

## Assignment 1

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### 1. Different Types of Membership in UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization)

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that works to promote responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. To include a wide range of stakeholders involved in global tourism, UNWTO has created different types of membership. Each type allows participation at different levels depending on the nature of the member.

The first and most important category is **Full Membership**. This type of membership is reserved for sovereign states. Countries that are members of the United Nations, or are recognized by the UN, can apply to become Full Members of UNWTO. Full Members have complete rights within the organization, including voting power in the General Assembly, participation in policy-making, and eligibility to be elected to executive bodies. Through Full Membership, countries contribute to shaping global tourism policies and benefit from technical support, research, and international cooperation.

The second category is **Associate Membership**. This type is designed for territories or regions that are not fully responsible for their external relations, such as autonomous regions or dependent territories. Although these regions are not independent countries, tourism often plays a vital role in their economies. Associate Members can participate in UNWTO activities, meetings, and discussions, but they usually do not have voting rights equal to Full Members. Their inclusion ensures that tourism development in non-sovereign territories is also represented at the global level.

The third category is **Affiliate Membership**. This type is open to non-governmental stakeholders involved in tourism. These include tourism companies, hotel chains, airlines, educational institutions, destination management organizations, and research centers. Affiliate Members do not participate in governmental decision-making but play an important advisory role. They contribute practical knowledge, innovation, and industry perspectives, helping bridge the gap between policy and real-world tourism operations.

In addition to these main types, UNWTO also recognizes **Observers**, which may include international organizations or institutions invited to attend meetings without formal membership. While observers do not have decision-making power, they help strengthen cooperation between UNWTO and other global bodies.

Overall, the different types of membership allow UNWTO to function as an inclusive platform. Governments, regions, and private-sector stakeholders all work together to support sustainable tourism development worldwide.

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## **2. Who Qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO?**

Full Membership in the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is limited to sovereign states. This means that only countries that have authority over their own international relations can qualify as Full Members. In most cases, these are independent nations that are members of the United Nations or are recognized by the UN General Assembly.

To qualify as a Full Member, a country must first submit a formal application to UNWTO. This application is usually made through the country's national government or relevant ministry, such as the Ministry of Tourism or Foreign Affairs. The application is then reviewed and must be approved by the UNWTO General Assembly. Once approved, the country becomes a Full Member after accepting the UNWTO Statutes and fulfilling any financial obligations, such as membership contributions.

Full Members play a central role in the functioning of UNWTO. They have the right to vote in the General Assembly, which is the organization's highest decision-making body. Through voting, Full Members influence major policies, budgets, and strategic priorities of the organization. They can also nominate representatives for key positions, including the Executive Council and regional commissions.

Another important qualification for Full Membership is the commitment to the principles of UNWTO. Member states are expected to support sustainable tourism development, ethical tourism practices, cultural preservation, and international cooperation. Many countries join UNWTO to gain access to research data, policy guidance, technical assistance, and capacity-building programs that help strengthen their tourism sectors.

Full Members also benefit from global visibility and networking opportunities. By participating in UNWTO initiatives, countries can promote their destinations, learn from international best practices, and collaborate with other nations facing similar tourism challenges.

In summary, a Full Member of UNWTO must be a sovereign state recognized at the international level, willing to comply with UNWTO rules, and committed to advancing responsible tourism. Full Membership allows countries to actively shape the future of global tourism while benefiting from shared knowledge and cooperation.