



**Executive Council**

125th session  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

11 November 2025

**Agenda item 5**

**Place and dates for the 126th session  
of the Executive Council**

CE/125/5 rev.1  
Madrid, 7 November 2025  
Original: English

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**Executive summary**

During the present session, the Council is called upon to fix the place and date of the 126th session of the Executive Council.



**DRAFT DECISION<sup>1</sup>**

**Agenda item 5**

Place and dates of the 126th session of the Executive Council  
(document CE/125/5 rev.1)

*The Executive Council,*

*Having examined the report,*

1. *Decides* to hold its 126th session in the Headquarters of the Organization during the first semester of 2026, on dates to be agreed upon between the Secretariat and the Government of Spain;
2. *Recalls* that the venues of the 127th, 128th and 129th sessions of the Executive Council will be decided during its 126th session; and
3. *Invites* the Member States to submit their candidatures to host the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council to the Secretary-General, at the latest, 90 days before the 126th session of the Executive Council, in accordance with the Guidelines on the selection of venues of Executive Council sessions adopted by decision 11(XCIV).

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<sup>1</sup> This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Executive Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.

## I. Introduction

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1. The statutory framework concerning the place and dates of Executive Council ordinary sessions is established in the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, under the provisions reproduced below:

### Article 8(2) of the Statutes:

*“Meetings of the Assembly and the Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless the respective organs decide otherwise.”*

### Article 16 of the Statutes:

*“The Council shall meet at least twice a year.”*

### Rule 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council:

*“The Council shall meet at least twice a year. It shall fix at each session the date of the next session. The letters of convocation for ordinary sessions shall be sent to the Members of the Council by the Secretary-General at least forty days before the opening of the session.”*

### Rule 3(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council:

*“Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Rule, the sessions of the Council shall be held at the Organization’s headquarters unless the Council decides otherwise.”*

2. Despite the wording of Article 8(2) of the Statutes, in practice the Assembly and the Council do not meet at the Headquarters of the Organization. Through decision [11\(XCIV\)](#), adopted at its 94th session held in October 2012, the Council considered “that, for the selection of venues of the Governing Bodies of the Organization, there is a need to balance the statutory requirements with the practice of geographical rotation of meetings that has contributed to promote the role of tourism and of UNWTO around the world”, and adopted the guidelines for the selection of venues of sessions of the Executive Council and General Assembly sessions (hereinafter “the Guidelines”)<sup>2</sup>.
3. Furthermore, the Council decided to meet at the Headquarters of the Organization when it is called to recommend a nominee for the post of Secretary-General.
4. The Guidelines establish that “[t]he next Executive Council meeting following the one held immediately after the General Assembly must be held at the Headquarters of the Organization”, and that, in said session, the Council “decides the places of the meetings of the Council up to the next General Assembly”.

## II. Venue and date of the 126th session of the Executive Council

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5. In accordance with the Guidelines, the 126th session of the Executive Council is to meet in the Headquarters of the Organization in the first semester of 2026, on dates to be agreed upon between the Secretariat and the Government of Spain.
6. On a letter dated 3 November 2025, the Government of Spain communicated to the Secretariat its proposal to host the next session of the Council on 10 and 11 June 2026.
7. The Secretariat received also a communication by the United Arab Emirates its candidature to host the 127th session of the Council through a letter dated 24 October 2026, a copy of which is available upon request.
8. The above stipulation notwithstanding, at the present session, the Executive Council is called upon to formally decide on the place and date of its 126th session, at which the Council will fix the venues of its 127th, 128th and 129th sessions.

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<sup>2</sup> [CE/94/3\(III\)\(d\) rev.1](#)