



Executive Council

Ninety-third session
Madrid, Spain, 11-13 June 2012
Provisional agenda item 6

CE/93/6
Madrid, 3 May 2012
Original: English

United Nations system activities

Introduction

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has continued forging strong links with the United Nations (UN) and other UN System entities at meetings of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their subsidiary commissions/bodies, as well as in various inter-agency mechanisms and networks with tourism sector relevance. The principal objective is to ensure that growing tourism potential is fully recognized at the international level, as a multidisciplinary sector, which contributes to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

A. Cooperation with the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and its subsidiary structure

A.1 UNWTO regularly participates in the coordination mechanism established by the **Chief Executives Board (CEB)**, supported by its three subsidiary pillars: the **High Level Committee on Programme (HLCP)**, the **High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)** and **United Nations Development Group (UNDG)**, all working closely with a number of major networks and working groups.

A.1.1 CEB and HLCP sessions 28-29 October, 15-16 Sept. 2011, New York: a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNWTO and UN Women focusing on areas for strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations.

A.1.2: HLCP session 19-20 March 2012, CEB session 13-14 Apr. 2012, Geneva, 15-16 Mar. 2012, Madrid: UNWTO managed to include "tourism" in the joint CEB Statement to be presented at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD/ Rio +20) in June 2012 and in the draft Oceans Compact and UNWTO hosted HLCM meeting, March 2012, Madrid.

A.1.3 UNWTO participated in UNDG working groups to introduce programmes to Resident Coordinators and advance country-level resource mobilization and project implementation. RC Induction Programme, NY Nov. 2011: UNWTO delivered an information package.

A.2 HLCM Procurement Network hosted by UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East (UNRWA), Mar. 2012, Jordan: development of guidelines for collaborative procurement among UN agencies at country level and new areas for harmonization of procurement rules.



A.3 Legal Advisers Network of the UN System, hosted by UNESCO, Apr. 2012, Paris: discussing privileges and immunities, European Union status in the UN, utility of International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, international commercial principles in contract or project practice, justice administration by ILO Administrative Tribunal, and streamlining arbitration for non-staff.

A.4 UN Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) network session, 16-18 Apr. 2012, Paris: bringing together heads of system-wide groups responsible for ICT throughout the UN system, leveraging advanced technology to support the UN system-wide.

A.5 Finance and Budget Network of the HLCM Sept. 2011, Turin. Cost-sharing arrangements, common treasury services, UN financial statistics. Feasibility Study on Common UN Treasury Services: Working Group established and website launched. UNWTO cannot commit to running expenses of the website. Task Force on Accounting Standards, Sept. 2011, Turin: relevance for UNWTO in relation to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Initiative.

B. Participating in UN Meetings

B.1 UN Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Group of Friends, Mar. 2012 and Sept. 2011 New York, Motivating international action against extremism through forging of intercultural and inter religious dialogue and cooperation; UNWTO's cooperation has begun with the signing of an MoU and participation in the Fourth Annual AoC Global Forum, Dec. 2011, Qatar: "Celebrating Diversity, Linking Cultures and Promoting Understanding between Civilizations".

B.2 "South-East European Tourism Initiative" designed to enhance UNWTO's presence and activities in the region, through the momentum of the Regional Summit of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, 10-11 Apr. 2012, Belgrade.

B.3 Side-Event on Tourism- 66th Session of UN General Assembly, Oct.2011, New York organized by the office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLCs and SIDS: "SIDS Tourism, Biodiversity and Culture in context of the Green Economy" presentation by UNWTO Secretary-General, performance /future challenges. UNWTO SIDS Report to be released at "Rio+20".

B.4 High-level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, within Global South-South Development Expo 2011:"Effective Partnership Towards Innovative Development Solutions, hosted by FAO Dec. 2011, Rome: UNWTO shared work on South- South and triangular cooperation and engaged in debate sessions. The forum provided an opportunity to network and share experiences on SSTC.

B.5 UN System Private Sector Focal Points "Accelerating UN-Business Partnerships", 28-29 Mar. 2012, Vienna, Austria, with UN Global Compact, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC and FAO: increasing coherence with private sector engagement; exploring innovative models of collaboration, and providing a forum for the UN and business to network, dialogue and engage.

B.6 High-level Meeting on Happiness and Wellbeing: Defining a New Economic Paradigm, organized by Prime Minister of Bhutan, 2nd Apr., New York,: to define a new global economic paradigm and look beyond "Rio+20" with a revised Bretton Woods agreement for the next UN GA (2013).

C. Participating in UN System Substantive Issues and Activities

C.1. Tourism Statistics Capacity-building Programme for Asia-Pacific members, 2010-2012: workshops held with the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Australia; Ministry of Economic Development, New Zealand; Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Thailand and UNESCAP. UNESCAP Partners' Meeting for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific, Feb. 2012: statistical development and capacity building towards a more integrated approach in the region.

C.2. UN Statistical Commission meeting (43rd Session), 28 Feb.- 2012, New York: programme review on population/housing censuses, statistics on human development, revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts and Framework for the Development Environment Statistics.

C.3 Special event on High Level Forum on "Measuring the Unmeasurable: Challenging the Limits of Official Statistics" 27 Feb. 2012, New York: organized by the **UN Statistical Division (UNSD)**, UNSC's secretariat.

C.4 Ongoing work with the **Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)**, with six main activities: efficient functioning of the statistical system, common standards and platforms, development of methodologies, inter-institutional support, outreach, and advocacy for statistics.

C.5 Macroeconomic International Tourism Related Indicators dataset updated (Nov. 2011) and integrated in the UNWTO *Compendium of Tourism Statistics* as part of the UNWTO agreement with **UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)**.

C.6 Contribution with data to the annual *UN Statistical Yearbook* (55th edition) coordinated by UNSD and the office of **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)**. Strengthen areas of collaboration between UNWTO and the UNSD of UN-DESA.

C.7 Steering Committee and Expert meeting of the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme, (UNESCO-led working group), 19- 21 Oct. 2011, Sils/Engadine, Switzerland: To identify strategic programme priorities and inform management on delivery actions of the new programme.

C.8 "Sustainable Use of Oceans in the Context of the Green Economy and the Eradication of Poverty", 28-30 Nov. 2011, Monaco: contribution to the preparatory process of "Rio+20". UNWTO chaired the working panel session on sustainable tourism.

C.9 "Linkages between green economy measures, trade and climate change", World Trade Organization -Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 17), Dec. 2011, Durban, UNWTO participation with IMO, ICAO and UNESCAP: linkages between green economy measures, trade and climate change and their possible positive contribution to sustainable development and climate change mitigation/adaptation. UNWTO presented the role of the tourism sector.

C.10 16th UN-Water Senior Programme Managers Meeting, 7-9 Feb. 2012, Zaragoza: discussion on progress made on UN-Water activities, strategic and emerging issues. Discussed the UN-Water Work Programme 2012-2013.

C.11 2nd Annual Conference of the Partners for the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism (GPST) 13-14 Mar. 2012, Seoul: discussed the draft annual report of activities and the Working Procedures of the Partnership, setting the basis for participation/engagement of all Partners.

C.12 Tele-conference of the UN System Technical Working Group on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, 16 Jan. 2012, as a preparation to the **UN System Steering Committee on Avian and Pandemic Influenza**. Issues related to influenza and other pandemics within countries and coordination issues related to the **Central Fund for Influenza Action (CFIA)**. On-going work with **UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)** supported under the CFIA, continues with UNWTO on targeted communications for travellers, the private sector and tourist destinations.

C.13 Close work with **UNESCO** on the **UNWTO Silk Road Programme**, on issues related to strategic development, heritage management and the World Heritage Centre's Serial Nomination of the Silk Road. UNESCO participated in the 1st Silk Road Task Force Meeting at World Travel Market (WTM 2011) in London and the Silk Road Ministers' Meeting at ITB 2012 in Berlin.

C.14 UN Secretary-General's Report on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the **67th Session of UN General Assembly**: UNWTO with UNCTAD contributed on the importance of tourism in LDCs, as a direct follow up of the LDC-IV Conference, May 2011, and in addressing tourism needs.

C.15 Contribution to the preparatory process for "Rio+20" with inter-agencies bodies, and positioning tourism in the Zero Draft Outcome Document; support in the negotiations by the Republic of Korea, Croatia, Algeria, Indonesia, G77 and China and EU contributions to the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, including possible future Sustainable Development Goals.

C.16 66th session of the UNGA, 21-27 Sept. 2011: significant coverage of tourism and UNWTO focusing on major global developments, economic challenges, MDGs and post 2015 development agenda. Three **resolutions adopted by consensus by the UNGA 2011** were focused on: (i) **Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America (A/RES/66/196)**: recognizing the important role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards achieving sustainable development; (ii) **Sustainable mountain development (A/RES/66/205)**: recognizing the global importance of mountains as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage; and (iii) **Culture and development (A/RES/66/208)**: to assess the feasibility of various measures, including a possible UN conference, take stock of the contribution of culture to development and formulate a consolidated approach to culture and development.