



International Conference on Tourism Safety and Security In the Middle East and North Africa

Cairo Declaration

Recognizing the importance of tourism in promoting socio-economic development, inclusive growth, mutual understanding and the protection and promotion of our natural and cultural values and heritage, as well as the role it can play as a driving force for building and maintaining peace and stability, globally and in the Middle East – North Africa (MENA) region,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 recognized the significant contribution that tourism can make to the three dimensions of sustainable development—social, economic and environmental—as well as its close linkages to other sectors of the economy and its capacity to create decent jobs and generate trade and investment opportunities,

Recalling the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, adopted by the thirteenth session of UNWTO General Assembly in 1999, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, as the relevant policy framework for the development of equitable, responsible and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Acknowledging also that external threats could have significantly negative impacts on tourism and thus on its socio-economic benefits, particularly in countries where tourism is a socio-economic mainstay, supporting the livelihoods of many communities,

Considering the importance of tourism security, as expressed by Member States during the 4th biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (Report A/60/825 Uniting against Terrorism: Recommendations for a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288),

Aiming to foster the resilience and sustainability of the tourism sector and its ability to promote inclusive socio-economic growth and development,

We, the participants of the International Conference on Tourism Safety and Security in the Middle East and North Africa, meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on 14 and 15 September 2014, call on Governments, relevant national and local authorities, the United Nations System, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, wherever appropriate:

1. To develop and implement risk management strategies that address destinations' resilience to severe adversity, recalling the importance of risk assessment, emergency preparedness and communication in mitigating the impact of external threats on tourism destinations;
2. To encourage cross governmental coordination with the aim of ensuring the full integration of the tourism sector into national emergency policies in order to improve destinations' resilience, minimize negative impacts and promote a quick recovery from negative events, always taking into account the special needs and characteristics of the tourism sector;
3. To develop and implement crisis management strategies that ensure the provision of immediate and continuous assistance to tourists in times of emergency;

4. To support the implementation of Automated Border Controls, holistic and systematic models for traveller identification management such as ICAO's Traveller Identification Programme and the use of INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database (SLTF), as a means to step up travellers safety, prevent the movement of terrorism and strengthen the assistance to victims and families;
5. To develop and implement effective crisis communication plans, structures and instruments as per the recommendations set in the *UNWTO Toolbox for Crisis Communications*;
6. To ensure that travel advisories issued by the competent authorities of tourism generating countries are accurate, consistent, updated and objective, as per UNWTO General Assembly Resolution 592, on *the Use of Georeferences, Date and Time in Travel Advice and Event Information*, to avoid unnecessary negative repercussions on destinations;
7. To invest in and harness the use of modern information and communication technology, with a view to ensuring the dissemination of accurate, coordinated and timely information;
8. To promote and facilitate meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders in the tourism sector at national, regional and international levels, to better address and mitigate safety and security risks;
9. To recommend the use of the experience and expertise available at UNWTO for developing capacity building and training programmes on tourism safety and security that are geared to the specific needs of countries and tourist destinations in the MENA region; and
10. To actively support relevant regional and international processes and agreements, such as the UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, recognizing that global safety and security challenges require a coordinated and global response.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Government of Egypt for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements provided to the Conference, as well as for its substantive contribution to advancing the agenda of tourism safety and security in the Middle East and North Africa.

Cairo, 15 September, 2014