ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU TOURISME
WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL TURISMO
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ТУРИСТСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
منظمة السياحة العالمية

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Resolution A/RES/521(XVII) adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its seventeenth session

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23 - 29 November 2007

A/RES/521(XVII)

Administrative and financial matters

(c) Linguistic diversity

Agenda item 5(c)
(document A/17/5(c))

The General Assembly,

Having taken note of the request for the amendment of Article 38 presented by China for the introduction of Chinese as an official language of the Organization,

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 33 of the Statutes that stipulate, on the one hand, that any amendment must be adopted by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of Full Members present and voting, and on the other hand, that an amendment comes into force when two-thirds of the Member States have given notice of their approval of such amendment,

Sharing the opinion of the Secretary-General that the introduction of the Chinese language would constitute an advance for the Organization in light of the growing role of China in international tourism exchanges,

1. Decides to adopt the Chinese language as an official language of the World Tourism Organization;

2. Establishes that, consequently, Article 38 of the Statutes shall read as follows: "The official languages of the Organization shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish";

3. Calls upon the Members to ratify the amendment introducing the Chinese language;

4. Notes that the introduction of Chinese as an official language will not be possible prior to the ratification of the corresponding amendment unless additional means are generated, in particular, through voluntary contributions;

5. Notes also that the amendment to Article 38 making Arabic an official language of the UNWTO has not yet been ratified and appeals to the Members to proceed with such ratification;

Having been informed, furthermore, of the request by Kazakhstan to introduce Russian as an official language of the meetings of the Commission for Europe, and of the request of Spain for Spanish to also be considered a working language of the Commission for Europe if other languages are to be introduced in that Commission,

6. Entrusts the Commission for Europe and the Committee on Budget and Finance with studying the implications that such introductions would entail and to report to the Executive Council so that the latter may submit an opinion to it;

7. Welcomes the efforts already undertaken with regard to communicating in an increased number of languages, which allows better dissemination of the UNWTO's works among their users in both the public and private sectors; and

8. Decides to expand this practice in a manner that does not entail additional costs for the UNWTO.

Done at Madrid, on the twenty-third day of January, two thousand and nine.

Francesco Frangialli
Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization