

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. The Membership Categories of UN Tourism

UN Tourism stands out among international agencies for its inclusive structure, which blends high-level diplomacy with private-sector expertise. It classifies its members into three specific groups:

- * Full Members: These are sovereign nations. As the backbone of the organization, they hold the power to vote on official policies and determine the organization's strategic path during the General Assembly.

- * Associate Members: This tier is for territories that do not manage their own foreign relations (such as overseas territories). They require approval from the sovereign state responsible for them and participate in activities without holding the same voting weight as Full Members.

- * Affiliate Members: This is the "industry" tier. It encompasses non-governmental entities, including:

- * Commercial businesses (hotels, airlines, tech platforms).

- * Academic and research institutions.

- * Local and regional destination management organizations (DMOs).

While they don't vote on constitutional changes, they are vital partners who gain access to exclusive data, networking, and a seat at the table for global tourism discussions.

2. Eligibility for Full Membership

To achieve Full Member status, an applicant must be a Sovereign State. The path to joining depends largely on the state's relationship with the United Nations at large:

- * **Sovereignty & Commitment:** The primary requirement is recognized independence. Any state wishing to join must formally agree to abide by the UN Tourism Statutes and commit to financial contributions based on their economic standing.

- * **The Joining Process:**

- * **UN Members:** If a country is already a member of the United Nations, they can join UN Tourism simply by formally notifying the Secretary-General that they adopt the organization's Statutes.

- * **Non-UN Members:** States that are not part of the UN face a higher bar. They must be recommended by the Executive Council and secure a two-thirds majority vote from existing Full Members during the General Assembly.

- * **Regional Alignment:** Once admitted, Full Members are assigned to one of six Regional Commissions (Africa, Americas, East Asia/Pacific, Europe, Middle East, or South Asia). This ensures that global tourism policy is balanced across different geographic and cultural needs.

In short, Full Membership is the formal, diplomatic level of participation where national governments set the global agenda for sustainable and ethical travel.