

Tourism Law and Legislation

Assignment 1

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The different types of membership in UNWTO are as follows:

Full Members: These are the main decision-makers, and every seat is reserved for a sovereign country (like Kenya, Spain, or Japan). They have full voting rights on all major policies, budgets, and leadership. In our module, this is crucial because the international treaties, frameworks, and global ethical codes (like the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism) are passed by these members. Their national tourism legislation is directly influenced by agreements made here and as of now 160 countries are under the UNWTO full members.

Associate Members: These are not independent countries, but territories or regions whose foreign policy is still handled by a Full Member, but who have a unique and significant tourism identity. Think of places like Hong Kong (China), Aruba (Netherlands), or Puerto Rico (USA). They can participate in debates and contribute expertise, but they cannot vote on core constitutional matters. Their inclusion recognizes that tourism law and policy often need granular, regional application.

Affiliate Members: This is where the family table gets big and lively! This group includes companies, academic institutions, non-profits, and tourism associations (like a hotel chain, your university's tourism faculty, or a national guide association). They don't vote on state-level laws, but they provide the real-world and research backbone. For your studies, this is the practical link: the laws and policies debated by the Full Members are implemented and tested by Affiliate Members. They are the key advisors from the private and educational sectors.

Full members of UNWTO play a very important role and only Sovereign states can be a full member which are as follows:

Sovereign State: This means a country recognized by the international community as having its own government, defined territory, and the capacity to enter relations with other states. It's a political and legal status. By joining the UNWTO as a Full Member, a state is signalling that tourism is a significant enough sector of its economy, society, and foreign policy that it wants a formal voice in shaping its global future. It's a conscious choice to be bound by the organization's statutes and contribute to its work.

As a future tourism professional or legal mind, this is fundamental. When a country is a Full Member, it commits to participating in the creation of international tourism law and soft law instruments (like declarations and codes of ethics). The national tourism legislation you study in your country (e.g., the law regulating tour operators, hotel classifications, or tourist protection) is increasingly shaped by the agreements that country signs onto at the UNWTO. The Full Members are the legislators of the global tourism system. Their votes set the agenda on everything from sustainability standards to visa facilitation, which then trickle down into the national laws you will analyze and work with.