Kadri (Brésil) directeur du Bureau régional pour les Amériques.

24. Les informations relatives à la mise en œuvre des activités du Bureau régional pour les Amériques figurent dans le document A/26/4(b).
25. Conformément aux articles 12 I) et 20 des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale doit approuver les accords suivants : le protocole entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à la contribution financière annuelle du Brésil à ONU Tourisme pour le Bureau régional pour les Amériques, signé le 26 janvier 2024, ainsi que l'accord entre la République fédérative du Brésil et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau régional pour les Amériques, signé le 1^{er} novembre 2024.

III. Progrès accomplis dans l'établissement des bureaux régionaux et thématiques

A. Maroc – Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique

26. Par sa décision 5(CXV), le Conseil exécutif a approuvé la proposition du Gouvernement du Maroc relative à l'établissement d'un Bureau régional pour l'Afrique, sous réserve de la ratification par l'Assemblée générale et du respect du cadre juridique et opérationnel régissant les bureaux régionaux et thématiques, tel qu'adopté par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV).
27. Conformément à la résolution [763\(XXV\)](#) adoptée à sa vingt-cinquième session, l'Assemblée générale a autorisé le Secrétaire général à signer l'accord de siège entre ONU Tourisme et le Royaume du Maroc pour l'établissement du Bureau régional pour l'Afrique à Marrakech, et a encouragé le Gouvernement du Maroc et le secrétariat à poursuivre les négociations afin de finaliser l'accord complémentaire relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau. En conséquence, le secrétariat et le Gouvernement du Maroc ont collaboré à l'élaboration de l'accord de siège en trois langues authentiques (arabe, anglais et français), un processus qui s'est achevé au début du mois d'avril 2024.
28. À la suite de nouvelles discussions entre le Gouvernement du Maroc et le secrétariat, ce dernier a reçu une proposition du Royaume du Maroc visant à établir le Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique à Rabat, en remplacement du Bureau régional pour l'Afrique à Marrakech approuvé par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 763(XXV) (paragraphe 8 à 11).
29. Conformément à la procédure d'établissement d'un bureau thématique, adoptée par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution [740\(XXIV\)](#) et complétée par le Conseil exécutif dans sa décision [8\(CXVI\)](#), l'établissement du Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique devait être examiné par le Comité du programme et du budget (ci-après « CPB »), puis soumis, sur sa recommandation, à l'approbation du Conseil exécutif.
30. Le Gouvernement du Maroc et ONU Tourisme ont signé le 28 janvier 2025 l'accord de siège relatif à l'établissement du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique au Royaume du Maroc, puis, le 29 mai 2025, l'accord relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique au Royaume du Maroc, afin d'établir les conditions détaillées régissant la contribution financière du Maroc à ONU Tourisme ainsi que les dispositions administratives et les installations du Bureau, conformément à l'accord de siège.
31. L'accord de siège et l'accord relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives prévoyaient qu'ils entreraient en vigueur une fois l'établissement du Bureau thématique approuvé par le CPB et le Conseil exécutif, sous réserve de la ratification par l'Assemblée générale ; l'accord de siège étant en outre subordonné à la réception par le secrétariat d'une

³ **Article 12 I) des Statuts** : Les fonctions de l'Assemblée consistent notamment à « approuver ou déléguer les pouvoirs d'approuver la conclusion d'accords avec des gouvernements et des organisations internationales ».

⁴ **Article 20 des Statuts** : « Dans l'intervalle des sessions de l'Assemblée, et en l'absence de toute disposition contraire dans les présents Statuts, le Conseil prend les décisions d'ordre administratif et technique qui peuvent être nécessaires, dans le cadre des attributions et des ressources financières de l'Organisation, et fait rapport à la prochaine session de l'Assemblée, pour approbation, sur les décisions qui ont été prises. »

notification écrite du Gouvernement du Maroc attestant l'achèvement des procédures internes nécessaires à son entrée en vigueur.

32. En conséquence, le secrétariat a soumis à la cent-vingt-troisième session du Conseil exécutif la proposition du Royaume du Maroc visant à modifier la nature et l'emplacement du Bureau envisagé, ainsi que l'accord de siège et l'accord relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives, l'ensemble ayant été approuvé sur recommandation du CPB, dans la [décision 7\(CXXIII\)](#). Le Conseil exécutif a en outre demandé au Secrétaire général de soumettre l'accord de siège, y compris l'accord relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives, à la présente session de l'Assemblée générale pour ratification.
33. Le secrétariat n'a pas encore reçu de notification écrite du Gouvernement du Maroc confirmant l'achèvement des procédures internes nécessaires à l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord de siège.
34. Conformément à l'article 20 des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale doit approuver la décision du Conseil exécutif acceptant la proposition du Gouvernement du Maroc visant à établir un Bureau thématique sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique à Rabat, en remplacement du Bureau régional pour l'Afrique à Marrakech, comme l'avait décidé initialement l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution [763\(XXV\)](#).
35. Conformément aux articles 12 I) et 20 des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale doit approuver les accords suivants : l'accord de siège entre le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à l'établissement du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique au Royaume du Maroc, signé le 28 janvier 2025, et l'accord entre le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme sur l'innovation pour l'Afrique au Royaume du Maroc, signé le 29 mai 2025.

B. Uruguay – Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Bureau thématique)

36. Faisant suite à la résolution 757(XXV) adoptée par l'Assemblée générale à sa vingt-cinquième session, le Conseil exécutif, dans sa décision 6(CXXI) adoptée à sa cent-vingt-et-unième session, a approuvé l'établissement du Bureau thématique de l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes à Montevideo (ci-après « Observatoire ALC »), sous réserve de la ratification par l'Assemblée générale à sa vingt-sixième session et du respect du cadre juridique et opérationnel régissant les bureaux d'ONU Tourisme, adopté par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV).
37. Le 3 septembre 2024, ONU Tourisme et le Ministère du tourisme de l'Uruguay ont conclu un accord de coopération fixant les conditions financières et administratives relatives à l'établissement, au maintien et au fonctionnement de l'Observatoire ALC en 2025 et 2026. Cet accord, approuvé par le Conseil exécutif dans sa décision [6\(CXXII\)](#), est entré en vigueur à la date de sa signature.
38. L'accord de siège entre ONU Tourisme et le Gouvernement de l'Uruguay concernant le cadre juridique et opérationnel de l'Observatoire ALC est actuellement en cours de négociation, conformément aux accords de siège conclus avec le Brésil et le Maroc.
39. Afin de permettre à l'Observatoire ALC de commencer ses activités au début de l'année 2025, le Conseil exécutif, également dans sa décision [6\(CXXII\)](#) adoptée à sa cent-vingt-deuxième session, a autorisé le Secrétaire général, sous réserve de la ratification par l'Assemblée générale, à conclure un accord avec le Gouvernement de l'Uruguay pour appliquer, *mutatis mutandis*, les dispositions de l'accord conclu avec le PNUD ou de celui conclu avec l'UNOPS à l'Observatoire ALC, et ce jusqu'à la conclusion d'un accord de siège.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

40. Le 7 mai 2025, le secrétariat a reçu du Gouvernement de l'Uruguay la confirmation de l'application à ONU Tourisme de l'accord signé entre l'Uruguay et le PNUD, dont le Conseil exécutif a pris note à sa cent-vingt-troisième session dans sa décision [7\(CXXIII\)](#).
41. En conséquence, ONU Tourisme et le Gouvernement de l'Uruguay ont conclu un accord sur le statut juridique provisoire de l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes à Montevideo, au moyen d'un échange de lettres entre le Secrétaire général et le Ministre des relations extérieures de l'Uruguay, datées respectivement des 2 et 11 septembre 2025. L'accord est entré en vigueur le 11 septembre 2025.
42. Conformément aux articles 12 I) et 20 des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale doit approuver les accords suivants : l'accord de coopération entre l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme et le Ministère du tourisme de l'Uruguay relatif à l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, conclu le 3 septembre 2024, ainsi que l'accord entre l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme et l'Uruguay sur le statut juridique provisoire de l'Observatoire du droit du tourisme pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes à Montevideo, conclu au moyen d'un échange de lettres datées respectivement des 2 et 11 septembre 2025.

C. Ouzbékistan – Bureau thématique pour le tourisme le long de la Route de la soie

43. Par sa résolution 763(XXV) adoptée à sa vingt-cinquième session, l'Assemblée générale a salué la proposition de l'Ouzbékistan visant à établir un Bureau thématique pour le « tourisme le long de la Route de la soie » dans la ville de Samarcande.
44. Lors des négociations entre le secrétariat et le Gouvernement de l'Ouzbékistan, il a été convenu de scinder les discussions en deux volets :
- (a) l'accord de siège établissant le cadre juridique du Bureau thématique (ci-après « l'accord de siège ») et
 - (b) un accord complémentaire portant sur les dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau (ci-après « l'accord complémentaire »).
45. Le Conseil exécutif, dans sa décision [7\(CXXIII\)](#) adoptée à sa cent-vingt-troisième session, a approuvé l'accord de siège et a demandé au Secrétaire général de le soumettre à la présente session de l'Assemblée générale pour ratification, en attendant la conclusion de l'accord complémentaire et l'achèvement par l'Ouzbékistan des procédures internes nécessaires à l'établissement du Bureau thématique, conformément au cadre juridique et opérationnel adopté par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV).
46. L'accord de siège entre le Gouvernement de la République d'Ouzbékistan et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à l'établissement du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme pour le tourisme le long de la Route de la soie à Samarcande a été signé le 2 juillet 2025.
47. Conformément à l'article 14 1), l'accord de siège entrera en vigueur sous réserve des conditions suivantes : i) approbation par le Conseil exécutif, en attendant la ratification par l'Assemblée générale conformément à l'article 12 des Statuts ; ii) notification écrite du Gouvernement de l'Ouzbékistan attestant de l'achèvement des procédures juridiques internes nécessaires à son entrée en vigueur ; et iii) entrée en vigueur de l'accord complémentaire relatif aux dispositions financières et administratives du Bureau thématique.
48. Les négociations relatives à l'accord complémentaire sont actuellement en cours. Le secrétariat tiendra les États membres informés de l'avancement de ces négociations par le biais d'un additif au présent rapport.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

49. Conformément aux articles 12 I) et 20 des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale doit approuver l'accord conclu le 2 juillet 2025 entre le Gouvernement de la République d'Ouzbékistan et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatif à l'établissement du Bureau thématique d'ONU Tourisme pour le tourisme le long de la Route de la soie à Samarcande.

IV. Établissement de nouveaux bureaux régionaux et thématiques

A. Chine – Bureau régional

50. Le 1^{er} août 2025, le secrétariat a reçu une note verbale du Ministère de la culture et du tourisme de la République populaire de Chine exprimant l'intérêt de la Chine à accueillir un Bureau régional dans la ville de Shanghai et priant le secrétariat de lui fournir un projet d'accord de siège.
51. Le 10 septembre 2025, le Secrétaire général a reçu une lettre de M. Gao Zheng, Vice-Ministre de la culture et du tourisme, relative à l'accueil d'un Bureau régional à Shanghai, dans laquelle la Chine exprime son engagement à respecter les exigences énoncées dans le cadre juridique et opérationnel pour l'établissement des bureaux régionaux d'ONU Tourisme adopté par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV).
52. Le 8 octobre 2025, le secrétariat a reçu une communication du Ministère chinois de la culture et du tourisme demandant que sa candidature à l'accueil d'un Bureau régional soit diffusée auprès des États membres de la Commission pour l'Asie de l'Est et le Pacifique (CAP) et de la Commission pour l'Asie du Sud (CSA) afin d'obtenir leur appui et leur recommandation, et précisant que le plan détaillé relatif au fonctionnement du Bureau régional serait présenté à la réunion conjointe CAP-CSA de 2026 afin de consulter les États membres et de tenir compte de leurs observations et propositions concernant le cadre opérationnel du Bureau.
53. Conformément à la procédure pour l'établissement de bureaux régionaux, adoptée par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV), le secrétariat a transmis, le 10 octobre 2025, par note verbale, la candidature de la Chine à l'ensemble des Membres de la CAP et de la CSA pour examen jusqu'au 28 octobre 2025. En l'absence d'objection des Membres de la CAP et de la CSA à la candidature avant la date limite fixée, la candidature sera considérée comme recommandée par la CAP et la CSA. Le secrétariat en fera rapport à la cent-vingt-quatrième session du Conseil exécutif et à la vingt-sixième session de l'Assemblée générale, pour décision.
54. Dans le délai imparti, le secrétariat a reçu, le 28 octobre 2025, des observations des Membres suivants, classés par ordre chronologique : République de Corée, République islamique d'Iran, Japon, Inde et Indonésie. Après la diffusion, le jour même, de ces observations aux Membres de la CAP et de la CSA, le secrétariat a reçu le 30 octobre des observations de la République populaire de Chine, présentées en réponse à celles des cinq États Membres susmentionnés, qui ont été transmises le jour même aux Membres de la CAP et de la CSA. L'ensemble des observations et commentaires reçus des Membres des deux commissions figure à l'annexe II du présent rapport.
55. En ce qui concerne les observations soumises par les États membres susmentionnés, et compte tenu du fait qu'aucune limitation explicite du nombre de bureaux par région n'est prévue dans le cadre juridique et opérationnel approuvé par l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 740(XXIV), le secrétariat tient à rappeler qu'il existe un précédent d'approbation par le Conseil exécutif de deux candidatures pour l'accueil de bureaux régionaux au sein d'une même région, à savoir lors de sa cent-quinzième session, où, par sa décision 5(CXV), le Conseil a approuvé l'établissement de bureaux régionaux en **Argentine** et au **Brésil**, sous réserve de ratification par l'Assemblée générale et du respect du cadre juridique et opérationnel adopté par celle-ci.
56. En outre, le secrétariat rappelle qu'en vertu de l'article 12 j) des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale est le seul organe habilité à établir des bureaux de l'Organisation.
57. En conséquence, le Conseil exécutif est invité, conformément à l'article 19 c) des Statuts¹¹, à :

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Article 19 c) des Statuts : Le Conseil a pour fonction de : [...] c) « soumettre des propositions à l'Assemblée. »

a) recommander à l'Assemblée générale d'approuver la candidature soumise par la Chine pour l'accueil d'un Bureau régional, sous réserve de la tenue de nouvelles consultations lors de la réunion CAP-CSA de 2026 sur la répartition des rôles entre le Bureau régional en Chine et le Bureau d'appui régional au Japon, ou

b) demander à l'Assemblée générale d'autoriser le Conseil exécutif à approuver la candidature, sous réserve de la tenue de nouvelles consultations lors de la réunion CAP-CSA de 2026 sur la même question.

58. L'Assemblée générale est ensuite invitée à :

a) approuver l'établissement d'un Bureau régional à Shanghai, sous réserve de la tenue de nouvelles consultations lors de la réunion CAP-CSA de 2026 sur la répartition des rôles entre le Bureau régional en Chine et le Bureau d'appui régional au Japon, ou

b) déléguer au Conseil exécutif, en vertu de l'article 12 j) des Statuts, le pouvoir d'approuver l'établissement d'un Bureau régional à Shanghai, sous réserve de la tenue de nouvelles consultations à la réunion CAP-CSA de 2026 sur la même question.

V. Avancement de la réforme du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique

59. Conformément au mandat reçu de l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 656(XXI), le Gouvernement japonais et ONU Tourisme s'emploient à combler les lacunes recensées et œuvrent à une solution qui préserve les bénéfices du soutien apporté par le Japon tout en intégrant pleinement le Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique dans le cadre juridique et institutionnel d'ONU Tourisme. Les deux parties reconnaissent l'importance d'aligner le Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique sur les critères de la catégorie I afin de garantir sa légitimité, son efficacité et sa pérennité. Les autorités japonaises ont exprimé leur volonté de formaliser le statut juridique du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique et de négocier un nouveau cadre juridique visant à établir une base légale claire pour les activités du Bureau au Japon et à lui accorder l'indépendance et l'autorité nécessaires à son fonctionnement en tant que bureau du système des Nations Unies, préservant ainsi les intérêts de l'Organisation. Signe de l'engagement du Japon en ce sens, le Gouvernement japonais a adhéré, en 2020, à la Convention de 1947 sur les privilèges et immunités des institutions spécialisées et à son annexe XVIII, conformément aux conditions applicables aux entités de catégorie I mentionnées dans la résolution 656(XXI)¹².

60. À l'issue de vastes négociations entre le secrétariat et le Gouvernement japonais, des progrès notables ont été accomplis à cet égard. En février 2025, par un échange de lettres entre le Secrétaire général et le Commissaire de l'Agence japonaise du tourisme (JTA), ONU Tourisme et le Gouvernement japonais sont convenus des modalités relatives aux activités de l'Organisation, afin d'assurer la conformité du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique aux conditions et critères applicables aux entités de catégorie I et de garantir qu'il bénéficie du cadre juridique approprié au Japon. Par ces dispositions, le Gouvernement japonais reconnaît que l'ensemble des principes et critères applicables aux entités de catégorie I s'appliquent au Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique ; il reconnaît également sa personnalité juridique en tant que partie intégrante de l'Organisation et s'engage à ce qu'ONU Tourisme bénéficie d'un traitement non moins favorable que celui accordé aux Nations Unies et aux autres institutions spécialisées présentes au Japon. Il est en outre précisé que « l'intention de la JTA d'assumer les coûts nécessaires au soutien des activités du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, sous la forme d'une contribution volontaire annuelle, sous réserve de ses crédits budgétaires », dont le montant sera fixé chaque année, sera consignée dans un « accord de coopération entre ONU Tourisme et la JTA ».

61. Cet échange de lettres a été présenté à la cent-vingt-troisième session du Conseil exécutif comme la première partie des modalités proposées pour intégrer le Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique dans la structure d'ONU Tourisme en tant qu'entité de catégorie I, l'« accord de coopération » mentionné constituant la seconde partie ([CE/123/5 Add.1](#)). En effet, dans sa décision [7\(CXXIII\)](#), le Conseil exécutif « encourage le secrétariat à poursuivre les négociations avec le Gouvernement japonais afin de finaliser les dispositions financières nécessaires à

¹² Amendement proposé par le Japon (voir paragraphe 66 du rapport).

l'intégration complète du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique au sein d'ONU Tourisme en tant qu'entité de catégorie I » (par. 5) et « demande au secrétariat de rendre compte des négociations menées avec le Gouvernement japonais dans le cadre du processus de réforme du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, conformément aux conditions et critères applicables aux entités de catégorie I et au mandat reçu de l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 656(XXI) » (par. 12).

62. La conclusion d'un accord de siège entre ONU Tourisme et le Japon — qu'il s'agisse d'un accord formel, d'un protocole d'accord ou d'un échange de lettres — contraignant pour les deux Parties constitue une étape essentielle pour l'intégration du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique dans le système institutionnel et juridique d'ONU Tourisme en tant qu'entité de catégorie I. En effet, un accord de siège juridiquement contraignant est le seul instrument qui établit des obligations juridiques et financières exécutoires à la fois pour le Japon et pour ONU Tourisme, et qui fournit la structure de gouvernance requise par le cadre applicable aux entités de catégorie I. Il convient de noter que les institutions des Nations Unies établissent généralement leurs bureaux au moyen d'accords directs conclus avec les gouvernements hôtes, afin de leur conférer la personnalité juridique et de leur accorder, ainsi qu'à leur personnel, les privilèges et immunités correspondants. Ces bureaux sont dotés en personnel et gérés comme des composantes intégrées de l'institution concernée. D'un point de vue comparatif, le modèle actuel du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique constitue une exception au sein du système des Nations Unies.
63. De même, toute contribution financière du Gouvernement japonais destinée à soutenir le Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique doit être intégrée dans un accord juridiquement contraignant, conformément au Règlement financier et aux règles de gestion financière d'ONU Tourisme.
64. La structure actuelle du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique ne satisfait pas encore pleinement aux normes juridiques et opérationnelles applicables aux entités de catégorie I, mais les éléments nécessaires (l'acceptation par le Japon d'appliquer la Convention de 1947 et sa volonté d'améliorer le cadre juridique et financier du Bureau) sont réunis pour faciliter la transition vers la conformité. Les principales étapes encore en suspens sont la signature d'un accord de siège, la réorganisation des dispositions concernant le personnel du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique et l'intégration de sa gestion financière. Ces étapes nécessitent une action concertée du secrétariat et du Japon afin d'éviter toute perturbation des activités en cours du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique. En conséquence, l'Assemblée générale pourrait envisager, à titre provisoire et durant cette période de transition, d'approuver l'échange de lettres de 2025, tandis que le secrétariat poursuivra ses discussions avec le Gouvernement japonais en vue de l'intégration complète du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique dans le cadre juridique et institutionnel d'ONU Tourisme en tant qu'entité de catégorie I.
65. Conformément à l'article 12 I) des Statuts, l'Assemblée générale est invitée à approuver, à titre provisoire, les arrangements conclus entre l'Agence japonaise du tourisme et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme relatifs au cadre juridique et opérationnel du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, formalisés par un échange de lettres datées respectivement des 2 et 13 février 2025.
66. Le 31 octobre, le secrétariat a reçu une communication du Japon demandant des modifications au paragraphe 23 du projet de résolution et au paragraphe 61 du présent rapport. Cette communication figure en annexe III du présent rapport. Concernant l'amendement proposé au projet de résolution, le secrétariat souhaite ajouter le texte ci-dessous en italiques afin de préciser, comme indiqué précédemment, que l'échange de lettres de 2025 constitue une étape de la mesure transitoire en cours dans le cadre des discussions visant l'intégration du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique en tant qu'entité de catégorie I :

« *Approuve*, à titre provisoire, les arrangements conclus entre l'Agence japonaise du tourisme et l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme concernant le cadre juridique et opérationnel du Bureau d'appui régional pour l'Asie et le Pacifique [*visant à ouvrir la voie à son accession au statut d'entité de catégorie I / visant à ouvrir la voie à son alignement sur le modèle d'entité de catégorie I*] ».

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 of the corresponding Regional Commission meeting(s) for discussion and subsequent

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

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.

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.

Transit

24. 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

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)

to all Office personnel promptly, free of charge and without restrictions all necessary visas, permits and authorizations.

25. 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

26. 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.
27. 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

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. In particular, the host State's contribution to the functioning of the Office shall cover:
- 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
 - b) Institutional strengthening, modernization and other management issues of the Organization that have an impact on the Office.
31. Additionally, the host State shall bear the following costs:
- a) Labour, equipment, supplies and other services or property as may be needed.
32. The premises of the Office in the location agreed with the host State shall be provided to the Organization free of charge.

Staffing

33. The selection, recruitment and contracts of all personnel of the Office shall be subject to the rules and regulations and policies of the Organization.

34. 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.
35. 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

36. 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.
37. 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

38. 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.
39. 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

40. 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 Chart¹⁶¹⁷

Initial text (2021) (A/24/10 rev.1) ¹⁸	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 financial arrangements for integrating RSOAP fully into UN Tourism as a Category 1 entity.’</p>

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Unless expressly stated otherwise in the text, “Offices” shall be understood as both Regional and Thematic Offices.

¹⁸ 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>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>
<p>Status of Regional Offices</p> <p>11. Regional Offices shall be recognized as representing a specialized agency of the United</p>		<p>Final text (WG):</p> <p>Status of Regional Offices</p>	<p>Comment received from Japan following the Fourth and Fifth meetings of the Working Group</p>

<p>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>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</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>. 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 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</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 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.</p>
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<p>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>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>(*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, 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</p>		<p>Final text (WG):</p> <p><u>Operational Framework and the Programme of work</u></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>Headquarters and be headed by an official appointed by 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) 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>	
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<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 shall be provided to the Organization free of charge.</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 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</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 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>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>
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	<p>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; 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>(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>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</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</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</p>	

<p>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>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 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</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>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,</p>	

<p>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 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>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 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</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p>	

<p>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>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 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>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Security</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</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes to the existing text.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</p> <p>Meetings</p>	

<p>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 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 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</p>		<p>The Working Group made no changes.</p> <p>Final text (GA24):</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</p>	

and facilities granted to the Organization and its personnel.		facilities granted to the Organization and its personnel.	
<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>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>Procedure for the establishment of Regional and Thematic Offices – steps to follow (EC116), (CE/116/4(b));</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</p>	<p>Final text (WG):</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</p>	<p>Two divergent views presented and additional comments:</p> <p><u>China</u></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</p>

<p>39. Submission by the UNWTO Secretariat of the endorsed application to the General Assembly for its ratification.</p>	<p>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 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 	<p>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>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>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> <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</p>
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	<p>submission to the Executive Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment of the Office must be approved by the General Assembly upon endorsement by the Executive Council. 		<p>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> <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</p>
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			<p>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 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</p>
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			<p>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> <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>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>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>"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/csacap10deci>)

sions.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_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.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

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).