



# DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AND THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA AT THEIR TWENTY-FIFTH JOINT MEETING

Hyderabad, India, 13 April 2013

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# UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA

Twenty-fifth Joint Meeting Hyderabad, India 13 April 2013

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2. Communication of the Chairman (India) of the joint meeting
- 3. Communication of the Co-Chairman (Malaysia) of the joint meeting
- 4. Preliminary Remarks of the Secretary-General
- 5. Progress report on the implementation of Programme of Work for 2012-2013 (Background document on general programme of work for 2012-2013)
  - 5.1. Regional Activities
  - 5.2. Activities of the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific
  - 5.3. New Publications and E-library
  - 5.4. Progress report on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE)
  - 5.5. Progress report on the draft UNWTO convention on the protection of tourists and tourism services
- 6. Tourism Performance in the region
  - 6.1. Presentation on market trends for 2012 and prospects for 2013
  - 6.2. Country and industry interventions
- 7. Report about the survey on priority areas of the Programme of Work for 2014-2015
- 8. Preparations for the 20th session of the UNWTO General Assembly
  - 8.1. Brief presentation on the 20th session of the General Assembly
  - 8.2. Cambodia's Candidacy for the 21st session of UNWTO General Assembly
- 9. Affiliate members' intervention
  - 9.1. Brief interventions of the Regional Vice-Presidents of Affiliate Members
  - 9.2. Exchange of UNWTO-IFT (Institute for Tourism Studies) MOU
- 10. Other matters
  - 10.1 Brief intervention on EATOF (East Asian Interregional Tourism Forum)
- 11. Place and date of the twenty-sixth joint meeting of the two commissions

#### **PREAMBLE**

- 1. The twenty-fifth joint meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia was held in Hyderabad, India on 13 April 2013. It was held in conjunction with the UNWTO Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development.
- 2. The meeting was chaired by **India** and co-chaired by **Malaysia**. There were **eighty-seven** participants representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao (China), Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. Affiliate members from India, Japan, Macao (China), Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand were also represented. In addition to these participants, other member States (i.e. Zimbabwe), non-member States (i.e. Singapore) as well as International and Regional Organizations also attended the event. The CEO of PATA joined the meeting upon a special invitation of the Secretary-General. A list of participants with the names and contact details of all attendees is attached.

#### **DECISIONS**

CAP/CSA/DEC/1 (XXV)

# **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/CSA/25/Prov.Ag.)

The two commissions,

Adopt the provisional agenda of their 25<sup>th</sup> joint meeting as contained in the document CAP/CSA/25/Prov. Agenda submitted by the Secretary-General. The final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.

CAP/CSA/DEC/2 (XXV)

#### **COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Agenda item 2 (document CAP/CSA/25/2)

The Commissions,

Having heard the Chairman's communication,

- 1. <u>Thank</u> him for his warm words of welcome extended to the members of the two commissions, members from other regions, non-members, Affiliate members and others present at the meeting;
- 2. <u>Appreciate</u> his very comprehensive account of the current tourism scenario in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- 3. <u>Join him</u> in emphasising that Asia and the Pacific region has been witnessing the highest growth rate compared to other regions and is currently leading the growth in global tourism.

#### COMMUNICATION OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSON

Agenda item 3 (document CAP/CSA/24/3)

The Commissions,

Having heard the communication of the Co-Chairman,

- 1. Thank him for his communication;
- 2. <u>Join</u> him to commend UNWTO for upstaging sustainable tourism development as a priority area and setting the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria as the guiding principles;
- 3. <u>Support</u> his suggestion that measures should be taken to improve accessibility with a view to increasing inbound and outbound tourist flows and to boost domestic tourism.

CAP/CSA/DEC/4 (XXV)

### PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Agenda item 4 (document CAP/CSA/25/4)

The Commissions,

Having heard the preliminary remarks of the Secretary-General,

- 1. <u>Welcome</u> the announcement that international tourism made history in 2012 with the number of tourists who travelled around the world crossing the one billionth threshold for the first time to register 1,035 million;
- 2. <u>Take note</u> that despite the on-going economic challenges, global tourism growth is expected to keep growing in 2013:
- 3. Note with satisfaction that Asia is expected to outperform the world average (+3.8%) and grow by between 5% and 6%;
- 4. <u>Welcome</u> his view to broaden the concept of sustainable tourism and emphasise the social aspect as well;
- 5. <u>Support</u> his plan to prioritise travel facilitation, intelligent taxation and air connectivity in the Organization's programme of work for the next two years;
- 6. <u>Note</u> with satisfaction that in the UNWTO/WTTC Global Leaders for Tourism campaign, out of the 49 countries that have endorsed it, 11 are from Asia-Pacific region (including Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam).

# CAP/CSA/DEC/5 (XXV)

# PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2012-2013 Agenda item 5 (documents CAP/CSA/25/5.1; CAP/CSA/25/5.2; CAP/CSA/25/5.3; CAP/CSA/25/5.4; CAP/CSA/25/5.5)

The Commissions,

<u>Having considered</u> the documents submitted by the Secretary-General on the various components of this agenda item:

- I. With regard to regional activities:
- 1. <u>Note with satisfaction</u> that according to UNWTO's latest report on visa facilitation, the Asia-Pacific region is the most open region in the world as far as visa policies are concerned;
- 2. <u>Note</u> that the Secretariat has embarked on a study on APEC economies in collaboration with WTTC to analyse the global economic impact of visas on tourist flows; and a joint study with PATA on air connectivity;
- 3. <u>Appreciate</u> the effort made by the Secretariat to complete the two-year regional tourism statistics capacity-building programme organised for the members; and the fact that TSA training programmes will now be more geared towards country-specific needs;
- 4. <u>Applaud</u> the part played by the Secretariat in Myanmar's re-joining of the UNWTO family and the mission carried out to assess how to ensure that its tourism development is founded on sustainability principles.
- II. With regard to activities of the UNWTO Regional Support Office (RSO):
- 1. <u>Note</u> the relocation of the Office from Osaka to Nara a very suitable place to promote one of the pillars of the RSO's activities, the Maritime Silk Road;
- 2. <u>Note</u> that the main purpose of the Maritime Silk Road Project is to add value to the overall Silk Road tourism initiative for joint destination promotion.
- III. With regard to new publications and e-library
- Appreciate that the principles of sustainability are being applied to the production of publications through the reduction of the number of copies with emphasis on the use of the electronic formats of these publications;
- 2. <u>Note</u> that the e-library (www.e-unwto.org) is the online resource of tourism information which includes all the UNWTO publications since 1970, journals and other documents in electronic format as well as a section dedicated to tourism statistics the Tourism Factbook.

# IV. With regard to progress report on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and World Committee on Tourism Ethics:

- Appreciate the Secretariat's recent efforts to reach out to tourism companies and associations in order to enhance the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and raise awareness about social responsibility towards the industry. This initiative is a follow up to the campaign the Organization initiated in 2011, geared towards the private sector to promote the application of the Code's principles by tourism businesses worldwide;
- Note with satisfaction that enterprises have started to show their commitment to the Code by signing the *Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*. Through this signature, enterprises pledge to adhere to the Code's provisions, disseminate the document among their clients and providers, and report on actions undertaken in this regard to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics;
- 3. <u>Encourage</u> members to raise awareness of this campaign about the Code among the private sectors in their respective countries;
- 4. <u>Note</u> the initiation of the process for the nomination and selection of the new Members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE) for the period 2013 2017;
- 5. <u>Urge</u> the member States and Affiliate members to present candidates for the Committee, for the examination of a Selection Board which will examine the candidatures and submit its recommendations to the twentieth session of the General Assembly (Zambia/Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls, 24-30 August 2013), for approval;
- 6. <u>Draw members' attention to the deadline for the submission of candidates for the Committee (i.e.</u> 31st May 2013).

# V. <u>With regard to progress report on the draft UNWTO convention on the protection of tourists and tourism services:</u>

- 1. <u>Thank</u> the Secretariat for the information regarding the results achieved by the UNWTO Working Group;
- 2. <u>Welcome</u> the activities of the Working Group and the Secretariat in the field of tourist protection:
- 3. Take note of the revised text of the draft international convention;
- 4. <u>Take note</u> of the assurance by the Secretary-General that the Convention will be complementary to other instruments that are being elaborated by other regional institutions.

# TOURISM PERFORMANCE IN THE REGION

Agenda item 6

The Commissions,

<u>Having listened</u> to the views expressed by the Secretary-General and the members about tourism performance, visa facilitation and taxation;

- 1. <u>Note</u> with interest that China has overtaken the United States and Germany to become the first tourism source market in the world in terms of spending;
- 2. <u>Welcome</u> the news that by 2030 according to UNWTO's forecast Asia will receive 500 million international tourists corresponding to 30% of global market share;
- 3. <u>Express concern</u> about the imposition of emission tax and the heavy Air Passenger Duty (APD) by an increasing number of governments which will act as a deterrent on the flow of tourists to Asia:
- 4. <u>Urge</u> the members to take up the issue of the imposition of stringent visa policies and discriminatory taxation of travel and tourism with their respective governments;
- 5. <u>Note</u> that an ASEAN task force has been created to look into extending the single visa policy to non-ASEAN members because of the potential it has to increase the number of foreign visitors to the region;
- 6. Note that a workshop of APEC on visa facilitation will be held in Indonesia in October 2013. It will draw the participation of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Aviation;
- 7. <u>Note</u> Vietnam's request to UNWTO and PATA to help them to convince ministries closely related to tourism about the importance of visa facilitation;
- 8. <u>Welcome</u> the offer of the Secretariat to use the name of UNWTO and its leverage at the political level to influence governmental policies and decisions about visas positively; the issuance of more visas does not necessarily translate into less security;
- 9. <u>Welcome</u> the offer of the Secretariat to adapt the matrix prepared in collaboration with Oxford Economics about the negative implications of complex visa processes on employment and tourist flows to individual countries:
- 10. <u>Note</u> visa and travel facilitation endeavours being made by some countries in the region including Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand;
- 11. <u>Take note</u> of Fiji's proposal to the Secretariat to consider regional membership of the 14 South Pacific countries as opposed to individual membership, given the smallness of the populations of the majority of them and the financial difficulties they face with respect to membership fees;

12. <u>Note</u> the response of the Secretary-General about a similar request having been made by a group of 28 Caribbean countries; about the inexistence of regional membership in the UN as countries are considered in their individual sovereignty; and about efforts being made to cut down substantially on the membership fees of very small countries.

CAP/CSA/DEC/7 (XXV)

# REPORT ABOUT THE SURVEY ON PRIORITY AREAS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2014-2015

Agenda item 7 (document CAP/CSA/25/7)

The Commissions,

Having heard the report on the Survey on Member States' Priorities for 2014-2015,

- 1. Express appreciation for the presentation;
- 2. Appreciate the work carried out by the UNWTO Secretariat on this subject;
- 3. <u>Welcome</u> the fact that the response rate in the region was 80% as compared to around 60% of all Member States who answered the survey.

# PREPARATIONS FOR THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNWTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY Agenda item 8

CAP/CSA/DEC/8 (XXV)

The Commissions,

Having watched the videos and listened to the presentations made by Zimbabwe and Cambodia,

- 1. <u>Thank</u> Zimbabwe for its preparations for and the invitation to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly scheduled to be held in Zimbabwe and Zambia from 24-29 August 2013;
- 2. <u>Support</u> unanimously the candidature of Cambodia as host of the 21st session of the UNWTO General Assembly in 2015

# **AFFILIATE MEMBERS' INTERVENTION**

Agenda item 9

CAP/CSA/DEC/9 (XXV)

The Commissions,

<u>Having</u> listened to the brief intervention of the Regional Vice-Presidents (DiscoveryMICE of Malaysia and KTO of Republic of Korea) of the Affiliate members,

- 1. <u>Appreciate</u> the Affiliate members for their support and active involvement in the activities of the region;
- 2. Thank the Institute for Tourism Studies of Macao for the recent MOU it has signed with UNWTO for collaboration in training of member States' officials.

# **OTHER MATTERS**

Agenda item 10

CAP/CSA/DEC/10 (XXV)

The Commissions,

<u>Having</u> listened to the brief intervention of the Secretariat of East Asian Inter-regional Tourism Forum (EATOF).

1. <u>Express</u> appreciation of their interest in the activities of the region and their intention to further collaboration with UNWTO.

# PLACE AND DATE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS

Agenda item 11

CAP/CSA/DEC/11 (XXV)

The Commissions,

<u>Accept</u> with gratitude Philippines' offer to host the 26<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the commissions on its territory in 2014.

# Annex

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