



UNWTO Commission for the Americas

Fifty-fourth meeting

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Progress report on the Global Code of Ethics

Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism: Recent developments

A. World Committee on Tourism Ethics

1. Pursuant to the amendment to Resolution A/RES/438(XIV) of 2001, adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly in 2009, the staggering of the renewal of the Committee began with the election of Committee members throughout the spring of 2011. As outlined in the amendment to Resolution A/RES/577(XVIII), "*The members of the Committee and their alternates are re-elected by half every two years. During the session of the General Assembly in 2011, a total of eleven of the current members of the Committee will have their mandate extended for two more years; while the other eleven members or alternates will be elected for a full mandate of four years*". The new composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the 2012-2013 period (detailed in Annex I) was endorsed by the 19th session of the UNWTO General Assembly (Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 8-14 October 2011), by its Resolution A/RES/605(XIX), with the following members representing the region of the Americas:

Member (mandate extended until 2013)

Mr. Hermes Navarro del Valle (Costa Rica)

Alternate Member (elected by the Regional Commission for the Americas in 2011):

Mr. Antonio Torrejón (Argentina)

2. In order to improve the effectiveness of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, the Secretary-General proposed a series of reforms of the Committee to the UNWTO General Assembly at its XIX session, which have been approved by its Resolution A/RES/607(XIX), included as Annex II to this document. The reform will be put into effect at the next renewal of the current Committee, due to take place in August 2013, on the occasion of the XX session of the General Assembly, to be held in Zambia/Zimbabwe.

B. Promotion and implementation of the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism

3. UNWTO and the Ministry of Tourism of Ecuador are jointly organizing the 2nd International Congress on Ethics and Tourism, scheduled to take place in Quito, Ecuador, on 11/12 September 2012, in conjunction with the 54th CAM Meeting and the 20th Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High Level Authorities of the OAS. Thematic panels will include presentations of eminent personalities and experts from the public, private and non-governmental sectors, as well as debates on the relevant topics.

4. This event will serve as an opportunity for tourism industry stakeholders from the Americas to publicly declare their adherence to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics in Tourism, by participating in a Special Signing Ceremony to be held in the framework of the II International Congress. By this signing this commitment, signatories pledge to uphold, promote and implement the values of responsible and sustainable tourism development championed by the Code. Their adherence is meant to involve the integration of ethical practices in all policies, operations and business relationships. Signatory companies and industry associations would also agree to periodically inform the World Committee on Tourism Ethics on measures taken to champion and implement these principles. The UNWTO Secretariat would encourage the operational sector in the Americas, through the national tourism administrations of their respective countries, to join this Private Sector Ethical Commitment.

C. Tourism Accessibility for All

5. In the context of the ethical principles promoted in the Code of Ethics and in accordance with UNWTO's conviction that the facilitation of tourist travel by persons with disabilities is a vital element of any responsible tourism development policy, the Organization signed a Cooperation Agreement with Spain's ONCE Foundation for Cooperation and the Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities and the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) in 2011. The initiative was undertaken to follow-up on the 2007 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, so as to ensure its implementation at the sectoral level. It also builds on UNWTO's recommendations on "Accessible Tourism for All", adopted as part of Resolution A/RES/492(XVI) of 2005, and the Organization's "Declaration on the Facilitation of Tourist Travel" of 2009. The cooperation agreement has received the backing of the General Assembly in October 2011 through the adoption of Resolution A/RES/606(XIX), included in this document as Annex III.

6. In cooperation with the abovementioned partners, UNWTO prepared a draft update of the 2005 UNWTO recommendations on "Accessible Tourism for All", to be submitted for approval to the XX session of the UNWTO General Assembly in 2013.

7. One of the key outputs of the joint activities by UNWTO and its partners concerns the preparation of a comprehensive Report on Developing Universal Accessibility in the interests of "Tourism for All", featuring detailed information on extant international/regional legal and technical regulations on accessibility, along with a compilation of international best practices.

8. In April 2012, UNWTO further signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Spanish ACS Foundation in order to extend the scope of this Report, given the expertise of the latter in infrastructural edification, adaptation and rehabilitation, including of historical and cultural heritage. The Foundation ACS will be in charge of elaborating the normative and technical chapters of the Report and will contribute to the compilation of best practices. It is expected that the Accessible Tourism Report will be finalised by mid-2013.

Annex 1**WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS**

(2011-2013)

Chair Mr. Dawid de Villiers (South Africa)
Vice-Chair *to be designated*

Members**Africa**

Member: Mr. Goodie Minabo Ibru (Nigeria)*
Alternate: Mr. Foley Dahlen (Togo)

Americas

Member: Mr. Hermes Navarro del Valle (Costa Rica)*
Alternate: Mr. Antonio Torrejón (Argentina)

East Asia and the Pacific

Member: Mr. I. Gede Ardika (Indonesia)*
Alternate: *n.a.*

Europe

Member: Mr. Helmut Krüger (Germany)*
Alternate: Ms. Caterina Cittadino (Italy)

Middle East

Member: Mr. Mahmoud El-Kaissouni (Egypt)*
Alternate: *n.a.*

South Asia

Member: Mr. Iqbal Walji (Pakistan)*
Alternate: Mr. Hamed Dehghanan (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Representatives of the Associate Members

Member: Mr. Urbain Claeys (Flemish Community of Belgium)*
Alternate: n.a.

Representatives of the Affiliate Members

Employers

Member: Ms. Christel DeHaan (Group RCI)*
Alternate: n.a.

Employees

Member: Mr. Ron Oswald (IUF/UITA)*
Alternate: n.a.

Educational institutions

Member: Ms. Sietske Gras-Dijkstra (NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences)*
Alternate: Prof. Kam-hon Lee (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Non-governmental organizations

Member: Mr. Norberto Tonini (OITS)*
Alternate: Mr. Javier Bustamante (SEGITTUR)

Annex 2**Report on the World Committee on Tourism Ethics****Accessible Tourism for All**

Agenda item 14
(document A/19/14 Part I)

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its resolution A/RES/492(XVI) adopted in 2005, approving a set of recommendations on accessibility under the title “Accessible Tourism for All”, and the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities of 30 March 2007,

Deeply committed to enhancing access to tourism for all, including persons with special needs and, in particular, persons with disabilities, and convinced that this is a unique opportunity to respect the human rights of the persons concerned while, at the same time, giving a new impetus to the tourism sector, Recalling its Declaration on the facilitation of tourist travel A/RES/578(XVIII), in which it declared itself “deeply convinced that the facilitation of tourist travel by persons with disabilities is a major element of any responsible tourism development policy”,

Having taken cognizance of the recommendation adopted by the World Committee on Tourism Ethics during its tenth meeting, held in Bali in June 2011,

1. Notes with particular appreciation the progress made in the consultation of the representative non-governmental organizations active in the area of assistance for persons with disabilities;
2. Approves the trilateral framework agreement between UNWTO, Fundación ONCE and ENAT (European Network for Accessible Tourism), and encourages its expeditious and full implementation;
3. Is convinced that this agreement will enhance the capacity of UNWTO and its partners to contribute more fully to the objectives set by the resolution on Accessible Tourism for All, and encourages UNWTO, in cooperation with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in this field, to adapt the principles adopted in the 2007 Convention to the particular conditions and requirements of tourism;
4. Recognizes that the Action Plan adopted by the UN System Interagency Support Group (IASG) created for the application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities constitutes the basis for the concerted and coordinated work of the United Nations system on disability issues;
5. Requests the UNWTO Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of this Action Plan and in cooperation with the other competent Agencies, concrete and specific guidelines applicable to the various areas of tourism activities, such as access to adapted facilities for transport and accommodation,

or proper information on accessible services and facilities, and takes due note in this respect of the suggestion made by Fundación ONCE, during the consultations between that organization and the UNWTO, to give priority to the aspects of accessibility of air transport not covered by Annex 9 to the Statute of the ICAO, especially in view of the difficulties faced by the persons with disabilities in relation to low-cost companies;

6. Encourages UNWTO to enhance the efforts and resources it devotes to activities concerning tourism accessibility for all, in particular for persons with disabilities, and to reinforce its cooperation with the other competent international organisations, whether governmental or non-governmental, in this field; and
7. Decides to remain seized of the question and requests the Secretary-General to report to its next session on the follow-up of the present resolution.