

Agenda Item III: Proposed Amendment to the TPO Statute

a. Addition of Regional Meetings to Article 8 and Article 12 of the Statute

as of August 29, 2025

1. Background

TPO Regional Meetings have significantly evolved in recent years, serving as key platforms for members to exchange ideas, address region-specific priorities, and advance cooperation. These meetings have strengthened coordination and provided meaningful input into the broader organizational agenda.

Discussions held during the 2025 Regional meetings in Vietnam, Korea, China, Malaysia, and Indonesia as well as during the 44th TPO Executive Committee Meeting identified a clear consensus on formalizing Regional Meetings within the TPO governance framework. The proposed amendment aims to codify these meetings as official consultation mechanisms, thus enhancing their legitimacy, operational consistency, and the integration of regional inputs into the Organization's governance framework.

2. Current Statutory Reference and Rationale

2.1 Existing TPO Statute Provisions

The current TPO Statute includes a limited reference to Regional Meetings under Article 10, Paragraph 9, which states:

“To ensure the efficient operation of the Organization, the Executive Committee may form regional meetings and subcommittees that will carry out specific tasks assigned to them.”

While this provides a basic legal basis, it does not define their purpose, authority, structure, or operational procedures, resulting in variations across regions.

2.2 Rationale for Formalization

Without explicit statutory recognition, Regional Meetings differ in structure, frequency, and scope. This leads to inconsistent expectations and outputs. Codifying their status will:

- Establish clear standards for convening, agenda-setting, and reporting
- Improve coordination and inclusiveness

- Ensure regional perspectives are more systematically integrated into TPO-wide decision-making

3. Member Consensus and Agreed Elements

During the Regional Meetings 2025 and the 44th Executive Committee discussions, members broadly agreed on the following principles for codifying Regional Meetings in the Statute:

Category	Agreed-upon / Consensus
Purpose & Mandate	Official consultation mechanism for policy input and project coordination
Leadership & Management	Chair: TPO Secretariat; Co-Chair: Host City
Structure & Composition	• Regional boundaries based on current practice, region-specific, member density, geographic proximity • Primarily TPO members as eligible participants; non-members invited when necessary
Frequency & Operation	• Annual meetings with standardized notification period • Primarily in-person meetings with hybrid/virtual options when necessary

4. Proposed New Article: Regional Meetings (Draft)

4.1 Addition to Article 8. Composition

The following table presents the proposed addition of “Regional Meetings” as a formal sub-organization of TPO:

Current Article 8 (Before Amendment)	Proposed Article 8 (After Amendment)
Article 8. Composition The Organization shall be comprised of the following sub-organizations: (1) General Assembly (2) Executive Committee (3) Secretariat	Article 8. Composition The Organization shall be comprised of the following sub-organizations: (1) General Assembly (2) Executive Committee (3) Regional Meetings (4) Secretariat

4.2 Addition to New Article: Regional Meetings (Article 11)

Article 11. Regional Meetings

1. The Organization shall establish Regional Meetings as official consultation mechanisms to:
 - (1) Facilitate regional policy coordination;
 - (2) Identify collaborative tourism initiatives;
 - (3) Promote knowledge-sharing;
 - (4) Provide advisory recommendations to the Executive Committee;
 - (5) Support the implementation of TPO strategies.
2. Regional Meetings shall consist of TPO members within their respective geographic regions. Non-members may be invited with prior approval of the Secretariat when deemed necessary. The composition of each region shall be determined by the Secretariat, taking into account existing region-specific practices, geographic proximity, member density, and the level of active participation by members.
3. Regional Meetings shall be held at least once a year. Meetings shall be held primarily in-person with hybrid or virtual formats permitted where appropriate.
4. The Secretariat shall serve as Chair of Regional Meetings, and the representative of the host city may serve as Co-Chair, responsible for local coordination, logistical arrangements, and support in collaboration with the Secretariat.