

Agenda Item III: Proposed Amendment to the TPO Statute

b. Addition of New Paragraph under Article 4(Main Activities): Tourism Related Research

as of August 29, 2025

1. Background

As global tourism landscape becomes increasingly dynamic and data-driven, international organizations are reinforcing their roles as knowledge hubs by investing in tourism related research, evidence-based policy development, and strategic forecasting. This global shift highlights the importance of institutional research functions within tourism governance bodies.

In line with these global developments, the TPO Secretariat recognizes the need to expand its institutional functions to include research-oriented activities. Although research has not yet been a primary focus of the Organization, the capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate tourism-related data will be increasingly important for supporting members in designing informed policies, enhancing destination competitiveness, and identifying collaborative opportunities.

2. Rationale for Amendment

While the current Article 4 outlines TPO's core activities, it does not explicitly authorize research-related functions. To align with international best practices and to broaden TPO's institutional capabilities, the Secretariat proposes the addition of a new paragraph to Article 4 to define "Tourism Related Research" as one of the main activities of the Organization.

The proposed addition will:

- Enable the Secretariat to conduct or commission research on tourism trends, destination competitiveness, sustainability, digital transformation, and other relevant topics.
- Allow TPO to establish partnerships with universities, research institutes, and member cities to conduct joint studies and pilot projects.
- Enhance the Organization's capacity to provide policy-relevant insights and technical resources to members.
- Create opportunities to secure external funding from multilateral bodies, development agencies, or donor institutions that support research-based initiatives.

3. Proposed New Paragraph under Article 4(Main Activities)

The following table presents the proposed addition of “Tourism Related Research” under Article 4(Main Activities):

Current Article 4 (Before Amendment)	Proposed Article 4 (After Amendment)
<p>Article 4. Main Activities</p> <p>In pursuit of the above objectives, the Organization shall conduct:</p> <p>(1) Activities to facilitate the active exchange of information and opinions and cooperation among the members;</p> <p>(2) Promoting and marketing activities of tourist destinations and the development of new tourism products;</p> <p>(3) Activities to develop human resources in the tourism sector; and</p> <p>(4) Such other activities to achieve or contribute to its objectives.</p>	<p>Article 4. Main Activities</p> <p>In pursuit of the above objectives, the Organization shall conduct:</p> <p>(1) Activities to facilitate the active exchange of information and opinions and cooperation among the members;</p> <p>(2) Promoting and marketing activities of tourist destinations and the development of new tourism products;</p> <p>(3) Activities to develop human resources in the tourism sector</p> <p>(4) Activities to conduct tourism-related research, and</p> <p>(5) Such other activities to achieve or contribute to its objectives.</p>