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### United Nations System Activities

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has continued its participation in the different Inter-agency mechanisms and networks set up by the United Nations (UN), as well as in meetings and events organized by UN entities that have relevance to the tourism sector. The principal objectives are to ensure that the potential of tourism is fully recognized at the international level, as a multidisciplinary sector capable to contribute to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Additionally, participation in the UN activities helps to reduce duplication of efforts, while ensuring optimal utilization of resources within the UN system and allows for obtaining support from other agencies in their respective fields of responsibility.

#### A. Participation in UN System Substantive Issues and Activities

A.1 Recognizing the importance of tourism as a vehicle for development for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), UNWTO initiated a number of bi-lateral and multi-lateral consultations with other UN Organizations on developing synergies and collaboration for support to those countries. Initial consultations began in September 2010 and soon thereafter evolved into an initiative of the UNWTO Secretary-General to formulate a **UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD)** which aims to promote tourism for development in LDCs and Delivering-as-One UN for tourism. As of April 2011, the SCTD is composed of eight other UN Partners besides UNWTO; **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, **International Trade Centre (ITC)**, **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, **United Nations Education, Sciences and Culture Organization (UNESCO)**, **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** and **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. As the first concrete output, the group secured two events to be organized in the framework of the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-IV): a joint Special Event on "Promoting Tourism for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction" with the generous support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Republic of Turkey) and the World Export Development Forum (WEDF) focussing on Tourism, led by ITC in collaboration with UNWTO.

A.2 With the direct contribution of the UNWTO Liaison Office to the UN based in New York, UNWTO has participated in a wide range of coordination meetings held at the UN Headquarters in New York, including, among others, the following: the General Debates and negotiation meetings of the 65<sup>th</sup> **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**, **United Nations Development Group (UNDG)**, the **International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)**, etc. UNWTO's active participation and substantial engagement in the former meetings of the UNGA has been instrumental in the adoption of an unprecedented three resolutions (in one GA session) all related to tourism, concerning: (a) Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, (b) Promotion of ecotourism and (c) Importance of sustainable tourism for

Small Island Developing States, which all stress the significance of the sector to the development agenda in terms of sustainability, employment and poverty elimination.

A.3 UNWTO and UNEP have jointly produced the tourism chapter for the UNEP Green Economy Report which makes the case of how investment in sustainable tourism solutions can contribute to sustainable development and to a green economy. The chapter analyses investment in tourism, what the challenges are, and current status of such investments. It also aims to demonstrate that increased investments and concerted “greener” policies can steer the growth of the sector toward a more sustainable path, generating economic benefits, contributing to job creation and poverty reduction, while at the same time responding effectively to environmental challenges. The online version of the report was released in February 2011.

A.4 At the 2011 edition of ITB Trade Fair (Berlin), celebrated annually in March, the launch of the *Global Report on Women in Tourism 2010* took place. The Global Report is a first attempt to map the participation of women in the tourism sector worldwide. The report is an important concrete output of the collaboration between UNWTO and **UN Women**, which was initiated in 2008 with the former UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). During this time the two organisations have worked together on promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in tourism. Future joint activities include the Women in Tourism Empowerment Programme and the Tourism and Gender Portal.

A.5 Cooperation with the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)** has seen UNWTO’s participation in the Project LINK; a co-operative, non-governmental, international research activity, which integrates independently developed national econometric models into a global econometric model. Participants of the UN-DESA Expert Group Meeting on the World Economy, which guides the project, delivered various presentations among them on ‘Prospects for international tourism’. UNWTO also contributed to the preparation of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) led by UN-DESA and UNCTAD. The WESP provides an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy and of some key global economic policy and development issues. WESP 2011 was the first time that UNWTO has participated and that tourism has been specifically included (see box II.2 on pages 63-64 of chapter II on International trade). Work has already started on the Mid-2011 update of the WESP.

A.6 As a permanent member of the Steering Committee of the **Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism (GPST)**, UNWTO participated at the 1st Annual General Assembly of the GPST, held successfully in Costa Rica, in January 2011. The GPST builds on the work undertaken by the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism and aims at developing policies and supporting projects on sustainable tourism. The Partnership is expected to facilitate collaboration, information sharing, replication and scaling up of successful sustainable tourism initiatives. The Partnership’s key areas of focus are policy frameworks, climate change, environment and biodiversity, poverty alleviation, cultural and natural heritage, private sector sustainable practices and finance and investment.

A.7 UNWTO participated at the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, in Nagoya, Japan from 18-29 October 2010. UNWTO hosted a side event “Tourism and Biodiversity: how to achieve common goals towards sustainability”, in which the conclusions from A High-Level Dialogue on Tourism, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, held in China in September 2010 within the framework of the World Tourism Day, were officially presented. The conclusions included the need for the tourism sector, including governments, the private sector, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, to assume a collective responsibility for conserving biodiversity and implementing global targets.

A.8 Together with the Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico, UNWTO held a side event at the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP-16) of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010. The side event

presented the initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote adaptation in tourism businesses and destinations, invest in new technologies and support developing countries through financing, as well as the UNWTO-led Hotel Energy Solutions (HES) project aimed at increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy technologies by small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) hotels in the European Union.

A.9 UNWTO is collaborating with the **UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** in a **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** funded project on Coastal Tourism in 9 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project's main objective is to demonstrate best practices and strategies for sustainable tourism development so as to reduce the degradation of marine and coastal environments of trans-boundary significance. Within the framework of the project, UNWTO is responsible for the components on "eco-tourism development in coastal areas", and "sustainable tourism governance and management". In the last quarter of 2010, UNWTO organized training seminars to build the capacities of project stakeholders in the participating countries to formulate and manage Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) ecotourism projects in the coastal destinations, and UNWTO commissioned a research on mechanisms for sustainable tourism governance and management in coastal areas.

A.10 The Regional Coordination Mechanism 2011 (RCM) of the **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** held a meeting in Santiago de Chile on 8 and 9 February 2011 with UNWTO present. One of the main points of discussion was the agreement on inter-agency strategy for enhancing the region's participation in the preparatory process of Rio+20, also known as the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD 2012). To this end UNWTO will contribute to a joint interagency report, coordinated by ECLAC, focusing on and addressing key issues for sustainable development, including production, trade, investment and engines of economic activities. Additional points of interest were: (a) increase efforts to engage the great diversity of relevant stakeholders in the region by referring to Rio+20 in the related events and conferences; (b) members of the RCM would share information on all events, conferences and seminars in which the agencies of the RCM could make a difference, in order to take Rio+20 to the non-Rio+20 conferences; (c) Brazil as the host country will also be engaged in these efforts and could call on the agencies to assist in bringing this issue forward at the relevant fora such as meetings of Ministers of Labour, Finance, Trade, Tourism, among others; (d) assist the UN Secretary-General's (UNSG) **High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability** in organizing a regional dialogue on Rio+20; (e) promote a debate on how to advance in the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in the region and, inter alia, (f) strengthen regional system-wide cohesion in gender affairs through collaboration with UN-Women and support its leadership role in mainstreaming gender equality approach and prioritizing the gender agenda within the UN System.

A.11 Inter-agency technical Meeting on *Building employment and decent work into sustainable recovery and development – the UN contribution* held from 29 November – 1 December 2010 at the ITC-ILO Training Centre in Turin, Italy had representation from UNWTO. The meeting's objectives were to (a) present good practices and compare notes on innovative approaches in critical policy areas, (b) review issues and challenges to coherent country level delivery, and (c) identify opportunities to further inter-agency collaboration, knowledge-sharing and policy debate. UNWTO participated to highlight UNWTO's role, initiatives, and identified opportunities relating to employment and development that contribute to these objectives.

A.12 Active participation in the first-ever **World Statistics Day (WSD)** launched on 20 October 2010, organized by UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and followed by UNWTO among other United Nations sister agencies, international and regional organizations, and national statistical offices to raise awareness of the many achievements of official statistics premised on the core values of service, professionalism and integrity. UNWTO contributed with (a) press release on the day of the event; (b) an official

communication from the SG highlighting UNWTO's statistical advancements and initiatives to highest National Tourism Authorities and one to national statisticians; (c) the release of a Factsheet on tourism statistics and TSA and (d) the release of a basic glossary in all 5 UNWTO official languages.

## **B. Participation in UN Meetings**

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B.1 In October 2010, UNWTO participated as a panellist at the **World Health Organization (WHO) Workshop on Community Public Health Measures Implemented during the Influenza A(H1N1) 2009 Pandemic**, where UNWTO shared its experience in working and coordinating with members and UN agencies in responding to the pandemic A(H1N1) 2009 influenza.

B.2 Collaboration with the **UN System Inter-agency Technical Working Group on Influenza** is ongoing, with UNWTO participating in the regularly scheduled teleconference meetings, which was last conducted in 23 November 2010.

B.3 As a part of the United Nations' initiative to capture and apply the lessons learned from the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Preparedness, UNWTO organized a workshop on Travel and Tourism and the Pandemic 2009 to collect, discuss and review with the major travel and tourism stakeholders the experiences made during the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. The results of this exercise is part of the global stock taking report the UN system is preparing with the aim to improve regional and global efforts of general disaster preparedness. The **World Food Programme (WFP)**, the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and several private international stakeholders also attended the event.

B.4 UNWTO is an active member of the **UN Communications Group (UNCG)** which aims to coordinate the messaging and promotion of UN objectives and work. During the period under review, UNWTO was also actively engaged in the Health Risks Task Force which helps the UNCG to gain insight into public communications during an emergency situation with regional or global ramifications and to extract the lessons learned on the Inter-Agency aspect of these communications. Following the radioactive related incidence in Japan, the group was convened on 31 March 2011 for its teleconference on developments which has allowed UNWTO to issue joint technically sound press releases on travelling to and from Japan. UNWTO is further a member of the UNCG Task Force on Rio +20, a group recently created to build up the communication strategy and plan towards the Rio +20 Conference in 2012.

B.5 UNWTO is one of the agencies, of the UN ICAO-led Task Force on Radiation and Travel Monitoring, involved in the monitoring process of the radiation levels in Japan and travel advice, which held first talks in early April 2011. Other UN agencies involved are the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, WHO and ICAO.

B.6 UNWTO was represented at the **United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)** meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, 22-25 February 2011. At this meeting, and in accordance with a request of the Statistical Committee at its forty-first session, UNWTO presented its report on tourism statistics (Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics E/CN.3/2011/26). The report provides an overview of the work undertaken by UNWTO to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity and the implementation programme for tourism statistics, which consists of regional capacity-building programmes, regional workshops and other national technical assistance. The report also describes the timetable for the development of the International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008 Compilation Guide to be issued in 2012.

B.7 The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account** was held in Madrid from 27-28 January 2011. This Committee is a subsidiary advisory body of the UNWTO Executive Council and it acts in matters such as: a) proposing initiatives related to the design and implementation of tourism statistics international standards, b) promoting international comparability of tourism statistic by proposing initiatives to the collection, homogeneity, processing and dissemination of data, c) helping member countries in their initiatives to improve their respective national systems of tourism statistics and in the development of the TSA, and d) liaising with other international bodies with delegated responsibilities for leadership and coordination of related international statistics and their standards within the sphere of the UN system.

B.8 Participation of UNWTO in the **Task Force on Statistics of International Trade Services (TFSITS)** took place in Luxembourg 28-29 March 2011. The Task Force was convened by the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, and consists of **Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNCTAD, WTO** and UNWTO. The objective of the Task Force is to elaborate the statistical requirements of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Two documents were presented during this meeting: "The treatment of transactions by residents outside the economic territory of their country of residence in system of national accounts (SNA); review from the perspective of tourism statistics and proposal" and "Package tours, their importance for tourism and basic issues related with their measurement in tourism statistics".

B.9 As a non-resident agency (NRA), UNWTO was invited by **UNDP** Resident Coordinators (RC) of Montenegro and Serbia to participate (November 2010) in preparing with other UN agencies and programmes the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for each of the respective countries. Further follow up should scale the resources needed for implementation, and the collaborative effort between agencies as well as their respective responsibilities. Fund raising is mainly driven by the UNDP RC.

B.10 UNWTO participated at the annual Global Compact's Private Sector Focal Points meeting in Paris at UNESCO's Headquarters in April 2011. All UN Programmes and agencies were represented as well as big corporation's signatories of the Global Compact. The meeting called for outputs aimed at consolidating the UNSG communication for the next UN General Assembly, as well as to review a new institutional framework for sustainable development to be discussed at Rio+20 (private sector track). Most importantly the role of the private sector jointly with UN agencies towards transformational partnerships driven by clear objectives, and involving several corporations and UN entities. The Steering Committee on Tourism for Development was presented by UNWTO, as an innovative mechanism with a huge potential towards this direction.

## C. Participation in UN Administrative Issues

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C.1 The UNWTO regularly participates in the coordination mechanism established by the **Chief Executive Board (CEB)** supported by the **High Level Committee on Programme (HLCP)**, the **High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)** and **UNDG** (mentioned above). The two former Committees also work closely with a number of major networks and working groups as part of their organic and executive function.

C.1.1 Concerning attendance to CEB, UNWTO participated in its 2010 Fall session at UN Headquarters, New York 5-6 November 2010, where the agenda included a review of the global economy (focusing on the social vulnerability of the poor, and promoting climate financing); the implementation of the MDGs; information on the new Security Level System and UN Women. The CEB Spring 2011 session was hosted at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, 1-2 April 2011. This session

addressed, among others, the following issues: disaster-risk reduction; socio-economic development in the Middle East and North African (MENA) countries; several speakers mentioned the importance of tourism for the countries in the region, where tourism accounts for as much as 15% or more of foreign exchange earnings; economic world situation; natural disasters, with particular reference to the Tsunami-generated crisis at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plants in Japan and their impact on life, infrastructure and the economy; how to do More with Less (to enhance efficiency at the UN); and preparations for Rio+20 and beyond Rio+20.

C.1.2 UNWTO was represented in both the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Sessions of the **HLCP** and **HLCM**. Some of the topics discussed relating to their respective Committees included the following: programming coherence at country-level; climate issues, including energy, water, etc; economic crisis; cyber & personnel security; joint-funding and management; accounting standards; etc.

C.2 Participation by UNWTO at the 20th Session of the **Human Resources (HR) Network** was held in Washington DC, USA from 20-22 July 2010 as was as in the **CEB HR Directors'** strategic meeting held in Amman, Jordan from 26-28 January 2011.

C.3 UNWTO took part in the Fall session of the **HLCM Procurement Network** in Geneva from 22-24 September 2010. The topics discussed included the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) review of Procurement in the UN system, the harmonization of contractual conditions for procurement contracts and the progress on the Vendor Eligibility project. The UNWTO hosted the Spring session of the HLCM Procurement Network in Madrid from 29 March to 1 April 2011. The issues discussed included exploring possibilities for collaborative procurement among UN agencies, sharing best practices for cost-efficiency and effectiveness in procurement, harmonization of procurement rules in the UN system, approval of the Vendor Eligibility system and progress made for integrating sustainable procurement in the procurement practices of the UN agencies.

C.4 As part of the **Finance and Budget Network (FBN)** of the CEB-HLCM, UNWTO participated in the following activities:

a) From 1-2 September 2010 at PAHO Headquarters (Pan-American Health Organization), Washington D.C. discussions included follow-up to and progress reports from the Task Force on Accounting Standards and the different working groups (compensation for service incurred death, injuries and illnesses (Appendix D), common treasury services, financial reporting, safety and security costs and harmonized financial rules and regulations) as well as personal financial disclosure programmes, UN operational rates of exchange, common services centres, UN system financial statistics 2010 and US income tax reimbursement arrangements.

b) Video-conference meetings of 22 November 2010 and 7 February 2011, included discussions on system-wide IPSAS process and project, organization of FBN meetings, etc. and in the latter meeting included plan of action for the harmonization of business practices (common treasury services, financial statistics database), Department of Safety and Security (DSS), JIU, ICSC and CEB Secretariat 2012-2013 budget proposals, update on the Working Group (WG) on Safety and Security Costs and the Task Force on Accounting Standards.

C.5 UNWTO is an active member of the **Finance and Budget (FB) Task Force on Accounting Standards**, whose activities have included:

a) Meeting from 30-31 August 2010, PAHO Headquarters (Pan-American Health Organization), Washington D.C. discussed the **International Public Sector Accounting Standards'** (IPSAS) released report *Intangible Assets, Financial Instruments* in 2010. Also addressed was IPSAS

implementation progress, training, accounting papers 'maintenance", system-wide project's external review and other issues.

b) Video-conference meeting on 23 March 2011, discussed 2010 Implementers, IPSASB (IPSAS Board) involvement, accounting policy survey, Task Force draft rules of procedure.

C.6 **FB Working Group on Security Costs** has seen representation by UNWTO in video-conference meeting, 23 September 2010 and 14 October 2010, whose discussions reviewed concepts, proposed budget review process and proposed budget templates.

C.7 UNWTO participates in the **FB Working Group on Treasury Services**, which conducted tele-conference meetings on 4 October and 9 November 2010 to review feasibility study, lessons learned from banking crisis – liquidity, credit rating evaluation, Field office cash management and treasury considerations due to IPSAS accounting requirements.

C.8 In the **UNDG Working Group on Joint Funding, Financial and Auditing Issues (WGJFFI)** and **Task Team on Joint Funding (TTJF)**, UNWTO participated in a tele-conference meeting on 13 September 2010 to review the engagement with the EU on Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTFs), new UNDG structures, MDTF Guidance Note expanded to include management and closure – draft for review and training package on joint funding mechanisms.

C.9 As part of the **Information and Communications (ICT) Network**, UNWTO participated in a meeting from 31 August – 1 September 2010 in Rome, Italy discussing harmonization of business practices, security and other matters.

C.10 UNWTO's participation in the **Inter-agency Travel Network (IATN)** included its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting held from 21-23 September 2010 in London, UK. Discussions on implementation of the cooperation between the UN bodies and related institutions in travel management; determination of travel related lump sum payments and the move towards a new electronic secured UN Laissez-Passer (UNLP) to be issued by 2012.