

Tourism Law and Legislation

Assignment 1

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In no more than 500 words each explain:

1- What are the different types of membership in UNWTO?

2- Who qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO?

1. Different Types of Membership in UNWTO

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) recognizes several types of membership to accommodate the diverse actors involved in global tourism governance and development. There are four main categories of membership:

a) Full Members

Full Members are sovereign states. These members have full rights and obligations within the organization, including voting rights in the General Assembly and eligibility to be elected to UNWTO bodies and committees. Full Members play a central role in shaping tourism policies and strategies at the global level.

b) Associate Members

Associate Members are territories or groups of territories that are not responsible for their external relations but have competence in tourism matters. They participate in UNWTO activities and meetings but do not have full voting rights in the General Assembly. Their

involvement allows non-sovereign territories to engage in international tourism cooperation.

c) Affiliate Members

Affiliate Members consist of non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, educational institutions, tourism associations, and local tourism authorities that are directly or indirectly involved in tourism. This category enables collaboration between UNWTO and the private sector, academia, and civil society. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights but contribute expertise, innovation, and best practices.

d) Observers

Observers include international and intergovernmental organizations that participate in UNWTO meetings by invitation. While they have no voting rights, observers contribute to discussions, cooperation, and coordination on tourism-related matters at the international level.

2. Who Qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO?

A Full Member of the UNWTO must be a sovereign state. Specifically, eligibility is granted to states that are members of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, or the International Atomic Energy Agency. Such states may become Full Members by formally accepting the UNWTO Statutes and fulfilling membership requirements, including financial contributions.

Full Members possess complete participation rights within UNWTO. They can vote in the General Assembly, propose agenda items, influence policy decisions, and stand for election to executive and technical bodies. They are also responsible for complying with UNWTO decisions and supporting its objectives, such as promoting sustainable, responsible, and universally accessible tourism.

In addition, states that are not members of the United Nations but are members of specialized agencies may also qualify, provided they adhere to UNWTO's legal and administrative framework. Admission typically requires approval by the UNWTO General Assembly.

To conclude, any sovereign state with recognized international legal personality and membership in the UN system that accepts UNWTO obligations qualifies as a Full Member, enabling it to fully participate in shaping global tourism governance.