Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account

I. Election of a new chairperson and vice-chairperson

The committee members agree that Austria will chair the committee for the period 2016-2017, Spain will chair the committee for the period 2018-2019, Georgia will act as vice-chair for the period 2016-2019.

II. UN statistical activities

UN Member States referred to “the global indicator framework, to be developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)”. National statistical offices play the leading role in the IAEG-SDGs and thus in development of the indicator framework to ensure national ownership, however, regional and international organizations agencies, e.g. UNWTO, are included as observers.

III. Measuring Sustainable Tourism (MST) Project

UNWTO, jointly with the UN Statistics Division, set up a Working Group that will lead the development of the project, which has three main objectives: (1) develop and secure tourism indicators in the formal SDG indicator framework, (2) link the Tourism Satellite Account with environmental accounts (so-called System of Environmental Economic Accounts, SEEA) to underpin a statistical framework for sustainable tourism, and (3) integration of national, regional (subnational), and local scales.

The Working Group will report to the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Accounts and to the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting.

Conclusion of the discussions:

- The committee welcomes the initiative and supports.
- The committee also supports the scope and proposed approach of the project and encourages the UNWTO secretariat to continue the work as outlined in the concept note.
- The committee acknowledges the long-term goal of the project to propose international statistical standards for measuring sustainable tourism.
In this effort, the committee noted the importance of agreeing on what is understood as sustainability and its scope within this project, and mentioned that some of the challenges include: integration of sub-national level, availability of data, and taking into account both quantitative and qualitative aspects.

IV. Sub-national measurement of tourism and INRouTe

The committee welcomes the progress made by INRouTe in the preparation of the draft “Handbook on Regional Tourism”. The draft handbook will be reviewed by UNWTO and circulated during 2016 for consultation and the UNWTO Executive Committee (Malaga, 9-11 May 2016) will be informed accordingly.

The committee agrees to have STSA explore the possibility to present the final version of the “Handbook” as a background document to the UN Statistical Commission 2017 meeting and to the next UNWTO General Assembly in 2017.

The committee agrees for UNWTO to explore what future collaboration with INRouTe could look like along the programme of work 2016-2017 and in the coming years in order to guarantee successful implementation of sub-national measurement and analysis of tourism.