



UNWTO Commission for the Americas

58th meeting
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 21 May 2015
Decisions

CAM/58/DEC
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Decisions adopted by the UNWTO Commission for the Americas at its fifty-eighth meeting

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Decisions adopted by the UNWTO Commission	2
II. Annex 1 - List of participants	15

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE UNWTO COMMISSION
FOR THE AMERICAS**

On 21 May 2015, the Regional Commission for the Americas held its 58th meeting in the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, under the chairmanship of Colombia, represented by the Vice-Minister of Tourism, Sandra Howard Taylor. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay, Associate Member Puerto Rico and observer countries Spain and Seychelles, along with Affiliate Members from the region (see list of participants in Annex 1). Also in attendance was Barbados, whose candidature to become a Full Member is to be approved at the next General Assembly. Also present as observers were: the Executive Secretary of the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat (SITCA), Anasha Campbell; the Secretary-General of the *Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)*, Hugh Riley; and the tourism programme officer of the *Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)*, Lorraine Nicholas.

I. Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chair of the Commission (Colombia) (CAM/58/2)
3. Report of the Secretary-General (CAM/58/3)
4. Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work
 - 4.1 Global activities (CAM/58/4.1)
 - 4.2 Regional activities (CAM/58/4.2)
5. Report on the Survey on the Priority Areas of the Programme of Work for 2016-2017 (CAM/58/5)
6. Update on Affiliate Member activities (CAM/58/6)
7. Update on Committees
 - 7.1 Programme and Budget Committee (CAM/58/7.1)
 - 7.2 Committee for Tourism and Sustainability (CAM/58/7.2)
 - 7.3 Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CAM/58/7.3)
 - 7.4 Committee on Statistics and TSA (CAM/58/7.4)

8. Preparations for the twenty-first session of the UNWTO General Assembly (CAM/58/8)
9. Other matters
10. Place and date of the 59th Regional Commission meeting for the Americas (CAM/58/10)

1. Adoption of the agenda of the Commission
(Document CAM/58/ODP)

When the Chair of the Commission requested the approval of the agenda from the members present, the Haitian delegation asked that the review and approval of the Haiti Declaration be included in item 9 (Other matters). The Members accepted this inclusion and the proposed agenda for the 58th meeting was approved.

2. Communication of the Chair of the Commission (Colombia)
(Document CAM/58/2)

In her communication as Chair of the Commission, the Colombian Vice-Minister expressed her country's appreciation for the opportunity to once again address and chair the meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas of the World Tourism Organization in Haiti.

She highlighted the main figures of the tourism sector to date and their importance in the economic growth of countries: the tourism sector represents 9% of world GDP, 6% of world trade, 30% of services exports worldwide and generates 1 in every 11 jobs. She highlighted the role of the Americas considering that in 2014 it grew by 7.4%, above the world average which stood at 4.7%.

However, she clarified that "sustaining these positive growth trends entails that each of our countries maintain commitments taken on in areas such as tourism quality and safety in our destinations, making the satisfaction and protection of tourists the number one objective".

She urged countries to continue the work started in equally important areas such as travel facilitation, through strategies to reduce or eliminate of procedures for obtaining visas, and tourist safety, supported by shared information systems, making use of new technologies applied to the sector in order to ensure safe passage of tourists between our countries, with the aim of increasing flows, with longer stays and constantly increasing the contribution visitors make to local economies.

Finally, she noted that it would be much easier for everyone to move forward in the creation of multideestination products if we manage to remove existing barriers to the free movement of people, which will have a positive effect in attracting tourists and would constitute a contribution to the development of regional tourism competitiveness and an excellent promotional tool.

3. Report of the Secretary-General
(Document CAM/58/3)

The present report to the fifty-eighth meeting of the UNWTO Commission for the Americas addresses the following subjects:

- A. International tourism in 2014 and 2015
- B. Mainstreaming Tourism in the Global Agenda
- C. Administrative and Financial Matters

The Secretary-General addressed the delegations noting that demand in regard to international tourism remained strong in 2014 according to the April issue of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer: The number of international tourists reached 1,135 million, 48 million more than in 2013. With an increase of 4.4%, this was the fifth consecutive year of above-average growth in international tourist arrivals since the 2009 global economic crisis. Advanced economies (+5.8%) have outperformed emerging economies (+2.6%), as was already the case in 2013.

He highlighted the performance of the Americas (+8%), Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East (+5% each) which registered the strongest growth in arrivals, while Europe (+3%) and Africa (+2%) grew at a slightly more modest pace. The Americas was the best performing region in relative terms with growth of 8%, welcoming an additional 14 million international tourists and raising the total to 182 million. Growth was driven by North America (+9%) and the Caribbean (+7%). Arrivals to Central America and South America (+5% for both) grew at double the rate recorded in 2013 and well above the world average.

International tourism receipts increased by 3.7% in real terms (taking into account exchange rate fluctuations and inflation) in 2014 to reach a record US\$ 1,245 billion. An additional US\$ 221 billion was generated from international passenger transport, bringing total exports from international tourism up to US\$ 1.5 trillion or US\$ 4 billion a day on average.

As for outbound tourism as measured by international tourism expenditure, available data for 2014 shows that the recovery of traditional source markets compensated for the slowdown of the large emerging markets, which had been driving tourism growth in previous years.

The Secretary-General mentioned that China, the top source market in the world in expenditure, was up by 28% in 2014, and noted regarding the other two main emerging markets that the Russian Federation (-6%) lost strength in 2014, while Brazil still grew by 2.5%, despite the appreciation of the US dollar against the Brazilian real and slower economic growth.

He then spoke about the UNWTO/WTTC Open Letter on Travel and Tourism campaign, which at the end of March 2015 had been received by 73 Heads of States and Government since February 2011, out of which 14 were from the Americas (by date of acceptance): Mexico, Colombia, Jamaica, Peru, Argentina, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, Uruguay, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Chile and Honduras.

He announced the holding of the sixth T.20 Ministers' Meeting in Republic of Turkey on 29-30 September 2015 in line with the G20 Presidency, saying that this would be a unique

opportunity to further enhance the cooperation among the G20 countries in the area of tourism and enhance the contribution of the sector to more inclusive economic growth, particularly through the creation of decent jobs. As for the priorities of the G20 Presidency, the sixth T.20 Ministers' Meeting will discuss how tourism can address the challenges of 'jobless growth', with a particular focus on policies that promote gender equality, youth unemployment, skills adequacy, entrepreneurship, and investment to unlock jobs and growth. To that end, UNWTO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) will be preparing a background document with the participation of T.20 countries.

The Secretary-General underlined that the Secretariat continues to work to position tourism higher and in a coordinated manner in the United Nations system agenda and highlighted various activities planned or being carried out under this area of work:

- (a) **The proposal to designate 2017 as the International Year of Tourism for Development and Peace:** UNWTO is working with Member States to propose to the UN General Assembly the celebration of 2017 as the International Year on Tourism for Development and Peace. Auspiciously, this would come 50 years after the 1967 UN International Tourism Year under the theme "Passport for Peace".
- (b) **The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production** adopted at the Rio+20 Conference as a framework for action: Sustainable Tourism is, together with Consumer information; Sustainable lifestyles and education; Sustainable public procurement and Sustainable buildings and construction; one of the initial five programmes included in the 10YFP. The Sustainable Tourism Programme was launched at the World Travel Market's (WTM) Responsible Tourism Day (5 November 2014, London, UK) with the presence of UNWTO, the lead of the Programme, and Morocco, France and the Republic of Korea as the Programme co-leads.
- (c) **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** As a result of concerted efforts of the UNWTO Secretariat and the UN New York Liaison Office the current proposal for the SDGs includes several targets related to sustainable tourism under the goals of economic growth, sustainable consumption and production patterns, oceans and marine resources. The next phase of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda commenced in January 2015 and will continue until July 2015 when the Agenda is expected to be agreed upon by the Member States and submitted for adoption by the Summit of Heads of State and Governments to be held in September 2015.
- (d) **The tourism and security agenda:** the UNWTO has strengthened its cooperation with the relevant UN agencies and organizations in this area, including the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The UNWTO had also joined the CTITF's Working Group on Protection of Critical Infrastructure, Vulnerable Targets, Internet and Tourism Security in 2014.
- (e) **Tourism's contribution to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS):** Sustainable tourism is one of the priority areas included in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) (also known as the 'Samoa Pathway') with an extensive set of areas for action. UNWTO also played an important role and significantly contributed to several events during the Conference.

(f) The 69th UNGA session resolution on the “**Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection**” was adopted, by consensus and sponsored by a total number of 107 Member States;

g) **The UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture: Building a New Partnership**, held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 4-6 February 2015. The Conference brought together over 900 participants, including over 45 ministers and vice-ministers of tourism and culture, international experts, speakers and guests from 100 countries. The resulting Siem Reap Declaration on Tourism and Culture highlights the need to create a new framework for collaboration between tourism and culture, which includes active participation of host communities, visitors, the public and the private sector and sets a series of commitments covering the four key areas discussed at the Conference: tourism and cultural heritage, cultural routes, the linkages between tourism, living cultures and creative industries and the contribution of cultural tourism to urban development.

(h) **The 21st Session of the UNWTO General Assembly**: The 21st Session of the UNWTO General Assembly in Medellin, Colombia, on 12-17 September 2015, to be held on the theme of “Tourism: Fostering Inclusive Growth and Social Transformation”, will be a fundamental opportunity to promote the value of the tourism sector in the global agenda in addressing challenges such as connectivity, climate change, development, peace and social inclusion.

The Secretary-General then spoke about administrative and financial matters, and noted with appreciation the efforts made by the large majority of Member States to keep current with their financial obligations and, in some cases, to advance the payment of accumulated arrears, particularly in the current economic context. At the same time, and in view of the reduction observed in the collection rate of membership fees and the extraordinary need to advance financing from the Working Capital Fund in 2014, the Secretary-General calls upon all Members to pay their contributions in a timely manner, given that without the regular financial means provided by the Members, it is not possible for the Organization to operate adequately and deliver effectively on its programme of work.

Regarding the financial closing of 2014, accounts have been produced in accordance to IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) for the first time as requested by the UN and UNWTO’s General Assembly. There has been a lengthy and resource-intensive exercise to adapt UNWTO’s accounting and reporting systems to IPSAS and ensure that IPSAS principles become operational as of 1 January 2014. UNWTO’s external auditors (Germany, India and Spain) have audited the accounts during the month of March and concluded that UNWTO’s accounts duly represent its financial position in accordance to these accounting standards. The report on the 2014 accounts, together with the auditors’ report, will be presented to the 100th session of the Executive Council.

He underlined that the Secretariat continued to be highly committed to strengthen the efforts in raising extrabudgetary funds. The proposal for the creation of a Tourism for Development Facility will be presented to the 100th session of the Executive Council as a means to leverage the fact that the UNWTO is an ODA Eligible Organization for Bilateral Aid, meaning that funds channelled through UNWTO for projects in ODA eligible countries can be considered by donor countries as an official development assistance.

He also announced that pursuant to decision of the Executive Council, a report on the Ethics Function at UNWTO for 2014 will be presented to the 100th session of the Executive Council.

To conclude his remarks, the Secretary-General invited all Members to avail themselves of the existing capacity-building scheme whereby Members may propose to loan officials to the Organization on a non-reimbursable basis. Requests shall be channelled through the respective Regional Programmes.

After the Secretary-General's report, the Chair of the meeting gave the floor to the delegations of Mexico and Costa Rica.

The Mexican delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General. As for the T20 meeting, it expressed support for its holding and welcomed the fact that the UNWTO, together with the ILO, was to prepare the reference document.

Costa Rica, for its part, urged the Secretariat to continue working on the subject of sustainable tourism, and commended the efforts of the UNWTO in pushing for the 69th UNGA session resolution on the "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection", adopted by consensus and sponsored by a total number of 107 Member States, and which principally involves Central America.

It also commended the Secretariat for the report provided on the use of financial and human resources and noted that the issue of air connectivity remains a concern for the region and requested that further work on this issue be done at the Secretariat.

The Secretariat thanked the delegations for their comments, and there being no further comments from delegations, the meeting moved on to the next item on the agenda.

4.1 Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work 2014 - 2015

Global activities

[\(CAM/58/4.1\)](#)

The Regional Director for the Americas presented this document which presents a summary of the activities carried out by the Organization from August 2014 to March 2015, and is structured along the Organization's two strategic objectives: (a) Competitiveness and Quality and (b) Sustainability and Ethics.

Each of these objectives was worked on by the different programmes and their activities are divided structurally into two parts: (a) sharing knowledge and experiences and building capacity and (b) data, research and guidance.

The second part of the document (Annex I) deals with the implementation of the programme of work on the ground, divided into technical assistance missions carried out jointly by the Technical Cooperation Programme with the Regional Programmes, by the Consulting Unit on Tourism and Biodiversity (Bonn) and the activities of the Special Field Projects Programme such as the Silk Road.

As the document had been transmitted beforehand to the countries, it is submitted for consideration by the delegations for their comments (the delegations expressed their comments on it).

Previously, a form was distributed to the delegations listing the users of the Elibrary by country, and the countries were invited to update the database.

With no statements forthcoming, the Chair considered the agenda item closed and moved on to the next item.

4.2 Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work 2014 - 2015
Regional activities
(CAM/58/4.2)

With regard to the situation of regional tourism, the Regional Director for the Americas gave a presentation with the results of 2014, the trends for 2015 and the status of the activities carried out or to be carried out by the Regional Programme for the rest of the year.

To access the presentation click [here](#)

The Chair of the Commission thanked Mr Vogeler for the presentation he had made and invited delegations to comment on it.

With no statements forthcoming, the Chair considered the agenda item closed and moved on to the next item.

5. Report on the Survey on the Priority Areas of the Programme of Work for 2016-2017
(CAM/58/5)

The Regional Director for the Americas presented this agenda item noting that from October to December 2014, a survey on Members' priorities was conducted by the UNWTO Secretariat in order to prepare the Organization's General Programme of Work and Regular Budget for 2016-2017. Two separate questionnaires were made available online, one for Full and Associate Members and one for Affiliate Members.

The survey was built around the two main strategic objectives of the Organization: **Sustainability/Ethics** and **Competitiveness/Quality**. It also raised two questions that will be analysed separately by the Secretariat regarding resource mobilization and cooperation.

This report follows the structure of the survey and presents its key results, first for the Full and Associate Members, then for the Affiliate Members.

The Regional Director noted that the level of response was 64%, i.e., 103 Full Members and three Associate Members, and that the level of response in the region was about 65%.

The Full and Associate Members were asked to establish a hierarchy of priorities among the different areas of work related to sustainability and ethics in tourism and global survey had the following results: 1st Culture, 2nd Biodiversity, 3rd Poverty reduction, 4th Energy and water, 5th Accessible tourism, 6th Climate change, 7th Security and peace, 8th Consumer protection, 9th Traveller's and corporate social responsibility, and 10th Gender issues.

However, in the case of the Americas, the results were as follows:

1st Poverty reduction; 2nd Biodiversity, 3rd Culture, 4th Energy and water, 5th Climate change, 6th Traveller's and corporate social responsibility, 7th Accessible tourism, 8th Security and peace, 9th Consumer protection, and 10th Gender issues.

Among competitiveness and quality issues, the Full and Associate Members were asked to establish a hierarchy of relevance and the worldwide survey had the following results: 1st Travel facilitation, 2nd Marketing/branding, 3rd Destination quality management, 4th Connectivity, 5th Taxation/investment, 6th Statistics, 7th Human resource development, 8th Employment, 9th Market trends, and 10th Domestic tourism.

In the case of the Americas, the preferences once again differed:

1st Destination quality management, 2nd Human resource development, 3rd Employment, 4th Connectivity, 5th Travel facilitation, 6th Domestic tourism, 7th Marketing/branding, 8th Taxation/investment, 9th Statistics and 10th Market trends.

The Regional Director also presented the results from the survey conducted exclusively among the Affiliate Members. Immediately there was an exchange between delegations from which arise following courses of action:

- Work on the development of sustainable tourism applied to specific segments.
- Explore models of financing sustainable tourism and mechanisms to encourage investment.
- Think of institutional training activities for tourism offices to enable them to meet the new demands of tourism and help the administration in education and vocational training in tourism for young people and local people themselves.
- Linking the work done in market research with sustainability issues.
- Facilitate horizontal and vertical cooperation within the sector in sustainability issues: public-private partnerships and transnational cooperation (e.g., EU and UNWTO).
- Assist Members in working on issues of consumer protection as well as security and peace, especially in regard to tourist safety issues and dealing with the press.
- Continue working on the issues of facilitation and air and land connectivity.
- Partnering for innovation and new technologies in the development of tourism products, paying particular attention to SMEs.
- Strengthen institutional capacity through the tourism education and improve the capacity of communities through training programmes.
- Advocate for a fairer system of recommendations for travellers.
- Continue to work with reliable statistics through the implementation of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA).
- Focus on development through tourism, including the issue of resource mobilization.

- Strengthen institutional capacity through the teaching of tourism and improve the capacity of communities through training programmes.
- Advocate for a fairer system of recommendations for travellers.
- Facilitate the online exchange of experiences (good practices) and knowledge transfer.
- Continue work on seasonality, i.e., products for the low season and new marketing tools, especially in relation to social networks.

With no statements forthcoming, the Chair considered the agenda item closed and moved on to the next item.

6. Update on Affiliate Member activities

[\(CAM/58/6\)](#)

The Regional Director for the Americas briefly discussed the content of the Affiliate Members' Action Plan, which is being executed with the support of an increasing number of different initiatives using various tools, including prototypes, reports, joint projects with other programmes and technical seminars. Since the 57th meeting of the UNWTO Commission for the Americas in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, that took place in June 2014, a series of actions based on the work areas detailed in the previous report have been carried out. These actions are the following:

- UNWTO-COTELCO seminar on “Tourism and Peace” In collaboration with Colombian Affiliate Members COTELCO and ANATO, and with the support of FEDEC (Colombian Federation of Ecoparks, Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism) and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Colombia, the 12th UNWTO International Seminar was held on 27 June, in Bogotá, with this latest edition focusing on the concept of “Tourism and Peace”. The event was designed to contribute to the debate and offer alternatives for the development of destinations that have tourism potential in the post-conflict stage.
- Presentation of the Global Report on Adventure Tourism: Presented at the ATTA Global Summit in Killarney, Ireland, on 7 October, this report was published jointly with the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATT). The first of its kind by UNWTO on the topic of adventure tourism, the report provides insight into the close relationship between adventure tourism and responsible tourism.
- Presentation of the Global Report on City Tourism for Global Benchmarking: Presented at the 3rd Global Summit on City Tourism on 10 December 2014, this Report is a practical application that originates from the “CITIES” project and the Istanbul Declaration. Based on the conclusions from this first City Tourism Summit, the UNWTO Affiliate Members Programme revised its strategic objectives to implement a specific plan to contribute to urban tourism’s progressive analysis.
- The 1st UNWTO Conference on Shopping Tourism, organized together with FITUR Shopping, affirmed, yet again, how public-private partnerships and the collaboration between the various stakeholders can advance our knowledge of the sector and define more effective strategies.

The following additional reports are underway:

- i. "UNWTO Global Report on Cultural Routes and Itineraries"
- ii. "UNWTO Regional Report on Tourism Products: Building Development in Africa"
- iii. "UNWTO Global Report on Transformative Tourism"
- iv. "UNWTO Global Report on Emerging Tourism Economies – Public Private Partnerships"
- v. "UNWTO Global Report on the Sharing Economy – Hospitality"

The Regional Director highlighted the increasing participation and interest of numerous entities and associations in becoming Affiliate Members: just at the next session of the Executive Council 42 candidatures were submitted to be reviewed and selected (although their final entry will be decided by the General Assembly in Medellín in September this year).

Several delegations requested more details on the prototypes, both "Madrid Precious Time" and that on seasonality which was carried out in Punta del Este and is to be embarked upon by Torremolinos shortly. The Regional Director also gave details on the Knowledge Network and the newly created gastronomy network.

With no statements forthcoming, the Chair considered the agenda item closed and moved on to the next item.

7. Update on Committees (CAM/58/7.1, CAM/58/7.2, CAM/58/7.3 y CAM/58/7.4)

In order to inform about the operation and missions of different technical committees of the UNWTO, the Secretariat gave the floor to those countries participating in them directly: Argentina reported on the Programme and Budget Committee, Bahamas on the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability, Mexico on the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness, and Colombia on the Committee on Statistics and the TSA.

The Regional Director noted that Argentina, Bahamas and Mexico chaired three of the four committees, which shows the degree of involvement of the region in the principal organs of the UNWTO.

The delegations thanked the Secretariat for the reports and expressed their interest in participating more actively in them.

With no further statements forthcoming, the Chair considered the agenda item closed and moved on to the next item.

8. Preparations for the twenty-first session of the UNWTO General Assembly (CAM/58/8)

The Regional Director informed the meeting that the 21st General Assembly of the UNWTO would be held in Medellín from 12 to 17 September 2015. The document presented to the delegations contained the following information:

- The Secretariat has established the structure of the next session taking into account the experience of the previous sessions and the observations received from Members.

- In order to enhance the technical nature of the General Assembly and to take advantage of the participation of ministers and other top-ranking authorities, a ministerial roundtable will be organized in the framework of the Assembly on a highly topical subject.

- All Regional Commissions will hold a meeting in the framework of the Assembly. Their agendas will include the designation of their respective representatives for the various General Assembly offices, which should be approved by the Assembly. Each Commission will also be required to designate its representatives to serve on those subsidiary bodies of the Council whose membership is to be renewed. Finally, they will be required to put forward candidates for the vacant seats on the Executive Council, for which elections will be held during the Assembly (The Regional Director mentioned the countries of the Commission that have presented candidatures for a seat on the Executive Council).

- Special appreciation was expressed to the Colombian authorities who had already taken all the necessary measures to host the session under optimal conditions at the facilities of the Plaza Mayor Convention Centre of Medellín, and to provide all the pertinent services to the delegates of the Members of the UNWTO. Moreover, they will facilitate the entry into its territory for the Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of the UNWTO, as well as that of the other participants invited by the Secretary-General.

After the remarks of the Regional Director, the floor was given to the delegation of Colombia, which presented a video about the city of Medellín and invited all the delegations to participate in the General Assembly.

9. Other matters

Under this item, the delegation of Haiti explained its motivations for elaborating the so-called "Port-au-Prince Declaration". This Declaration prepared by Haiti and submitted for consideration of the countries is based primarily on the following subjects among others:

- It reaffirms the commitment of governments to work together in pursuit of the sustainability of tourism routes and destinations for the benefit of visitors and peoples.

- It establishes the need for governments to work to create a system of cooperation to establish joint policies for facilitating travel to third countries, by evaluating the possibility of establishing visas for several countries, simplifying visa systems and improving procedures at borders of all kinds in order to implement a multideestination product for the region.

- It affirms that multilateral agreements between countries of the same region provide an opportunity to facilitate both intra-regional and long-distance flows in the framework of a multideestination product strategy and that these agreements should cover organizations at different levels (supranational, regional, national and local) as well as other social actors such as NGOs and the economic sector.

- It calls for the analysis and development of joint policies between the countries of a region together with their public and private sectors for the identification of tourism products as well as source markets and marketing strategy.

The delegations present accepted what was stated in the [Port-au-Prince Declaration](#) and adopted it.

10. Place and date of the 59th Regional Commission meeting for the Americas (CAM/58/10)

The Regional Director for the Americas announced that the 59th meeting of the CAM will be held in the context of the 21st session of the UNWTO General Assembly, in the city of Medellín, Colombia, on 12 September 2015 from 16:00 to 18:00.

He also informed the Regional Commission that two countries have transmitted to Headquarters their candidatures to host the 60th meeting of the CAM: Paraguay and El Salvador.

Cuba asked to take the floor and also declared its candidature to also host the 60th meeting of the CAM in 2016 and stressed that Cuba was going through a historic moment and is desirous for the Regional Commission to meet in Havana simultaneously with the FITCUBA 2016 Fair.

The Minister of Tourism Paraguay reaffirmed to those present the decision to host the 60th meeting of the Regional Commission, and therefore during the next meeting of the Regional Commission the place of the 2016 edition will be chosen.

As the delegation prepared to depart, the Secretary-General, on behalf of all the delegates, once again thanked the authorities of Colombia for their hospitality and for the impeccable organization of the events.

ANNEX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**COSTA RICA****1. President of the Commission****COLOMBIA***Head of Delegation*

Ms. Sandra Howard Taylor
 Deputy Minister of Tourism
 Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

2. Full Members**ARGENTINA***Head of Delegation*

Ms. Brenda Varela
 Director -
 National Institute of Tourism

Delegates

Ms. Ana Inés García Allievi
 Technical Assistant, Department of International Relations
 Ministry of Tourism

BAHAMAS*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Obediah Wilchcombe
 Minister of Tourism
 Ministry of Tourism

Delegates

Mr. Earlston McPhee
 Director - International Relations and Economic
 Development
 Ministry of Tourism

Mr. Marcian Cooper
 Director - Product Development
 Ministry of Tourism

Mr. Tyrone Sawyer
 Director - Airline Development
 Ministry of Tourism

¹BARBADOS*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Richard Sealy
 Minister of Tourism and International Transport
 Ministry of Tourism

BRAZIL*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Acir Pimenta Madeira
 International Relations Director
 Ministry of Tourism

Delegates

Mr. Rafael Augusto Luisi de Oliveira
 General coordinator
 Ministry of Tourism

¹ Pending approval at the 21st General Assembly

Head of Delegation

Mr. Hermes Navarro
 Chief, Attraction of Investors
 Costa Rican Tourism Institute

CUBA*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Manuel Marrero Cruz
 Minister of Tourism
 Ministry of Tourism

Delegates

Ms. María del Carmen Orellana
 Commercial Director
 Ministry of Tourism

EL SALVADOR*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Juan Ernesto Rodríguez
 Presidential Adviser
 CORSATUR

GUATEMALA*Head of Delegation*

Ms. Maru Acevedo
 Deputy Director
 Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT)

Delegates

Ms. Erika Guillermo
 Asesora
 Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (INGUAT)

HAITI*Head of Delegation*

Ms. Stéphanie Villedrouin
 Minister of Tourism
 Ministry of Tourism

Delegates

Ms. Jessy Menos
 Secretary of State for Tourism

HONDURAS*Head of Delegation*

Ms. Laura Beatriz Acosta
 International Relations Officer
 Honduran Institute of Tourism

JAMAICA*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Wykeham McNeill
 Minister of Tourism and Entertainment
 Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment

Delegates

Ms. Jennifer Griffith
 Permanent Secretary

MEXICO*Head of Delegation*

Mr. Cedrian López Bosch Martineau
 Director - International Organizations
 SECTUR

PARAGUAY*Head of Delegation*

Ms. Marcela Bacigalupo

Minister - Executive Secretary
National Secretariat of Tourism (SENATUR)

Delegates

Ms. Rosa Radice
International Relations Director
National Secretariat of Tourism (SENATUR)

Ms. Teresa Espínola
Director - Tourism Products Management
National Secretariat of Tourism (SENATUR)

PERU

Head of Delegation

Ms. María del Carmen de Reparaz
Deputy Minister of Tourism
Ministry of Tourism

Delegates

Ms. María Soledad Acosta
Director of Development
PROMPERU

PUERTO RICO

Head of Delegation

Ms. Nildamarie Díaz Hiraldo
Directora Auxiliar Calidad Turística
Assistant Director for Tourism Quality

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Head of Delegation

Mr. Radhamés Martínez Aponte
Vice Minister of Tourism

Delegates

Mr. Gustavo Ricart
Assistant
Technical Vice Ministry of Tourism

URUGUAY

Head of Delegation

Mr. Raúl Pollak Giempietro
Ambassador to Haiti and Dominican Republic

3. Not CAM Members

SPAIN

Mr. Antonio López de Ávila
President

SEYCHELLES

Mr. Alain St. Ange
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Ministry of Tourism and Culture

4. Affiliate Members

CTICO

Mr. Edmund Bartlett
President

Mr. Ronald McKay
CEO

GWU

Mr. Donald Hawkins
Eisenhower Professor of Tourism

5. Observers

CNN

Ms. Anita Mendiratta
Lead Consultant

CTO

Mr. Hugh Riley

OECS

Ms. Lorraine Nicholas
Tourism Officer

SITCA

Ms. Anasha Campbell
Secretaria

6. World Tourism Organization

Mr. Taleb Rifai
Secretary General

Mr. Carlos Vogeler
Regional Director for the Americas

Mr. Alejandro Varela
Deputy Regional Director for the Americas

Ms. Johanne Thebaud
Chief of Protocol

Ms. Daniela Urcuyo
Regional Programme for the Americas