

Tourism Law and Legislation
Assignment 1
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1. What are the different types of membership in UNWTO?

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations which works for development of tourism in a responsible and sustainable way. To include different stakeholders from all over the world, UNWTO provides different types of membership. These memberships allow countries, regions and organizations to take part in global tourism activities.

The first type of membership is Full Membership. Full Members are sovereign countries which are also members of the United Nations. These countries have full rights in UNWTO. They can vote in the General Assembly and also take part in important decision making process. Full Members play very important role in forming tourism policies and strategies at global level. They also pay annual contribution and support UNWTO goals like sustainable tourism, cultural protection and economic growth.

The second type is Associate Membership. Associate Members are territories or regions which are not fully responsible for their foreign relations but have authority in tourism matters. These can be autonomous regions or overseas territories. Associate Members are allowed to participate in meetings and discussions of UNWTO. However, their voting rights are limited as compared to Full Members. This membership is helpful for regions which have strong tourism sector but are not independent countries.

Another important category is Affiliate Membership. Affiliate Members are not countries, but organizations related to tourism sector. These include private companies, tourism associations, educational institutions, research bodies and local authorities. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights, but they contribute by sharing knowledge, research, innovation and best practices. This type of membership helps in cooperation between government and private sector which is very important for tourism industry.

Apart from these, UNWTO also gives Observer Status to some international and intergovernmental organizations. These observers can attend meetings and cooperate with UNWTO activities, but they cannot vote or take part in formal decisions. Observer status helps in coordination between UNWTO and other global institutions.

In conclusion, UNWTO has different types of membership to make tourism development more inclusive and effective. Each membership category has its own role and responsibilities. By involving countries, regions and tourism organizations, UNWTO is able to promote tourism development at global level in a better way.

2. Who qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO?

Full Membership in the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is mainly for sovereign countries. This membership allows countries to fully participate in the activities and decision making process of the organization.

To qualify as a Full Member, the most important condition is that the country must be a sovereign state and a member of the United Nations. This requirement ensures that the country is internationally recognized and follows the basic principles of the UN. Only independent countries which handle their own foreign relations can become Full Members of UNWTO.

After meeting this requirement, the country must submit a formal application to UNWTO. By applying, the country agrees to accept the statutes, rules and obligations of the organization.

This includes supporting responsible tourism, sustainable development and protection of cultural heritage. The country also agrees to cooperate with other member states.

Once the application is submitted, it is reviewed by the UNWTO General Assembly, which is the highest decision making body of the organization. Existing members discuss and vote on the application. If the application is approved, the country officially becomes a Full Member of UNWTO.

Full Members enjoy several important rights. They have the right to vote in the General Assembly and influence global tourism policies. They can also nominate representatives to different committees and working groups. This allows them to actively take part in planning and implementation of tourism related programs.

Along with rights, Full Members also have certain responsibilities. They must pay annual membership contributions and provide tourism related data when required. Full Members are also expected to follow ethical tourism practices and support UNWTO initiatives.

Many countries like Germany, Spain, France, Italy and India are Full Members of UNWTO.

These countries benefit from international cooperation, research support and policy guidance.

In summary, any UN-recognized sovereign country that applies formally, accepts UNWTO rules and receives approval from the General Assembly qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO.