COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(a) Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms

Note by the Secretary-General

In the following document, the Secretary-General transmits to the General Assembly the report concerning the participation of the UNWTO in the principal coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system.
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I. DIRECTION

High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)

1. The Organization was represented by the Director of Administration at the thirteenth session of the HLCM held at Frascati, Italy, on 19 and 20 March 2007. Among the principal issues addressed by the session were: dialogue with representatives of staff associations, security and safety of staff, human resources issues and the creation of a Senior Management Network for the United Nations System. The Committee also learned of progress in the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) throughout the United Nations System which, it is hoped, can be implemented by 2010.

High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

2. The Director of Administration also represented the Organization at the thirteenth session of the HLCP held at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on 20 and 21 March 2007. Among issues of interest to UNWTO discussed at the session were: Results-based Management and programme evaluation, Employment and Decent Work (discussion led by ILO) and participation by UN agencies in ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council).

3. On 20 March 2007 a Joint Session of the HLCM and HLCP took place whose main task was to prepare for the Spring session of the CEB (Chief Executives Board for Coordination). The main item on the agenda concerned implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence with particular focus on business practices and pilot countries and “One UN” at country level. It will be recalled that the Secretary-General submitted to the Council’s seventy-ninth session UNWTO’s comments on the Panel’s report.
Meeting of the United Nations Development Group and United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination

4. The Secretary-General participated in the meeting of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination that was held on 20 April 2007 in Geneva at the invitation of the International Labour Organization, and which was capped on the 21st by the traditional "retreat" of its members. This meeting was chaired, for the first time, by the new United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

5. Of note among the subjects discussed were the follow-up to the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence and the reform of the CEB itself based on a report prepared by Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO, and Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the ILO, as well as the issue of climate change, to which the new Secretary-General attaches particular importance and for which he wishes to organize, at the highest possible level, a summit of heads of State and Government.

6. The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General of the UNWTO also participated on 19 April in the meeting of the United Nations Development Group, devoted mainly to the coherence of actions of the United Nations system in the field, based on experiences undertaken in an initial group of countries, as well as to the implementation by the UNDP of a major programme in support of the Millennium Development Goals, made possible by a large contribution from Spain.

Annual Meeting of Legal Advisers of the United Nations system

7. On 26 and 27 April 2007, the UNWTO hosted at its Headquarters in Madrid the annual meeting of Legal Advisers of the United Nations system, chaired by Mr. Nicolas Michel, Under-Secretary-General and Legal Counsel of the United Nations, which was attended by the Legal Adviser of the Organization. All of the specialized agencies and numerous organs of the United Nations, as well as several organizations related to the system but not forming part of it were represented. The Secretary-General welcomed the participants and Prof. Alain Pellet, Legal Adviser of the UNWTO, represented the Organization at the meeting.

8. As is the case each year, the meeting was extremely valuable to the participants on account of the personal contacts and the exchange of views regarding common concerns that it made possible. Several of the points considered could be, over more or less the long term, of interest to the Organization.
9. The Secretary-General and the Legal Adviser mentioned the difficulties encountered in obtaining the definitive adoption of the annex to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations of 1947 by the UN Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, the Legal Adviser took the opportunity of the consideration of agenda item 4 (Internet fraud using the UN name and emblem) to point out that, following the change of its English initials, the Organization intends to re-register its acronyms and emblem, which has changed since its initial registration, carried out in 1974, with the World Intellectual Property Organization.

10. On the occasion of the consideration of agenda item 6 (Briefing on the Secretary-General’s report on the Redesign Panel), the Legal Adviser raised the question of the transposition of the reform in progress of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal to the system of the ILO Tribunal under whose jurisdiction the UNWTO belongs, and expressed concern regarding the extreme heaviness and the cost of what is being considered, in particular for the small organizations. These concerns are shared by most of the other participants. If the movement toward an in-depth reform of the system is confirmed, a consultation between the UNWTO Administration and the Staff Association would be called for regarding this point.

11. The Legal Counsel of the United Nations and all of the participants of the meeting expressed their particular satisfaction and their great gratitude for the efficient and kind reception accorded to them by the UNWTO.

II. DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC MEASUREMENT OF TOURISM

12. The UNWTO Department of Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism wishes to inform UNWTO members of the meetings of the UN system it has attended since the last EC session.

Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism

13. The 8th meeting of the Committee was held at the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) headquarters in Lisbon, by invitation of INE and the Instituto de Turismo de Portugal, from 26 to 28 March 2007.

For more information, please visit our website at:
http://www.unwto.org/statistics/committee/8th_meeting.htm
United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)

14. The 38th session of the UNSC was held in New York from 26 February to 2 March 2007.

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

15. The 9th session of the CCSA was held in New York on 26 February 2007. Note: The 10th session of the CCSA will be held from 10-12 September 2007 at UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid.

Inter-agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics (IACG on TS)

16. The 6th meeting of the Group was held on 2 March 2007 in New York. The 3rd meeting of its Technical Sub-group (TSG) was held on 23 January 2007 at UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid.

Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TF on SITS)

17. The last meeting of the TF was held from 22-24 January 2007 at UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid.

UN Expert Group on Tourism Statistics

18. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) are jointly organizing a meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on Tourism Statistics to review, amend and endorse the provisional draft of *International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* which will be submitted to the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption (26-29 February 2008).

19. The provisional draft is being jointly prepared by UNSD and UNWTO on the basis of conclusions of the international workshop on tourism statistics held in Madrid on 17-20 July 2006, comments received from countries via an electronic forum conducted by the UNWTO, suggestions from participants of the 8th meeting of UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism (Lisbon, 26-28 March 2007) and recommendations of the Interagency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics. The Expert Group will be composed of representatives of National Statistical Offices, National Tourism Administrations and interested International Organizations. The Expert Group meeting is planned for 25-28 June 2007 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications

20. UNWTO was represented at the last meeting of the TSG, held on 19-23 June 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Cooperation with ILO: proposal for designing a statistical joint project (2007-2008) in the area of employment and decent work in tourism industries

21. The proposal includes the first set of mutual statistics-oriented initiatives geared towards elaboration of a joint biennial programme of work (2007-08) between the UNWTO Department of Statistics and Measurement of Tourism and the ILO Bureau of Statistics within the framework of the ILO Decent Work Agenda.

22. Phase 1: Methodological questionnaires on statistics on employment, wages and hours of work in the tourism industries. The questionnaires were sent out to over 200 countries (November 2006). 68 answers have been received so far and are now being analyzed.

23. Other initiatives will be carried out in 2007-2008.

III. VISIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR BAN KI-MOON, TO UNWTO HEADQUARTERS

24. The new Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, honoured UNWTO with a call during his first official visit to Spain on 5 June 2007. On the occasion of his stay in the Spanish capital, the UN Secretary-General was received at UNWTO Headquarters by the Secretary-General and Deputy-Secretary-General of UNWTO and all the staff, as well as by senior members of the Spanish Government, in particular Secretary of State for Tourism and Commerce Mr Pedro Mejía, and by members of the Diplomatic Corps. The text of Mr Ban Ki-Moon’s remarks on this occasion is attached.

IV. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Sixth annual meeting of the UN Communications Group

25. The sixth annual meeting of the UN Communications Group at the level of principals was held on 21 and 22 June 2007 in Madrid at the headquarters of UNWTO. Hosted by UNWTO, the meeting was chaired by its Assistant Secretary-General and Spokesperson, and attended by 37 UNCG member organizations.
The meeting agreed to:

1. Forward a note to the Chief Executives Board, urging it to establish a closer relationship between the UNCG and the High-Level Committee on Programmes, so that communications dimensions are taken into account when policy issues are brought before the Chief Executives Board.

2. Participate in Expo 2010 in Shanghai under a common UN pavilion. UNCG partners will confirm their participation and appoint individual focal points.

3. Formally establish a communications task force on climate change and limit its membership to a maximum of 15 entities.

4. Strengthen the UNCG task force on MDGs to coordinate system-wide activities around MDGs mid-point review, including the 2007 Stand UP against Poverty campaign (16 – 17 October).

5. Create a smaller working group on pandemic flu, as an adjunct to the UNCG task force, to serve as a “one stop shop” for sharing and dissemination of information.

6. Establish a UNCG task force on human rights in connection with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

7. Revive, under the leadership of DPI, the UNCG task force on public opinion polls.

8. Reinstate the International Court of Justice as a full member of UNCG.

9. Consider ways to bring principals together for discussion in between-annual session meetings, including in the margins of UNGA sessions in New York and ECOSOC sessions in New York and Geneva.