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**25 UNWTO**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SAMARKAND | UZBEKISTAN

16 - 20 OCTOBER 2023

## Information Note

A/25/Note Inf. 1 rev.2  
Madrid, 21 August 2023  
Original: English



## 1. Place and dates of the meetings

In accordance with resolution A/RES/750(XXIV), the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) will hold its twenty-fifth session from 16 to 20 October 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, at the Congress Center of the [Silk Road Samarkand complex](#).

## 2. Contact details of the Organizing Committee

### UNWTO

#### Ms. Zhanna Yakovleva

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E-mail: [cose@unwto.org](mailto:cose@unwto.org)

#### Ms. Yolanda Sansegundo

Conference Services  
Tel.: +34 91 567 8188  
E-mail: [ysansegundo@unwto.org](mailto:ysansegundo@unwto.org)  
[council@unwto.org](mailto:council@unwto.org)

### Host-country coordinators

#### Mr. Feruz Dodiev

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#### Mr. Ahror Validjanov

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Silk Road Office  
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Republic of Uzbekistan  
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E-mail: [a.validjanov@silkroadproject.uz](mailto:a.validjanov@silkroadproject.uz)

## 3. Official website

All official documents will be made available on the UNWTO website:  
[www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session](http://www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session)

The website of the event will provide detailed information on the host country, meeting venues, side and special events, technical visits, social programmes, transport, accommodation and tours.



## 4. Education Forum

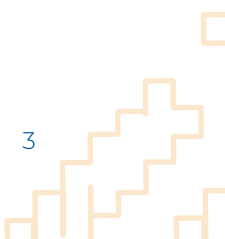
Education is crucial for the future of the tourism industry, enabling sustainable development and inclusive growth. To prioritize education, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is hosting this Education Forum, highlighting the vital connection between education and tourism development. This event aims to showcase the current state of education in the tourism sector, underlining the importance of investing in skill development and creating inclusive opportunities for all.

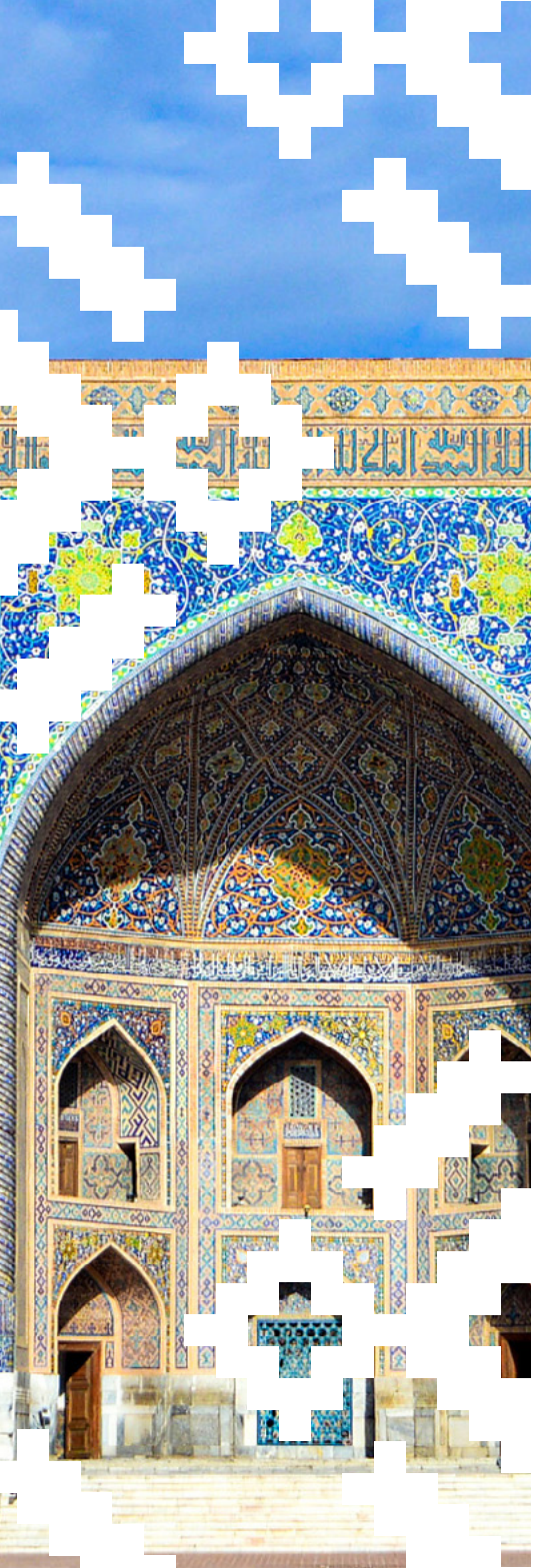
With a spotlight on identifying opportunities for shaping new policies and effective instruments to support inclusive and sustainable tourism development, closing the skill gap and fostering value-added jobs, the forum aspires to shape a progressive educational landscape. The event will showcase key UNWTO activities such as the innovative education toolkit, the new Bachelor of Science in International Sustainable Tourism and additional initiatives designed by UNWTO with top industry academic partners for secondary, tertiary, and executive education, highlighting the latest advancements in each domain. By recognizing the significance of investing in tourism education, the session seeks to drive sustainable growth and excellence in the industry. This Education Journey will take centre stage, providing a roadmap for comprehensive and forward-thinking tourism education by providing a holistic approach that addresses the diverse needs of learners at different stages, from secondary to tertiary and executive education, crucial for meeting the evolving demands of the tourism industry.

In addition, and highlighting the commitment of the UNWTO and its partners to advancing education in tourism and driving sustainable growth and excellence in the industry, the forum will feature the highly anticipated Ulysses Awards, honouring exceptional achievements and initiatives in the field of tourism education. The event will culminate in a grand awards ceremony, celebrating the ideas of the winning entrepreneurs of the UNWTO Megaevents competition recognizing exceptional projects and initiatives that leverage tourism to drive sustainable tourism development and create valuable educational opportunities.

The Forum's comprehensive programme seeks to inspire and mobilize stakeholders, policymakers, educators, and industry leaders for collective action. It aims to cultivate a progressive educational landscape that empowers learners with essential skills, fosters inclusive opportunities, and encourages innovation to drive sustainable growth and excellence in the tourism industry, where education serves as the catalyst for transformative change.

For any enquiries about the session, please contact: Ms. Addaia Arizmendi ([aarizmendi@unwto.org](mailto:aarizmendi@unwto.org)), Mr. José Díaz Ardila ([jdiaz@unwto.org](mailto:jdiaz@unwto.org)) and Mr. Alejandro Gutierrez ([agutierrez@unwto.org](mailto:agutierrez@unwto.org)).





## 5. Ulysses Prize Award

The UNWTO Ulysses Prize for excellence in the creation and dissemination of knowledge is awarded to a distinguished scholar for his/her remarkable contribution to the tourism sector. Being established in 2003, the Prize is given to a prominent representative from academia with outstanding achievements.

Its 16th edition will take place on the occasion of the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 16-20 October 2023.

Dr. Jigang Bao has been named as the winner of this edition. For more information about Dr. Bao, please visit: [“Dr. Jigang Bao Wins UNWTO Ulysses Prize for Excellence in Tourism Scholarship”](#).



## 6. Investment Forum

The UNWTO Tourism Investment Forum will bring together global stakeholders, industry leaders, and investors to explore opportunities within the tourism sector. With a focus on the UNWTO Enabling Framework for Global Investments and the official launch of the Investment Guidelines for Uzbekistan, the event aims to equip participants with the necessary tools to identify, enable, and mobilize tourism investments. It also seeks to generate new insights for policymaking, addressing existing barriers and uncovering emerging opportunities while encouraging sustainable investments in the tourism sector.

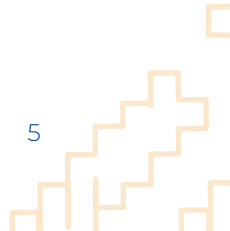
The forum aims to achieve several objectives, including promoting sustainable investments in alignment with the framework, positioning Uzbekistan as an appealing investment destination, and fostering networking and collaboration among participants. Key sessions will revolve around the Investment Guidelines, the UNWTO framework, and panel discussions, creating an engaging environment. Anticipated outcomes encompass raising awareness, driving increased investments, facilitating sustainable development, fostering capacity building, and strengthening collaboration across sectors on a global scale. Furthermore, the launch of the guidelines seeks to attract responsible investments that contribute to Uzbekistan's economic growth while preserving its rich cultural heritage and natural resources.

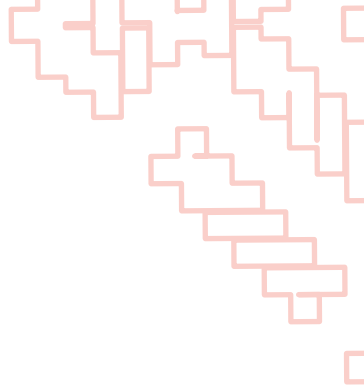
For any enquiries about the session, please contact: Ms. Addaia Arizmendi ([aarizmendi@unwto.org](mailto:aarizmendi@unwto.org)), Mr. José Diaz Ardila ([jdiaz@unwto.org](mailto:jdiaz@unwto.org)) and Mr. Peter Janech ([pjanech@unwto.org](mailto:pjanech@unwto.org))

## 7. Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO Ceremony

Every year, Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO recognizes rural destinations which stand out for their commitment to sustainability in all its aspects – economic, social and environmental – and the preservation and promotion of community-based values with the aim to make tourism a driver of rural development and well-being. The announcement of the villages recognized as Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO in its third edition (2023) will take place on the occasion of the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly. As in previous editions, the Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO 2023 Ceremony will gather high-level representatives of the Member States with villages awarded with the recognition this year as well as representatives of the villages on stage. The villages selected to participate in the Upgrade Programme in 2023 will also be announced during the ceremony.

For any enquiries about the ceremony, please contact: [besttourismvillages@unwto.org](mailto:besttourismvillages@unwto.org)





## 8. Ceremony of adherence to the International Code for the Protection of Tourists

The **International Code for the Protection of Tourists** (ICPT) is a comprehensive set of principles and recommendations on the protection of tourists in emergency situations, not limited to pandemics, and the rights of tourists as consumers, aimed at restoring consumer confidence in travel and providing sufficient guarantees to international tourists in the post COVID-19 environment<sup>1</sup>.

Member States of both UNWTO and the United Nations are encouraged to adhere to the ICPT [fully](#) or [partially](#) through a formal notification of adherence and to integrate its non-binding recommendations into their relevant policies, legislation and regulations, as well as to report to the Secretary-General on its application within their country with a view to sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices<sup>2</sup>.

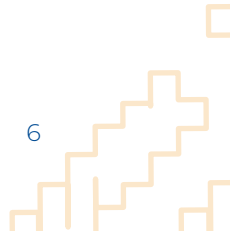
Adherence to the ICPT only implies a commitment for the country to bring the Code, within one year, to the attention of the competent authorities for consideration, leaving absolute flexibility for countries to promote measures at national level for the implementation of its principles and recommendations, as deemed appropriate and in accordance with each country's institutional framework.

In the framework of the 25th session of the General Assembly, a public ceremony of adherence to the ICPT will be held during the third plenary session on 19 October 2023 for all Member States willing to adhere to the Code fully or partially.

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1 Adopted by resolution 732 (XXIV) of the General Assembly at its 24th session held in Madrid, Spain, from 30 November to 3 December 2021.

2 To date, fifteen Member States have adhered to the ICPT ([list](#)).





## 9. UNWTO Tourism Video Competition

The 25th session of the General Assembly will feature the 6th edition of the UNWTO Tourism Video Competition.

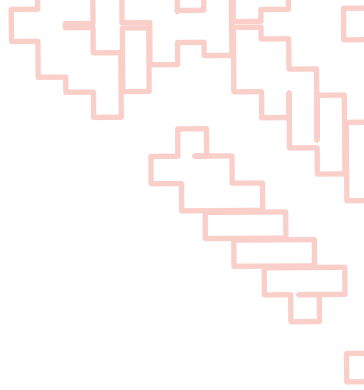
Following the hiatus in international travel, the sector has recognized the need to put sustainability, peace, innovation, quality jobs, and the empowerment of women and youth at the forefront. In the post-pandemic recovery phase, digital and audiovisual communication is now more relevant than ever for framing these priorities and reaching tourists themselves, as well as public and private stakeholders.

The competition aims to highlight the most successful videos in two categories, representing an opportunity to reposition tourism as a key sector for people, planet and prosperity:

- a. **Promotion and the Decade of Action:** This category looks for notable examples of how member countries are linking their promotional videos to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through references to one or several of the 17 Global Goals (SDGs). Direct mentions to the SDGs do not need to be made; indirect references to one or more Goals are also to be considered in this category.
- b. **Exceptional Stories of Sustainable Tourism:** This category looks for notable examples that showcase the human face of tourism and clearly illustrate the positive social impact the sector can have by generating optimism and opportunities for all.

### Quick facts:

- Member States are encouraged to submit videos for both categories. One winning video will be chosen per region for both categories.
- Affiliate Members are encouraged to submit videos for the “Exceptional Stories of Sustainable Tourism” category.
- The winners of the 6th edition of the UNWTO Tourism Video Competition will be announced during the 25th session of the General Assembly and reflected in official communications.



## 10. UNWTO Affiliate Members Plenary Session

The 44th UNWTO Affiliate Members Plenary Session will take place on 16 October as the first official activity of the General Assembly. The Plenary Session is the most important governing structure of the Affiliate Members and offers an excellent framework to debate on the state of the affiliate membership, analyse the evolution of the implementation of the Programme of Work and share information and proposals on future projects.

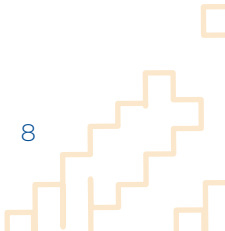
This year, the Plenary Session will provide Affiliate Members with the opportunity to participate in the sessions of the General Assembly and other relevant events and activities organized on this occasion, contribute along with the Governments of the Member States to the UNWTO Programme of Work for the period 2024-2025, hold bilateral meetings with high-level public sector representatives in order to discuss public-private cooperation issues, and be updated on the UNWTO's overall activity. On this occasion, the agenda of the Affiliate Members Plenary Session will focus on priority topics for the tourism sector, such as sustainability, public-private partnership or the new challenges for the tourism industry.

For further information, please contact the Affiliate Members Department: [am@unwto.org](mailto:am@unwto.org)

## 11. UNWTO Affiliate Members Thematic Session

In the framework of the General Assembly a thematic session carried out by relevant affiliated entities will take place, under the already consolidated and well-known format "Affiliate Members Corner" and will showcase best practices and inspiring examples on how to successfully address the current challenges through innovative strategies and projects.

For further information, please contact the Affiliate Members Department: [am@unwto.org](mailto:am@unwto.org)







## 12. Online registration and accreditation badges

Registration for the Assembly session will be carried out online until Friday, 15 September 2023. The participation form is available on the website: [www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session](http://www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session)

The online registration platform will be collecting all necessary information regarding the participation in the conference, visa information and technical visits.

Accreditation badges are issued to specific individuals and are not transferable. Participants should keep their badge and ID with them at all times during their stay in Samarkand. The badge is the only document confirming a participant's General Assembly accreditation that can be used to gain access to the venues of the different events.

Participants can collect their accreditation badges at the registration desk located in the Congress Center (venue of the event).

## 13. Access to the meetings

### Full Members

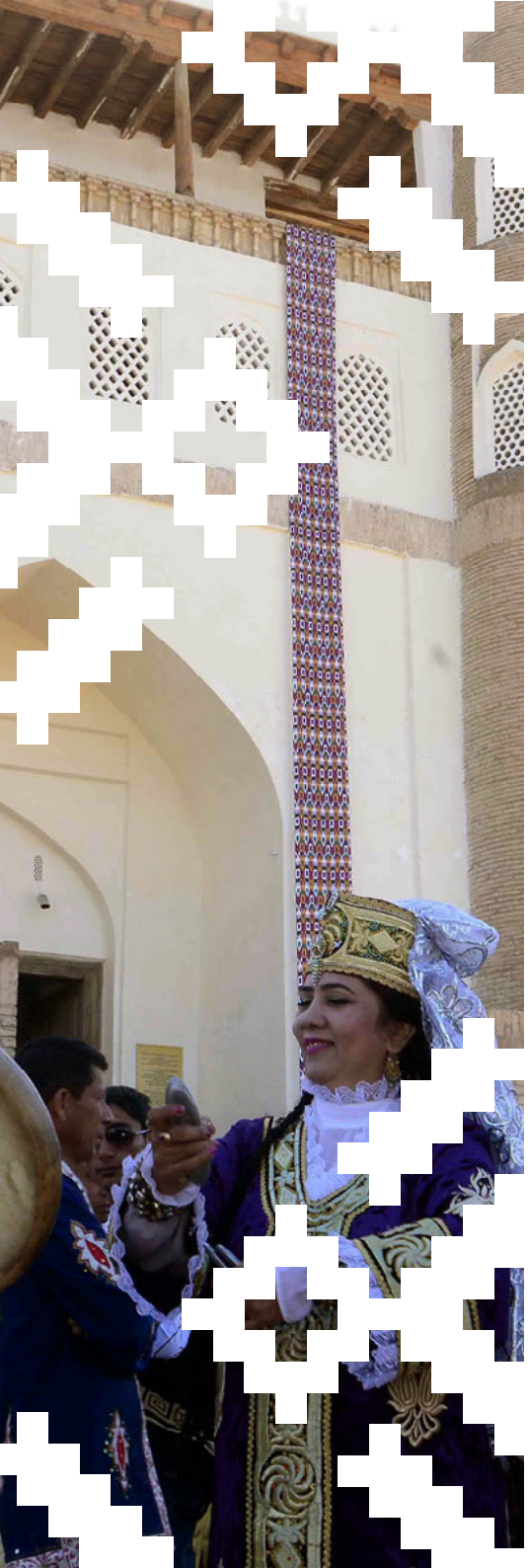
Delegations of Full Members, consisting of five delegates at most, one of whom shall be designated head of delegation, shall be entitled to attend the plenary meetings of the Assembly. Each delegation may also include alternate delegates and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by it. (Rule 9(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)

### Associate Members and Affiliate Members

Delegations of Associate Members, consisting of five delegates at most, one of whom shall be designated head of delegation, and not more than three observers designated by the Committee of Affiliate Members, as well as one observer designated by each Affiliate Member shall be entitled to attend the plenary meetings of the Assembly. (Rule 9(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)

### Non-members and international organizations

Invited representatives of States that are not members of the Organization but that are Members of the United Nations or of a specialized agency of the United Nations or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as invited representatives of international organizations both intergovernmental and non-governmental, shall be entitled to attend the public plenary meetings of the Assembly as observers. (Rule 9(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly)



## 14. Submission of credentials and identification papers

The names of the delegates of Full Members and Associate Members, of the observers of Affiliate Members and of the invited representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, shall be communicated to the Secretary-General, if possible, at least fifteen days before the session of the Assembly opens. (Rule 12(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

The credentials of the delegates of Full Members and Associate Members, issued by the competent authority of the State, shall be handed to the Secretary-General, if possible, at least one day before the session of the Assembly opens. (Rule 12(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

It should be pointed out that, ever since the tenth session of the Assembly, only formal letters or faxes bearing the signature of the competent authority are considered valid credentials. Please note that, since the twelfth session of the General Assembly, only credentials from Heads of State or Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Ministers responsible for tourism of the respective State or his/her equivalent are regarded as valid. Further, credentials can be accepted only if written in any of the working languages of the General Assembly or if an appropriate translation is attached. Only duly accredited delegates shall be authorized to exercise the right to vote and to take the floor at the meetings of the General Assembly. Please refer to the model credential letter on the website: <https://www.unwto.org/25-session-of-the-unwto-general-assembly/credentials>.

Identification papers of the observers of Affiliate Members and invited representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations to attend as observers shall be handed to the Secretary-General, if possible, at least one day before the session of the Assembly opens. (Rule 12(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly).

To facilitate the work of the Credentials Committee, delegations are kindly requested to submit a scanned copy of their credentials at least fifteen days in advance by e-mail to Ms. Ilenia García-Riano, Office of the Secretary-General, e-mail: [igarcia@unwto.org](mailto:igarcia@unwto.org) , and to submit the original upon their arrival in Samarkand prior to collecting their identification badges.

## 15. Procedure for proxies

If a Full Member is unable to participate in the General Assembly, it can be exceptionally represented by a member of another State's delegation, provided it submits a formal letter or fax signed by the competent authority designating the individual who will represent it and, if applicable, giving him/her the power to vote on its behalf. Please note that, unless the items for which the power to vote is given are clearly specified, it will be understood that the delegate has full powers to cast a vote on behalf of the government he/she is representing by proxy on any agenda item.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the General Assembly, at its twentieth session, adopted resolution 633(XX), which stipulates the following regarding mandates for representation:

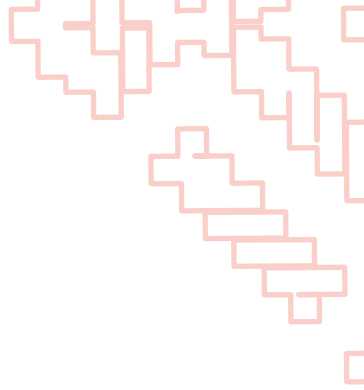
- a. A mandate for representation can be given only in exceptional circumstances, duly explained in writing by the State giving the mandate;
- b. The Credentials Committee will assess the validity of these explanations;
- c. Only one mandate for representation may be given to a delegate representing another State;
- d. A mandate for representation may not be given to the Head of Delegation of another State; and
- e. The mandate for representation is valid for the whole session of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, at its twenty-first session in Medellín, Colombia, in 2015 (resolution 649(XXI)) decided the following:

- a. The Credentials Committee will consider as invalid credentials in breach of the principle of secrecy of the vote;
- b. Once the Report of the Credentials Committee is issued, no further credentials or proxy letters will be considered by the Committee except:
  - When the Committee itself has invited the Full or Associate Member concerned to regularize its credentials or its proxy; and
  - When a State whose credentials have been accepted by the Committee does not have a representative for the remaining part of the session for reasons duly explained in writing by the State giving the mandate; in such case, the Committee will assess the existence of the exceptional circumstances justifying the proxy;
- c. The Chairs of the Regional Commissions will verify that the credentials and proxy letters comply with the applicable rules.

Please refer to the model of credentials for representation (proxy format) on the website:

[www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session](http://www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session)



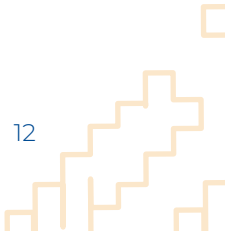
## 16. Seating arrangements

Delegations will be seated in the plenary meetings in English alphabetical order, beginning with the Member that is hosting the session of the General Assembly.

## 17. Media

Uzbekistan-based media wishing to cover the General Assembly session should contact the Press service of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan by e-mail at: [unwto@motas.uz](mailto:unwto@motas.uz)

International media wishing to cover the General Assembly meeting should contact the UNWTO Communication Department, at: [comm@unwto.org](mailto:comm@unwto.org)





## 18. Entry formalities

The Government of Uzbekistan will facilitate visa processing for delegates attending the 25th session of the General Assembly upon presentation of the letter of invitation to the Assembly at the corresponding Uzbekistan Embassy, in accordance with countries' regulations.

For detailed information on countries whose nationals require a visa or are exempt from such requirement, visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at: <https://mfa.uz/en/pages/visa-republic-uzb>

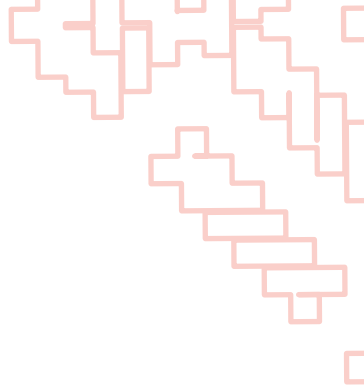
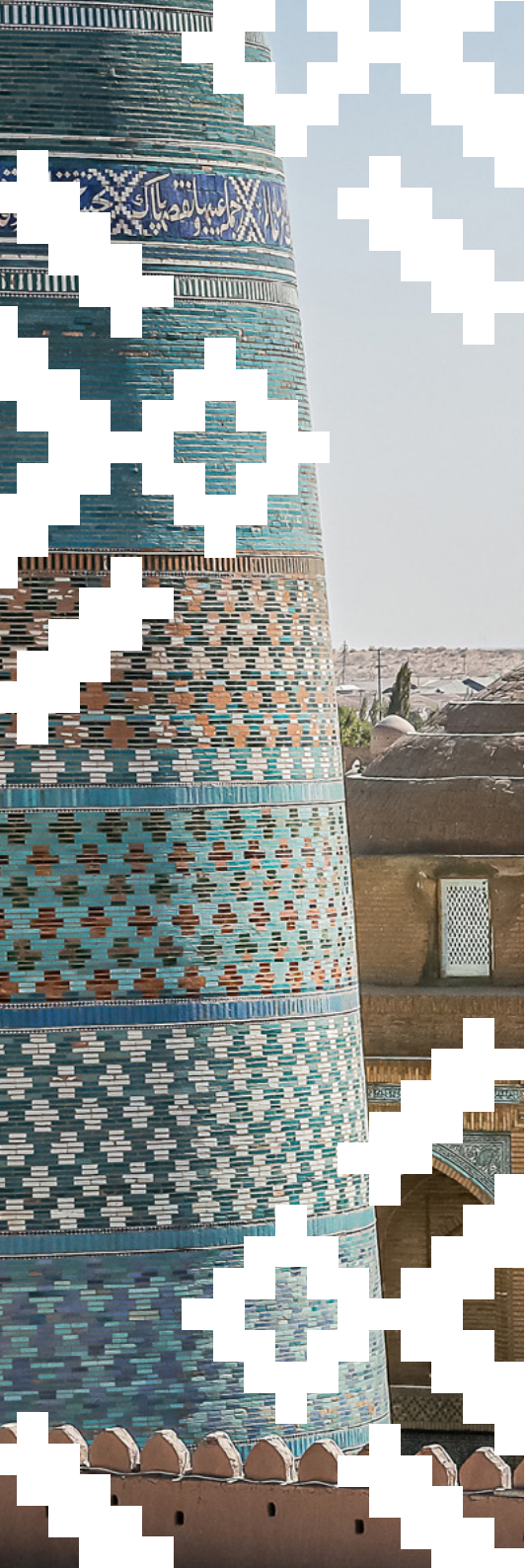
Application for e-visa can be submitted through the following link: <https://e-visa.gov.uz/main>

Citizens of the countries for whom there is no established visa-free or e-visa regime shall apply for visa in accordance with following steps:

1. Applicants shall fill an online form up at <https://visa.mfa.uz/site/index?language=en>. While filling the form an applicant shall indicate the place of obtaining the visa (the airport either in Tashkent or Samarkand).
2. Having filled the online form, the applicant shall send to UNWTO Secretariat (Protocol Office) the following documents:
  - a. Copy of applicant's passport: the expiration date should be more than 6 months from the last date of visa's duration.
  - b. The filled copy of the form in pdf format (it can be downloaded upon filling it online). An applicant shall print it, hand-sign it, insert the date of its submission (signature and date with blue ink pen), scan it, and send it to the UNWTO Secretariat.
3. After approving the application, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Committee of Tourism of Uzbekistan will provide a certificate to present at airports in order to be allowed to get aboard.

The last day to submit application for visa is 6 October 2023.

For any enquiries about visas, please contact Ms. Ilenia García-Riano, Office of the Secretary-General, UNWTO, at [igarcia@unwto.org](mailto:igarcia@unwto.org)



## 19. Conditions of entry to Uzbekistan relative to health measures

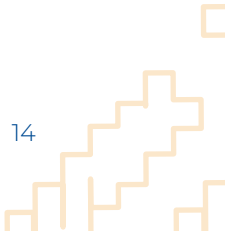
For entry into the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is no longer necessary to present any certificate related to COVID-19 when crossing the border. No COVID-19 restrictions are currently in force in Uzbekistan.

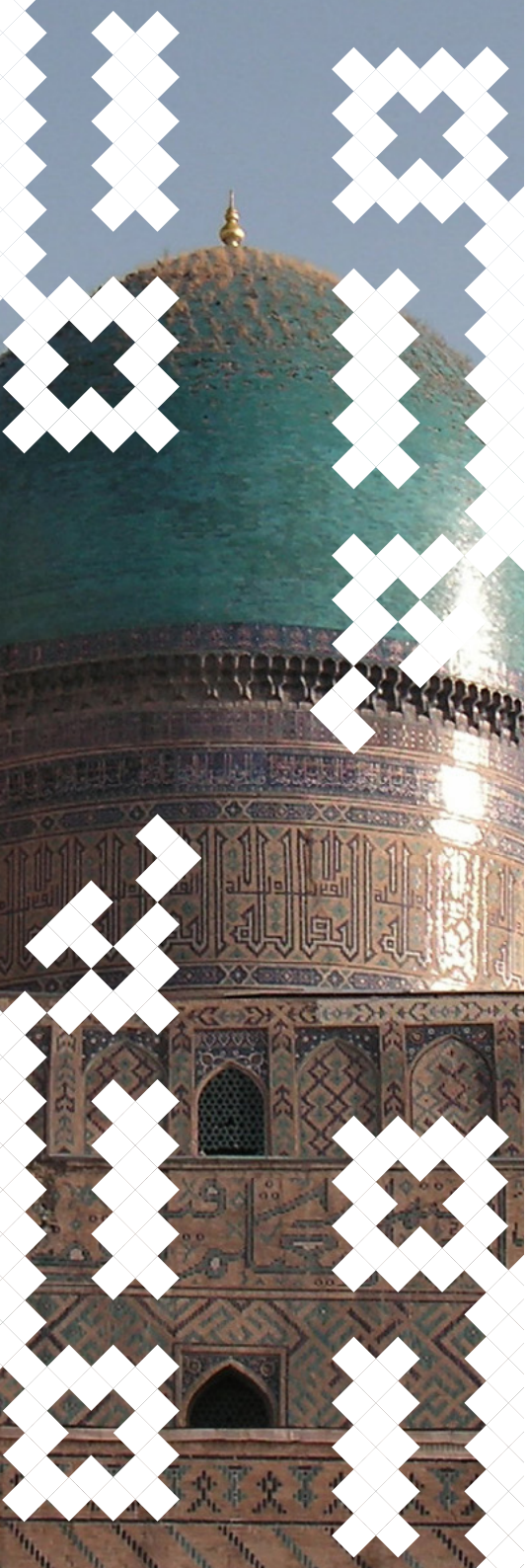
Neither a COVID-19 test, nor proof of vaccination is currently required for entry to Uzbekistan. PCR tests are available commercially within both Tashkent and Samarkand should participants require a negative result for their return/onward travel. Details of commercial testing locations in Tashkent and Samarkand are listed in the section 24.

## 20. Status of participants

In respect of the Assembly, the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations of 21 November 1947 and its Annex XVIII shall apply. Representatives of Member States shall enjoy the privileges and immunities of Article V of the Convention.

All participants and all persons exercising functions related to the Assembly shall have the right to enter and leave Uzbekistan without impediment and will enjoy the necessary facilities for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the meeting. The Government of Uzbekistan will take the necessary steps to facilitate the arrival, departure and stay of participants invited by the Organization regardless of nationality. The necessary visas will be issued without delay.





## 21. Reception at the airport and transfers

Participants will be provided with a free shuttle service upon arrival and departure between Samarkand International Airport and the main hotels (hotels at the Silk Road Centre) from 15 October to 22 October 2023.

To avail of this service, arrival and departure information must be provided when completing the online registration form. To enable the authorities to properly organize the welcome and shuttle services, participants must complete and submit the online registration form indicating their arrival and departure flight information and their accommodation details, before 15 September 2023.

Local transportation of delegation members will be provided between Samarkand International Airport and the hotels indicated in section 20.

Those who will firstly arrive to Tashkent city or depart from the city, intercity fast trains and flights will be organized to Samarkand. Also, participants can stay at selected hotels in Tashkent city. Bus shuttle will be provided between airport, train station and the hotels.

Transfers from the airport of Samarkand to the Silk Road Centre will take 20 minutes.

Transfers from the railway station of Samarkand will take 25 minutes.

## 22. Accommodation

The host has negotiated special room rates with some designated hotels for participants of the General Assembly. Participants are invited to reserve their accommodation by 15 September 2023 at the latest. After this date, blocked rooms will be released, and participants will need to make their own booking arrangements.

The hotels listed below are offering special rates for a limited number of rooms for participants, VAT and breakfast included.

### Hotels located at the Samarkand Touristic Center

Hotel	Room Type	SQM	Nightly rate in EUR	Distance from the venue
<a href="#">Samarkand</a>	Superior room	32	350€	400 m
<a href="#">Regency Amir</a>	Superior Room with canal view	32	355€	400 m
<a href="#">Temur</a> *****	Platinum Suite	60	674€	400 m
	Diamond suite	72	950€	400 m
<a href="#">Silk Road by</a>	Standard room	39	230€	450 m
<a href="#">Minyoun</a> *****	Junior suite	67	318€	450 m
	Suite	79	467€	450 m
	Executive suite	86	655€	450 m
<a href="#">Savitsky Plaza</a> ****	Standard room with a balcony and canal view	32	165€	650 m
	Junior Suite	60	185€	650 m
	Suite	70	230€	650 m
<a href="#">Lia! by Minyoun</a>	Standard room	33	160€	600 m
<a href="#">Stars of Ulugbek</a> ****	Junior suite	61	185€	600 m
	Suite	69	200€	600 m
	Executive suite	80	245€	600 m

### Contact details: Samarkand Touristic Center

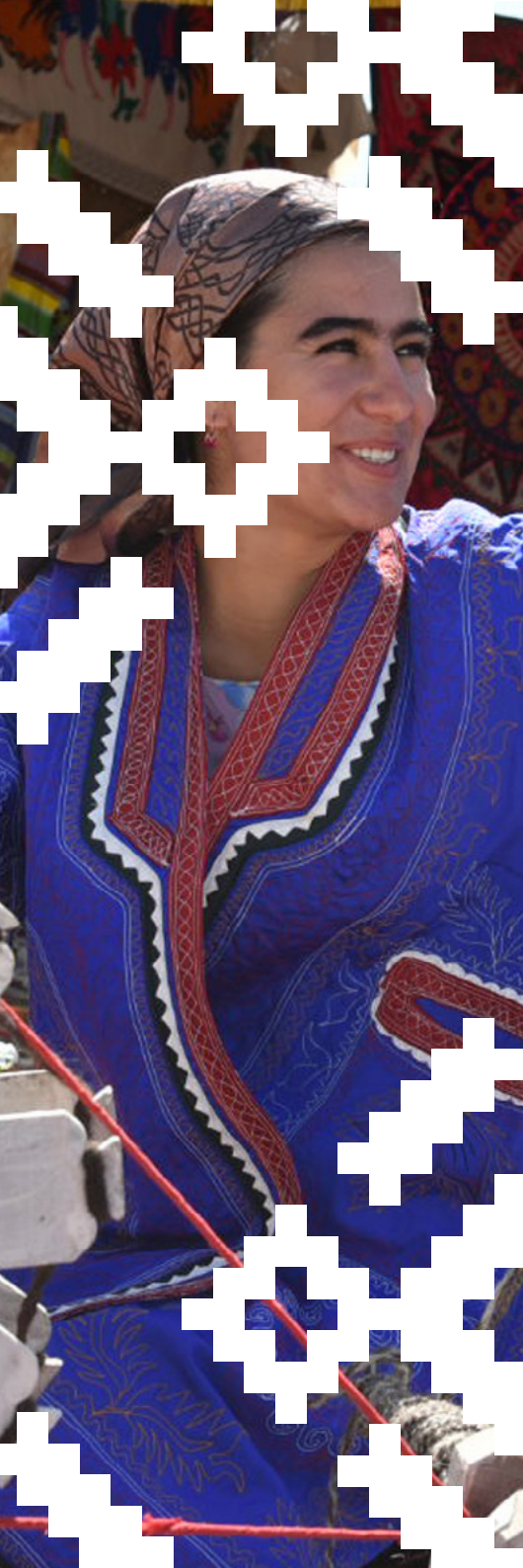
You can easily make your accommodation booking through Silkroad Samarkand website: [www.silkroad-samarkand.com](http://www.silkroad-samarkand.com)

Using the promocode: UNWTO2023

For any inquires or more information, please contact our Reservation Department: [reservations@silkroad-samarkand.com](mailto:reservations@silkroad-samarkand.com) or call on: +998 55 705 55 55

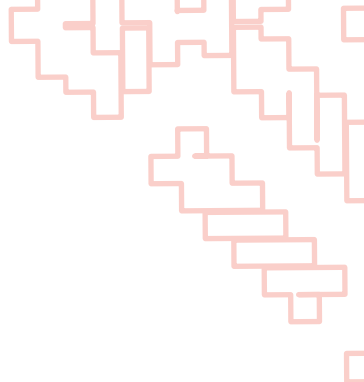
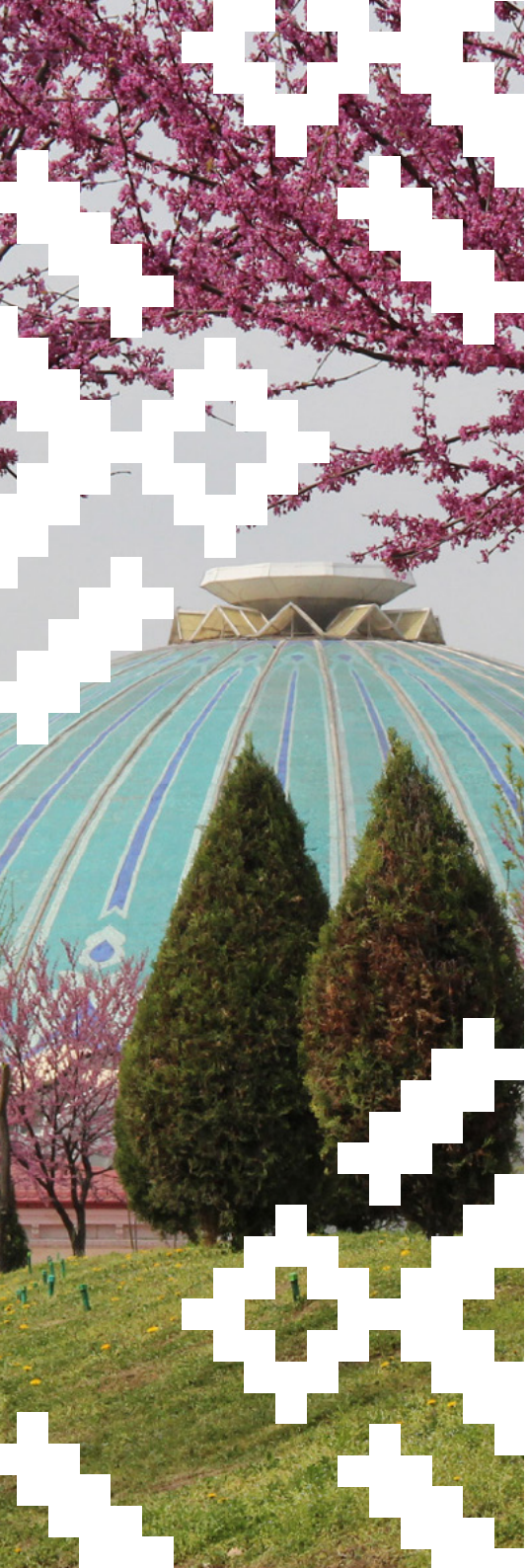
Hotel	Room Type	SQM	Nightly rate in EUR	Distance from the venue
<a href="#">Wellness Park</a>	Standard room	24	118€	2.7 km
<a href="#">Hotel Afrosiyob</a> ***	Standard room with canal view	24	123€	2.7 km
	Standard room with a mini kitchen	30	158€	2.7 km
	Suite	51	189€	2.7 km
<a href="#">Wellness Park</a>	Standard room	24	118€	2.9 km
<a href="#">Hotel Sogd</a> ***	Standard room with canal view	24	123€	2.9 km
	Standard room with a mini kitchen	30	158€	2.9 km
	Suite	43	189€	2.9 km
<a href="#">Wellness Park</a>	Standard room	24	118€	2.6 km
<a href="#">Hotel Turon</a> ***	Standard room with canal view	24	123€	2.6 km
	Standard room with a mini kitchen	30	158€	2.6 km
	Suite	41	189€	2.6 km
<a href="#">Wellness Park</a>	Standard room	24	118€	2.8 km
<a href="#">Hotel Bactria</a> ***	Standard room with canal view	24	123€	2.8 km
	Standard room with a mini kitchen	30	158€	2.8 km
	Suite	55	189€	2.8 km





## Hotels located in the city

Hotel	Room Type	SQM	Nightly rate in EUR	Distance from the venue	Contact Details
<a href="#">Hilton Garden Inn</a>	Standard room	38	379	5 km	phone: +998557040707 website: <a href="https://www.hilton.ru/hotels/hilton-garden-inn-samarkand/7/">https://www.hilton.ru/hotels/hilton-garden-inn-samarkand/7/</a>
	Deluxe	45	675	5 km	
	Luxe SNG	82	835	5 km	
	Luxe DBL		835	5 km	
<a href="#">Continental</a>	Standard SGL Room	32	105	8 km	phone: +998901020008 email: <a href="mailto:continental_hotel@mail.ru">continental_hotel@mail.ru</a>
	Standard room	32	129	8 km	
	Lux	60	322	8 km	
<a href="#">Medina Hotel</a>	Standard room	28	73	7 km	phone: +998915500101 email: <a href="mailto:info@medinahotel.uz">info@medinahotel.uz</a> website: <a href="http://medinahotel.uz/">http://medinahotel.uz/</a>
	Lux	40	114	12 km	
	Superior Room with canal view	16	103	12 km	
	Platinum Suite	10	115	12 km	
<a href="#">Mövenpick Samarkand</a>	Diamond suite	1	250	12 km	phone: +998662332475 website: <a href="http://all.accor.com">all.accor.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:HC076@accor.com">HC076@accor.com</a>
	Standard room	28	158,51	8 km	
	Suite	53	242,18	8 km	
<a href="#">Buyuk Humo Hotel</a>	Apartment	116	801	8 km	phone: +998995958750, +998557057172 <a href="mailto:Buyuk-Humo@com">Buyuk-Humo@com</a>
	Standard room	25	80	12 km	
	Lux	124	96,55	12 km	
<a href="#">Marokand Spa Hotel</a>	Apartment	250	321	12 km	phone: +998985731201 +998662385313 website: <a href="http://www.marokand.uz">www.marokand.uz</a> email: <a href="mailto:marokandspahotel@gmail.com">marokandspahotel@gmail.com</a>
	Standard SGL Room	18	65	2 km	
	Standart Deluxe DBL/TWN room	23	90	2 km	
	Luxe DBL/TWN room	35	120	2 km	



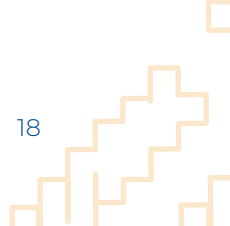
### 23. Working languages

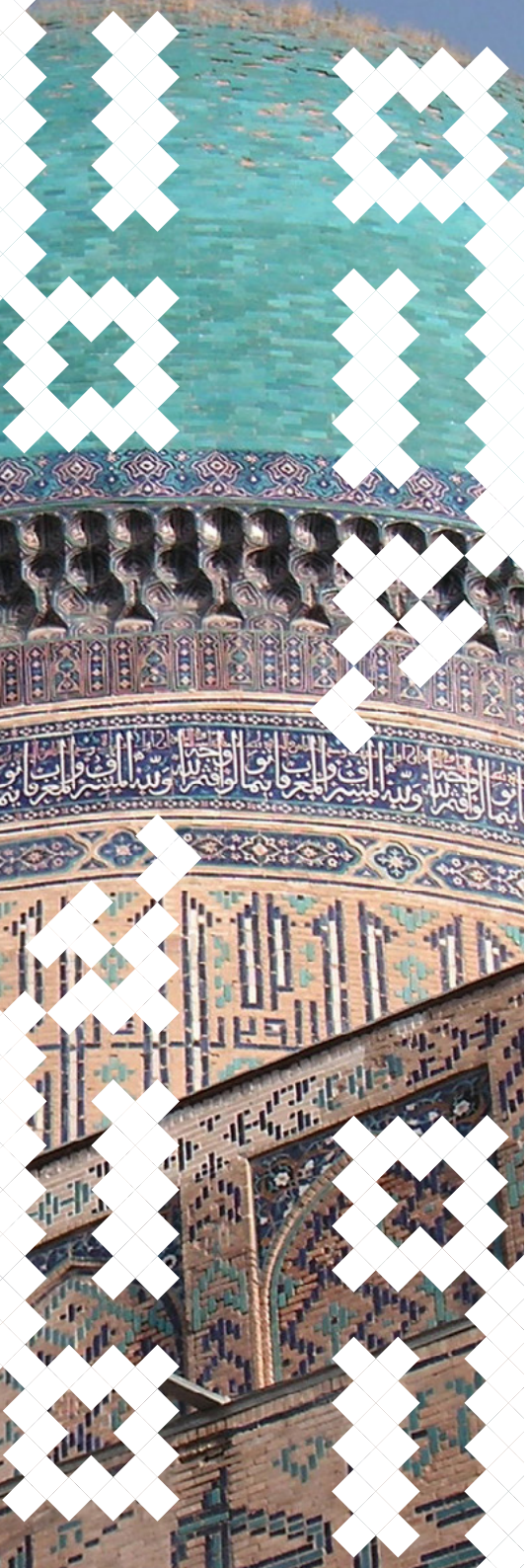
The documents for the Assembly session will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation in these six languages will be provided at the plenary sessions.

### 24. Working documents

In compliance with the United Nations system's environmental protection policy, please note that no hard copies of the working documents will be distributed at the venue of the event.

Delegates are kindly requested to bring with them copies of the documents they need. The documents will be posted at the following link: [www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session](http://www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session). Delegates will also be notified by e-mail.





## 25. Assembly Daily

UN Tourism News – General Assembly Special Edition is the official publication accompanying the UNWTO General Assembly, giving visibility to the proceedings and key milestones.

Produced in English from 17-20 October 2023 and featured prominently on [www.unwto.org](http://www.unwto.org), it is also distributed electronically to Member States, Affiliate Members, partners and UNWTO's global media database.

Given its status as a global reporting vehicle on the Assembly, this publication remains as a fixed feature for future reference on the [UNWTO website](http://www.unwto.org).

Each of the four issues of the Daily will include a journalistic account of:

- Key outcomes of the previous day's meetings;
- Main decisions reached;
- Meetings and events to be held during the day of publication and key items of discussion;
- Interviews and statements with delegates and experts;
- A selection of pictures after each day; and
- A link to the official site with audiovisual material of the Assembly and its numerous side events and meetings.

This publication represents a key partnership opportunity for Member States, Affiliate Members, and other partners. It strengthens the overall outreach of UNWTO and allows partners to gain international visibility among key tourism stakeholders, the media, and the general public.

UNWTO will be filming proceedings and sharing footage via social media channels. By participating in the General Assembly, delegates automatically give their consent to this.

For enquiries, please contact: [comm@unwto.org](mailto:comm@unwto.org)

## 26. List of participants

A provisional list of participants will be available for consultation in advance at the following link: [www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session](http://www.unwto.org/event/general-assembly-twenty-fifth-session)

The final list of participants will also be posted on the same website.

## 27. Practical information

**Country:** Uzbekistan

**Capital:** Tashkent

**Largest cities:** Tashkent, Samarkand, Namangan, Andijan, Nukus, Fergana, Bukhara and Kokand

**Population:** 36,001,364 people

**Territory:** 448,924 km<sup>2</sup>

**About Samarkand:** Samarkand is located in south-eastern Uzbekistan, in the Zarafshan River valley, and in distance of 135 km away from Karshi, 240 km away from Bukhara, 270 km away from Tashkent. The Tajikistan border is about 35 km from Samarkand, and Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, is 210 km away from Samarkand. Road M39 connects Samarkand to Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan, which is 340 km away.

Samarkand, in ancient times referred to as Afrasiab, is considered to be one of the oldest cities in Central Asia. Evidence of settlements in the region goes back to 1500 BC, with Samarkand having its most significant development in the Timurid period, from the 14th to the 15th centuries, when it was capital of the powerful timurid realm. The major monuments include the Registan Mosque and madrasas, Bibi-Khanum Mosque, the Shakhi-Zinda compound and the Gur-Emir ensemble, as well as Ulughbek's Observatory. Being a key connecting city on the Silk Road between China, Persia and Europe, Samarkand is considered as a cradle for trade, culture and science.

Samarkand is coeval with Rome. The city with its ancient buildings was referred to as an open-air museum. Splendid portals, vast coloured domes, and remarkable exterior decorations in majolica, mosaic, marble, and gold form part of its architectural heritage, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2001. The greatest poets and philosophers of the world have given the city many names – the garden of the soul, the pearl of the east, the mirror of the world and even the face of the earth – and yet these do not manage to fully describe the beauty and essence of Samarkand.

**Climate:** In Samarkand, the average air temperature in the fall is +20°C. The minimum temperature on average is +7°C. The maximum temperature is +29°C on average.

**Official language:** Uzbek

**Local time in Samarkand:** GMT+5

**Local currency and exchange rates:** The Uzbek sum (UZS) is used as Uzbekistan's official currency. Currency exchange rates are set by the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and are available on the Central Bank of Uzbekistan's official website: <https://cbu.uz/en/>. From Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., banks are open. There are plainly identified currency exchange offices all across Samarkand. Moreover, hotels have money exchange facilities. The city has a large number of ATMs, and many businesses accept major credit cards.

**Electricity:** The power supply in Samarkand is 220 volts, 50 Hz AC. Round pins fit into sockets.

**Credit cards, shopping and tipping:** Visa and MasterCard are the two most common types of cards. Almost all establishments accept card payments.

Taxis only accept cash, so participants should carry cash. There are ATMs throughout the city, and in the vast majority of establishments it will be possible to pay for goods and services by card (public transport is paid mostly in cash).

Service charge in Samarkand restaurants is included in the check; depending on the establishment, the percentage for service charge varies from 10 to 25 percent of the cost of the entire order. Tipping is considered voluntary and at the discretion of the consumer.

**Health regulations and precautions:** It is not necessary to be vaccinated against any disease in order to travel to Uzbekistan.

**Medical services:** Samarkand has networks of private clinics and polyclinics offering a variety of medical services.

**Reference hospital:**

Clinic “Bionur Med Servis”  
st. Katta Uzbek Trakt, 16, Samarkand  
+998-97-406-11-11  
+998-66-230-80-80  
+998-66-230-80-70  
Emergency services: Monday-Sunday 08:00-17:00

Clinic “Zarkent Pratiksha”  
st. Isaeva 20, Samarkand  
+998 55 702 10 63  
Emergency services: 24 hours

Regional Cardiology Center  
Samarkand, st. Mirzo Ulugbek, 144  
+998 66 234 04 03  
+998 97 891 10 90  
Emergency services: Monday-Friday 08:00-17:00

Samarkand Regional Infectious Diseases Hospital  
st. Dagbitskaya, house 7, Samarkand  
+998-66-235-73-16  
Emergency services: Monday-Friday 08:00-17:00

**Useful telephone numbers:**

Emergency: 1050  
Police: 102  
Ambulance: 103  
Fire: 101

In the event of any emergency during the days of the General Assembly, the UNWTO Security Officer, Mr. Antonio García can be contacted. Tel.: +34 699976040.

**Local transport rates:**

To get a taxi, visitors can go to the counter in the arrivals hall and give the address. The manager will calculate the mileage according to the rate and quote the price of a ride. The initial charge including the first 3 km is 30,000 sums, plus 3,000 sum per additional 1 km (tariffs may change according to the class of a ride, the “Comfort”, “Business”, “Luxe” and “Premium”, for which rates are higher).



## 28. Tours

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan will offer tours to a number of unique places in Samarkand on 20 October 2023. Delegates are highly recommended to take part in these tours, which represent an exceptional opportunity to discover the touristic and cultural diversity of ancient Samarkand – the Crossroad of Cultures, which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Participants are kindly requested to select one of the two excursion tour options in the registration form they would like to attend before 15 September 2023.

The journeys to ancient Samarkand will take place on October 20 in the morning (full day tour) and in the afternoon (half day tour).

The dress code for the occasion is casual. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.

Half Day Tour	Full Day Tour
<p><b>List of sites to visit:</b></p> <p>Registan Square Mausoleum Gur-Emir Shakhi-Zinda Bibikhanum Mosque Siyab bazaar</p>	<p><b>List of sites to visit:</b></p> <p>The complex of Imam Al-Bukhari Registan Square Mausoleum Gur-Emir Ulugbek Observatory Bibikhanum Mosque</p> <p>Shakhi-Zinda Siyab bazaar The Mausoleum of Daniel Tourism village “Konigil” “Silk Road” Tourism University</p>

## 29. Tourism information

**In Uzbekistan**  
<https://uzbekistan.travel/en/>

**In Samarkand**  
<https://uzbekistan.travel/en/i/samarkand/>