

Tourism Law and Legislation

Assignment 1

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Student Name: RAM PRABESH SAH

Student ID: DE240026

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

Ans>

Types of Membership in UNWTO

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has three basic types of membership, which are intended to support various classes of players in the world tourism industry.

The first types of membership are **Full Members** and they include sovereign states. These are the principle members of the organization who are given the full voting rights and able to all the decision making processes. Full Members make yearly contributions according to their economic ability and the development of their tourism. Since the recent years, UNWTO consists of more than 160 Full Members who represent the countries in every part of the world.

Associate Members are those territories that do not bear their own external relations but have very important tourism sectors. Such category would normally comprise dependent territories, overseas territories, and special administrative regions which have some level of autonomy on tourism affairs but they are not full-fledged sovereign states. This can be seen in such regions

as Aruba, Hong Kong, Macao, and Puerto Rico. Associate Members are allowed to get involved in the activities of UNWTO and attend the General Assembly but with the restriction of voting rights as compared to Full Members.

The private sector and other organizations that are in relation to tourism are the **Affiliate Members**. These are the varied category of commercial enterprises, educational institutions, tourism associations, local tourism authorities, non-governmental organizations and other organizations whose operations are connected to tourism. Important industry insights and expertise are offered by the Affiliate Members who partner with UNWTO by sharing knowledge and expertise and collaborating on best practices and technical cooperation. They are however not allowed a voting right in the General Assembly yet they are actively involved in many programs and initiatives of the UNWTO.

Other structures of the organization are Permanent Observers, who are not strictly speaking members of the organization. This is given to the intergovernmental organizations that would prefer to have a close working relationship with UNWTO.

Such a multi-level form of membership enables UNWTO to offer universal and inclusive representation of the global tourism stakeholders and at the same time ensure a transparent administration through its Full Member state based system.

2- Who qualifies as a Full Member of UNWTO?

Ans>

Only sovereign states inclusively those countries that have full control over their internal and external affairs and the ones who are considered as independent nations under the international law can be Full Members of the UNWTO.

In order to be eligible and accepted as a Full Member, a state should fulfil a number of criteria. Firstly, the applicant has to be an independent state that is recognized internationally to be independent. The country should also show that it is keen on tourism development and is committed to the goals and principles as stipulated in the UNWTO Statutes.

The application to join should be made by the applicant state through a formal application to the membership the request to join the UNWTO and commitment to the obligations stipulated in the UNWTO Statutes. An existing Full Member has to sponsor the candidacy in this application.

When an application is received the Executive Council reviews it, and makes a recommendation to the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the final authority on admission with a two-thirds majority vote being the first requirement to be admitted as a Full Member.

Full Members have all the rights in the organization such as being a voter in the General Assembly (the highest governing body of UNWTO), electee to the Executive Council and member of all the activities, programs and policy-making of the UNWTO. They also have to pay annual membership fees that are determined on a scale pegged on their degree of economic development and significance in international tourism.

Notably, the United Nations does not demand that a Full Member should also be a member of the United Nations, although this is the case with the majority of Full Members. The most significant requirement is still the sovereign state and the determination to promote sustainable and responsible tourism development all over the world. This is a State-based Full Membership arrangement that gives UNWTO the credibility and the authority of a governmental organization and at the same time invites all to join in by way of its Associate and Affiliate Member status.