



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

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), is now known as UN Tourism. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for;

- promoting international understanding and peace
- Encourage universal access to tourism
- Strength public and private partnership
- Implement the global code of ethics for tourism

Types of membership.

There are three main types of membership in UNWTO:

- ✓ Full Members
- ✓ Associate Members
- ✓ Affiliate Members.

Full membership:

It's first category "Full Membership", which is mainly open to all sovereign states or independent countries. At present, full members are **160** countries. Countries that are members of the United Nations or eligible to join UN specialized agencies can become Full Members of UNWTO. Full Members enjoy complete participation rights in the organization.

They can **vote** in the General Assembly, contribute to decision-making processes, participate in committees, and influence global tourism policies and initiatives. These members collaborate with other countries to promote tourism development, share best practices, and work on sustainable tourism projects.

Associate membership:

The second category is "Associate Membership", which is open to territories or regions that are not fully responsible for their own **international** and **external** relations. Such territories may not be sovereign states but still have independent tourism sectors and interests.

Associate Members can participate in UNWTO activities and discussions, but their rights are more limited compared to Full Members. For example, they may not have **full voting rights** or decision-making authority.

Associate members include Aruba, Hong Kong, Macao(china), Flanders, Portugal, Puerto Rico.

Affiliate members:

The third category is Affiliate Membership, which is different from the associate and full membership because it includes **non-governmental** and **private-sector** entities involved in tourism.

Affiliate Members may include tourism companies, airlines, hotel chains, travel agencies, academic institutions, tourism boards, research centers, and non-governmental organizations.

It is open to **collaborate** with governments and international bodies in shaping tourism policies and practices.

Affiliate Members do **not have voting rights** in the organization, but they contribute expertise, innovation, and practical experience to tourism development projects. This collaboration strengthens partnerships between public and private sectors and promotes sustainable tourism growth worldwide.

2- Who qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO?

A Full Member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is typically a sovereign state (an independent country) that meets certain eligibility conditions.

Qualification for Full Membership

A country qualifies as a Full Member if it is:

- a sovereign or independent state, meaning it conducts its own foreign relations and is internationally recognized as a country.
- a member of the United Nations, or is eligible to join UN specialized agencies.
- The country formally accepts the UNWTO Statutes and applies for membership through the official procedure.
- The application is approved by the UNWTO General Assembly, usually by a required majority vote of existing Full Members.

Rights of Full Members

- Full Members have full voting rights in the General Assembly.
- They can participate in policy-making and decision-making.
- Full Members May serve on councils and committees.
- Full members Can influence global tourism strategies and initiatives.

Examples of full membership:

Most countries with active tourism sectors, such as France, Spain, China, Pakistan, and many others, are Full Members of UNWTO.