



## Executive Council

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### Report of the Secretary-General

#### Part II: UNWTO within the United Nations system

##### (a) UNWTO activities in the UN system

#### I. Introduction

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1. The UNWTO has continued forging strong links with the United Nations (UN) and other UN System entities of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their subsidiary commissions/bodies' meetings, and in various inter-agency mechanisms and networks with tourism sector relevance. The aim is to ensure that tourism's growing potential is fully recognized at the international level, as a multidisciplinary sector, contributing to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Since the last Executive Council report, a key milestone for including tourism in the global development agenda has been achieved at the June 2012 **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) - Rio+20 Conference: Sustainable Tourism** was included in the outcome document, "**The Future We Want**"<sup>1</sup> and UNWTO was able to organize two Official Side Events for Tourism. UNWTO's New York Liaison Office continued representing UNWTO and actively participating in a wide variety of inter-governmental and inter-agency meetings and events held in the New York UN Headquarters, including the 2012 ECOSOC substantive session and Rio+20, CEB, HLCP and undg preparatory meetings and their Working Groups and Task Forces.

#### II. Activities within the UN system

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##### A. Participation in the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and in Substantive Issues:

2. Regular participation 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Rio+20 Outcome Document: *The Future We Want* - <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html>



## A1. Chief Executives Board:

3. Participation in a special side event organized by the CEB Secretariat in the framework of the **UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)**, 20-22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, shedding light on actions being undertaken, and sharing forward-thinking recommendations on the UN's role in global development. Main issues included the Sustainable Development Goals foreseen post-2015, women, youth, and a people-centred approach to development.

## A2. Participating in UN System Substantive Issues and Activities:

4. Rio+20 was a key opportunity and milestone for the UNWTO to participate and highlight the significant role that tourism can play within the conference's two main themes: green economy and the institutional framework for sustainable development, as well as in the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs). The significant contribution of tourism is recognized in the outcome document "**The Future We Want**", where it is included as a thematic area and cross-sectorial issue, as well as in the Oceans Compact and the 10 Year Framework Programme. The Secretariat secured two Official Side Events organized with the support of the Ministry of Tourism of Brazil, the Steering Committee on Tourism for Development, the OECD and UNEP, demonstrating how Tourism can be a catalyst for development.

5. **Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNDA)**: UNWTO and other UN agencies prepared the input on the post-2015 UNDA for the UNSG report. There was system-wide support, with the three core values: human rights, equality and sustainability and the four dimensions of development: human, economic, environmental and security, drawn from the Millennium Declaration. Next steps require the UNSG to take into account the Task Team's report in preparing its own MDG report to the UNGA 67<sup>th</sup> Session with a Post-2015 UNDA section.

6. Participation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, New York, 7-18 May 2012. A section on tourism was included in the flagship report "State of the World's Indigenous Peoples", published by UNDESA to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2007 adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Among the relevant outcomes was the agreement for preparation of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

7. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) 2010 Resolution 65/2 adopted the outcome document on the Implementation of the **Mauritius Strategy recognizing the commitment of Small Island Development States to sustainable development** but noted the continued challenges they face. UNWTO and other relevant stakeholders were asked to support SIDS in the promotion of sustainable tourism. The Secretariat prepared a report "**Challenges and opportunities for tourism development in SIDS (2012)**", launched during Rio+20, providing policy orientations, guidelines and other tools for various tourism stakeholders in SIDS to address challenges and develop and manage tourism in a sustainable manner for the benefit of their population.

8. In response to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 65/173 on the **Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection**, UNWTO undertook a survey among Members States, UN constituents and other international stakeholders to review initiatives and projects related to eco-tourism and assess its importance for development, 47 Member States responded to the questionnaire. The report provides recommendations to assist sustainable tourism promotion and will be reviewed at the UNGA's 67<sup>th</sup> session.

9. UNWTO and **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** signed a MoU at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, Austria, 23 April

2012), for collaboration in mutual interest areas: i.e., the prevention of tourism sector related human trafficking, and greater coordination to encourage responsible behaviour among tourism stakeholders e.g., preventing crimes, curbing the unlawful acquisition of cultural objects and artefacts, and enhancing private sector anti-corruption policies. UNWTO and UNODC organized consequently the next day a Side Event on **Human Trafficking in the Context of Tourism**, calling for enhanced collaboration between actors from all spheres to eradicate this unacceptable form of modern-day slavery.

10. The *Towards a Safer World* project (May 2012) convenes a broad range of multi-sector, multi-regional stakeholders involved in whole-of-society preparedness: UNWTO provided some amendments from the tourism perspective. The network hub operates from within the **UN System Influenza Coordination** (UNSIC) office, in close collaboration with the Health Security and Environment Department of WHO, UNISDR and WFP's Emergency Preparedness and Response branch.

11. The study on the "**Impact of Visa Facilitation on Job Creation in the G20 Economies**", presented at the Fourth T20 Meeting in Mexico (May 2012,) was prepared under the coordination of UNWTO and WTTC and received inputs from ILO, ICAO and UNCTAD.

12. Participation in the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee led by UNESCO, St. Petersburg, Russia, 24-26 June 2012. The meeting adopted the new and inclusive **World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme** and welcomed the contribution of its Steering Group (UNESCO WHC, UNWTO, States Parties representatives: Germany, Slovenia, Argentina, China, Tanzania, Lebanon and other important stakeholders). UNWTO provides input on the elaboration and development of the new programme, involving tourism authorities and stakeholders in the process.

13. UNWTO, and UNEP/DTIE as permanent members of the Steering Committee of the **Global Partnership on Sustainable Tourism (GPST)** (initiative whose mission is to foster partnerships for advancing sustainable tourism principles), are discussing the joint management of the GPST. The Coordinating Office is hosted by UNEP in Paris, France.

14. Participation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP11), 6-8 July 2012, Bucharest, Romania, under the theme Wetlands and Tourism. The meeting adopted a landmark resolution urging sound tourism practices in wetlands and launched the publication "**Destination Wetlands: Supporting Sustainable Tourism**", produced jointly by the Ramsar Convention and UNWTO.

15. Guided by the **United Nations Statistical Commission** (UNSC) to provide appropriate compilation guidance, UNWTO continued its ongoing work with the United Nations Expert Group on the compilation of Statistics of International Trade in Services (EG-SITS). In response, the Task Force started the development of a Compilers Guide for the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010) to help countries to develop a high-quality and effective data collection, processing and dissemination system, complying with MSITS2010 recommendations.

### **A3. CEB and its subsidiary structure working groups:**

16. UNWTO was represented by the New York Liaison office at the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), 2-27 July, New York. The 'Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC' 13-17 July was particularly relevant, and considered the report of the **Secretary-General on Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN Operational Activities for Development** with three key issues: (i) the participation of non-resident agencies (NRAs) in country level operational activities for development; (ii) 'burden sharing' of coordination costs for the resident coordinator system, and potential financial implications for UNWTO; and (iii) how to enhance core funding for development-

related activities of the UN system. It was highly important that its views were adequately reflected in the ECOSOC deliberations and its expected recommendations.

17. Based on a brief provided by the UNWTO Madrid Headquarters, the Liaison Office actively lobbied with the delegations to mention the special disadvantages suffered by NRAs, particularly small ones, that do not maintain any country or regional/sub-regional office (UNWTO's case) and to seek remedies by facilitating their involvement in the country-level programmes and their implementation. The efforts were successful: several country delegations raised the special situation faced by NRAs. Tunisia and Nepal speaking on behalf of LDCs stated the views advocated by UNWTO extensively, including those on 'burden sharing'. These were then formally conveyed to UNDESA by the Liaison Office, requesting them to be incorporated in the recommendations of the Secretary-General on QCPR, submitted for consideration by the 67th session of UNGA.

18. The UN Secretary-General submitted a report on **funding of operational activities for development** of the UN system for ECOSOC consideration at its 2012 substantive session. The *development landscape* is changing; the upcoming QCPR cycle could serve as an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to engage in a transparent and inclusive dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system in the global development cooperation environment. OECD/DAC member governments and other interested Member States are encouraged to undertake consultations on how to enhance burden-sharing of core funding for development-related activities of the UN system.

19. **The UNGA 67th Session** will be discussing a proposal to "*Request the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies... to undertake a structured dialogue on how to finance the development results to be achieved in the new strategic planning cycle...with a view to addressing core/non-core imbalances, broadening the donor base, and improving the adequacy and predictability of resources flows.*" Following the approval of this proposal, the Secretariat will consider Member States dialogue on the longer-term positioning of UNWTO within the UN development system, regarding issues such as funding practices, partnership approaches, and organizational arrangements.

20. As part of the HLCM, the **Finance and Budget Network** (FBN) reviewed the cost-shared budget 2012/2013 for the UN Security Management System. The Working Group on Common Treasury Services established its website and further actions to determine which benefits of common initiatives and which co-sharing mechanisms are being carried out.

21. Participation in **Human Resources Network** (HRN) meetings, as part of the CEB/HLCM function, the **International Civil Service Commission** (ICSC) and the **United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund** (UNJSPF) Board. At the 2012 HR Network and the ICSC sessions, discussions on performance management, job classification standards, standards of conduct of international civil servants, implementation of decisions, and recommendations of the ICSC relating to conditions of service were of special relevance to UNWTO.

22. Relevant issues at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HLCM **Information and Communications Technology** (ICT) Network included the review of a global Top Level Domain issue which the **World Intellectual Property Organization** (WIPO) will continue to monitor and intervene on, with the appropriate Internet body for restricting UN system entity names from being used by other entities; data communications projects and the implementation of the Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6). Agencies were requested to nominate focal points for follow-up work and the Core Gateway – a project the International Computing Centre (ICC) will be more involved in; moreover, discussions on cloud computing, ICT professionalism, collaborative technologies and performance reporting.

23. UNWTO did not attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HLCM **Inter Agency Security Management Network** (IASMN) on UN security but has started to disseminate the UN Basic Security in the Field to its travelling staff. UNWTO convened Spain's Security Management Team meeting for UN Agencies and Offices in Spain, and follow up has been made with air travel focal points for UN authorized airlines. A video conference was held to review UNWTO's share of UN security costs whereby methodological issues for calculating the shares of small agencies was questioned. A follow-up letter by UNWTO to UN Controller was issued.

## B. Participating in UN Meetings:

24. Participation in two side events, 19 and 20 April 2012, Doha (Qatar), within the 13th Session of the **UN Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD XIII). The *Global Services Forum* brought together leaders in governments and businesses to address new paths and strategies to harness services economy for economic growth, and inclusive and sustainable development. *Towards Inclusive & Sustainable Growth & Development: How can the tourism sector contribute?* organized jointly with the **UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development** (SCTD) discussed policies and measures that developing countries need to pursue to develop a competitive tourism sector as part of national trade strategies aimed at achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

25. UNWTO THEMIS Foundation designed a Volunteers Project presented in Belgrade, Serbia, 10-11 April 2012 at the **UN Alliance of Civilization** (UN-AOC) South-East European Regional Summit. It included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan for the region, to implement the Alliance of Civilizations' Regional Strategy on Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe in line with the MoU between UNWTO and UN-AOC. UNWTO successfully argued for tourism to be included in the final Belgrade declaration of the high level event.

26. The **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute** (UNICRI) organized a *Tourism Security Seminar*, 20 June 2012, Portugal, including a UNWTO presentation to promote the tourism sector's agenda on crisis management.

27. In the lead-up and during Rio+20, UNWTO organized and participated in a number of activities. Besides the two aforementioned side events, UNWTO was represented at a number of high-level events, including a CEB side event, a High-level round table, a UN Global Compact (UNGC) side event and a High-Level Women Leaders' Summit. UNWTO's latest publication on Tourism and SIDS was launched through a presentation at an UN inter-agency meeting.

28. UNWTO participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Meeting of the **Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel** (CAPSCA), July 2012, Germany, where it had a cooperative arrangement with World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). A presentation on UNWTO's activities and the use of geo-reference technologies to improve transparency, effectiveness, willingness to share event information immediately and localize travel advisories, was delivered.

29. Participation at the HLCP Senior Managers Group for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 hosted by the **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction** (UNISDR). The meeting was a first consultation to discuss on the work modalities of the group, which consists of other 18 UN agencies, to mainstream disaster risk reduction.

**III. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council**

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30. The Executive Council is requested:
- (a) To acknowledge the important work of the Secretariat, in collaboration with Member States, in contributing to the Rio+20 process, which resulted in a bold political outcome document entitled “The Future We Want” and whereby Sustainable Tourism has been recognized and included for the first time;
  - (b) To continue supporting the Secretariat in mainstreaming tourism and building upon the “The Future We Want” document for a *post-Rio+20* Tourism for Development Agenda within the UN system and in support to Member States;
  - (c) To encourage the Secretariat to continue its participations in the discussions leading to the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals as the post-2015 UNDA agenda;
  - (d) To encourage the Secretariat in engaging in a dialogue with its Member States on the longer-term positioning of UNWTO in the rapidly changing development cooperation environment;
  - (e) To acknowledge the important work of the Secretariat related to the UNGA Resolution 65/173 on Eco-tourism and to continue its work on the issue, as mentioned in “The Future We Want”;
  - (f) To take note of the important role played by the Secretariat for developing and implementing jointly with UNESCO the newly approved World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme, recognizing the importance of tourism for World Heritage Sites, and to support UNWTO in pursuing its active role in the Steering Group;
  - (g) To support the Secretariat in the discussions it is conducting with UNEP/DTIE towards the joint management of the Global Partnership on Sustainable Tourism (GPST); and
  - (h) To take note of the Secretariat’s participation in substantive issues of the UN System and to support the continuation of its participation and involvement in those issues as well as in the CEB subsidiary structure working groups.