Seventy-fourth session
Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 2-3 December 2004
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

ST-EP INITIATIVE

Note by the Secretary-General

The purpose of this document is to inform the Executive Council about the actions undertaken to implement this initiative.
POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH TOURISM, INCLUDING ST-EP INITIATIVE

- The ST-EP initiative, approved by the Beijing Assembly remains firmly on track.

- On the basis of a "roadmap" the Secretary General was requested to establish a Foundation, secure funds and put in place the organizational structure to deliver a complete system for approval by the Assembly 2005. Progress reports have been given to Regional Commissions and the Executive Council.

- This period until the Assembly can be viewed as the "start up" phase. It will see legal creation of the Foundation, its office set up/operation, establishment of the Foundation Council and first meeting, the public representation & relationship building with donors, sponsors and related research/operational activities.

- There will be substantial coordination activities to be undertaken globally during this period related to the ultimate agreed interface with WTO and other institutional ST-EP partners (UN and other agencies), new funding partners (public and private sector), as well as with external stakeholders. The Secretary General will oversee this activity to ensure seamless integration and his Special Advisor will to continue to lead the STEP program.

- Key developments since the session of the Executive Council held in Hyderabad are:
  - The Agreement with the Republic of Korea to host “the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation was signed on 24 September 2004. The first instalment on the committed $5 million has been deposited in a WTO ST-EP Foundation account in Seoul ($2 million). A draft constitution was formulated for the Foundation in accordance with Korean law and relevant UN procedures. (Annex 1)
  - An Agreement has been signed with SNV (Netherlands Development Agency) to collaborate on ST-EP projects through contributions in kind (Annex 2). Discussions are in progress to enlarge the scope of this initial agreement, which will include a Dutch contribution of 2 million euros to support WTO’s technical assistance linked to ST-EP. Contacts are in hand with other agencies.
  - Macau has contributed to the ST-EP Foundation with an initial amount of $200,000 in November 2004.
As decided by the Council, WTO’s contribution of $500,000 has been charged to the technical cooperation budget for financing projects under the ST-EP initiative.

A Foundation Preparatory Committee under the joint chairmanship of the Secretary General and Ambassador Dho has been established and met in September to frame the draft constitution, budget, and governance. A Headquarters agreement for the ST-EP Foundation was signed with the Government of the Republic of Korea (Annex 3).

WTO is developing operating procedures for the ST-EP initiative, the interface with the Foundation, pilot projects and linkage with evolving poverty, sustainability and technical assistance programs.

WTO missions have been fielded to Ethiopia and Cameroon to identify possible pilot ST-EP projects on the basis agreed at Hyderabad Executive Council session. 15 such preliminary projects have been formulated so that when the Foundation and the funds are in place, a project portfolio for immediate action will be ready. A pilot program for Vietnam is under development with VNAT and SNV, and a mission to Zambia is taking place early December 2004.

WTO has engaged with the international, regional and national development financing agencies to establish a coordination framework for development projects – including ST-EP projects to avoid duplication/overlap and to leverage operational and financial synergies. A very successful Conference and development agency meeting was held in Washington DC in October 2004.

The government of Jordan has agreed to host the inaugural ST-EP Council Meeting in the spring of 2005.

The WTO Secretariat has continued promoting the concept of Poverty Alleviation through Tourism, and the ST-EP initiative. In this connection, WTO senior officials have actively participated at the following events:

- Regional Microcredit Summit for Africa and the Middle East (Amman, Jordan, October 2004)
- Euromeeting of Regions. Sustainable Tourism (Florence, Italy, November 2004)
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – Sub-Committee on Tourism (Rhodes, Greece, November 2004).
Constitution of the UN-WTO ST-EP FOUNDATION

PREAMBLE

The UN-WTO ST-EP Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “ST-EP Foundation”) is an international not-for-profit foundation established under the initiative of the World Tourism Organization (hereinafter referred to as “WTO”), a Specialized Agency of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as “UN”), to contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals, with the aim to promote poverty elimination through sustainable tourism development that can be carried out together with the preservation of culture and the natural environment.

The ST-EP Foundation shall contribute to the safeguarding of natural and cultural heritage and to socio-economic development by cooperating with international organizations, governments and related authorities, foundations, corporations, associations and individuals who are willing to contribute to countries and mankind through the Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty Initiative (hereinafter referred to as “ST-EP Initiative”).

ARTICLE I
TITLE

The title of the foundation will be the UN-WTO ST-EP Foundation as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Korea and the WTO.
ARTICLE II
STATUS AND CAPACITY

1. The ST-EP Foundation shall operate under Korean laws, as an autonomous organization which is international in status and non-political in management, staffing and operations and shall have full juridical personality and legal capacity for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its aims.

2. The ST-EP Foundation shall have the capacity to:

   (i) receive, acquire or otherwise lawfully obtain from any governmental authority or from any corporation, company, association, person, firm, foundation or other entity, whether international, regional or national, by donation, grant, exchange, bequest, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in trust, contributions consisting of such properties, real, personal, or mixed including funds and valuable effects or items, as may be useful or necessary to pursue its aims and activities and to hold, operate, administer, or use of the said assets;
   (ii) enter into agreements and contracts;
   (iii) employ persons according to its own regulations;
   (iv) institute and defend in, legal proceedings; and
   (v) perform all acts and functions as may be found necessary, expedient, suitable or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment or attainment of any or all of the purposes and activities herein stated.

ARTICLE III
HEADQUARTERS AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The main office of the ST-EP Foundation shall be located within the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as “Host Government”) and if necessary, subsidiary offices or bodies may be established in locations within and outside of the Republic of Korea.
ARTICLE IV
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The ST-EP Foundation provides support to countries and organizations for the conduct of research and development projects that aim at eliminating poverty through sustainable tourism development programmes and projects.

The ST-EP Foundation is a vital complementary institution which enhances the value of the WTO Sustainable Tourism Development Programme for poverty elimination.

The ST-EP Foundation shall fully cooperate with the UN-WTO in determining the technical aspects and other areas of its programmes that relate to the mandate of the UN-WTO.

ARTICLE V
ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

The ST-EP Foundation shall focus on work to encourage tourism that is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable, and that contributes to eliminating poverty.

To accomplish this it may:

1) strengthen international cooperation and forge new relations to achieve poverty alleviation objectives through sustainable tourism development in developing countries
2) conduct promotions, events, fund-raising activities and other self-financed operations to reinforce ST-EP’s own image and brand
3) implement ST-EP projects through close coordination with the UN-WTO
4) support research and tourism projects that are in line with the UN Millennium Development Goals and meet UN standards
5) cooperate and carry out projects with countries, international organizations and associations, and corporations focusing on sports, culture, education, human resource development as they relate to poverty elimination
6) provide training, operational support, technical assistance, human resources development and tourism development programmes for alleviating poverty, including the identification of tourism investment opportunities and the preparation of investment plans, for developing countries
7) conduct research and forums linked with the public, private and international community and publish reports with their results
8) implement other activities in line with the aims of the ST-EP Foundation.

ARTICLE VI
ORGANIZATION

The organization of the ST-EP Foundation shall consist of:

1. The Board of Governors
2. The ST-EP Council
3. Chief Executive Officer, Director General and Staff

ARTICLE VII
COMPOSITION

1. The Board of Governors is composed of:
   - The Chairperson of the WTO Executive Council
   - One Representative from the Government of the Republic of Korea
   - The Secretary-General of WTO
   - The Chief Executive Officer of the ST-EP Foundation
   - The Director-General of the ST-EP Foundation
   - Two members elected by the ST-EP Council, representing respectively, donors and beneficiary countries

The ST-EP Council may decide to increase the number of Governors to nine if
2. The ST-EP council is constituted by considering the provision of contributions to the ST-EP Foundation. Agencies and countries that provide a minimum of USD one million dollars, in cash or in kind, have the right to designate a Council member for a two-year period, renewable if the contribution is renewed.

In addition, the ST-EP Council will include:

- Senior personalities from various fields of activity with international renown
- One representative from the UN Secretary General
- One representative from the WTO Secretary General
- One representative from the host Government
- Seven representatives of the WTO Member States (one from each Regional Commission plus an additional member from Africa) representing the ST-EP beneficiary countries.

ARTICLE VIII
FUNCTION AND POWERS

1. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The functions of the Board of Governors in relation to the operations of the ST-EP Foundation shall be as follows:

1) Define ways and means to achieve the objectives of the ST-EP Foundation
2) Approve plans and programmes for the implementation of its activities and projects
3) Review the ST-EP Foundation’s cost-effectiveness, financial integrity and transparency
4) Approve ST-EP budget and accounts
5) Appoint an external auditor and a legal advisor
6) Appoint the Chief Executive Officer and the Director-General of the ST-EP Foundation
7) Approve the organizational framework of the ST-EP Foundation
8) Approve personnel policies and basic salaries of the ST-EP Foundation staff.
9) Approve capital investment of the ST-EP Foundation
10) Approve the establishment of subsidiary offices of the ST-EP Foundation
11) Perform all other acts that may be considered necessary, suitable and proper for the attainment of the aims of the ST-EP Foundation

2. ST-EP COUNCIL

The ST-EP Council shall:

1) Establish the overall policy of the ST-EP Foundation.
2) Define the priorities of actions to be undertaken at different periods.
3) Evaluate in an over-all manner whether the ST-EP Foundation is operating in line with its objectives and implementation plans.
4) Provide recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding the activities of the Foundation.
5) Promote fund-raising and resource-mobilization activities.
6) Establish such other subsidiary committees as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.
7) Perform all other acts that may be considered necessary, suitable and proper for the attainment of the aims of the ST-EP Foundation.

The ST-EP Council will meet at least once a year.
ARTICLE IX
PROCEDURES

1. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1) The Board of Governors shall elect one member among the Governors as Chairman. The term of the Chairman shall be three years and the Chairman is eligible for re-election for subsequent terms.

2) The term for elected Governors (i.e. those representing donors and beneficiary countries) is three years. Governors may be reappointed for a second term.

3) In the case of a vacancy of one of the elected Governors by reason of their retirement, death, incapacity, or any other cause, he/she will be replaced by another person elected by the Council from the corresponding group.

4) The Board of Governors shall hold two regular meetings annually.

5) In addition, the Board of Governors may hold additional meetings at the request of three governors or at the Chairman’s initiative.

6) When a regular or additional meeting of the Board of Governors is held, the date, location and agenda of the meeting shall be informed to all Governors and the WTO at least one month in advance.

7) The quorum required for the meetings of the Board of Directors is five members. Members may participate by means of video-conference technology.

8) The decisions of the Board of Governors shall be made by simple majority vote of the Governors present. In case of a ballot, the vote of the Chairman will decide.
2. ST-EP COUNCIL

1) The ST-EP Council shall elect at each session one of its members as Chairperson, and will continue in that position until the following session of the ST-EP Council. The Chairman will inform about the decisions taken by the Council at the following session of the Board of Governors.

2) The ST-EP Council shall hold one regular meeting annually and may hold additional meetings at the request of 1/3 of its members or at the Chairperson’s initiative.

3) When a regular or additional meeting of the ST-EP Council is held, the date, location and agenda of the meeting all members and the WTO shall be informed one month in advance.

4) The decisions of the ST-EP Council shall be made by simple majority vote of the members present. In case of a tie, the vote of the Chairman will decide.

ARTICLE X
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1) The Chief Executive Officer of the ST-EP Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “CEO”) shall be appointed by the Board of Governors. The CEO shall be appointed for a term of three years and is eligible for reappointment for subsequent terms.

2) The CEO shall prepare project plans, budget and annual reports for review and approval by the Board of Governors and the ST-EP Council.

3) The CEO shall maintain close cooperation by regularly holding meetings with the UN-WTO, reporting to the General Assembly every two years, and to the WTO
Executive Council if requested.

4) The CEO may sign contracts and agreements which affect the objectives, location, expansion of the ST-EP Foundation and regarding major issues concerning the ST-EP Foundation, with prior approval from the Board of Governors

2. DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1) The Director-General of the ST-EP Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Director-General") shall be appointed by the Board of Governors in consultation with the Host Government. The term of the Director-General is three years. The Director-General is eligible for reappointment to subsequent terms.

2) The Director-General shall see to it that the objectives of the ST-EP Foundation are carried out efficiently and shall be responsible for the daily operation and management of the ST-EP Foundation.

3) The Director-General may sign legal documents that are necessary to ensure the normal operation of the ST-EP Foundation and as the occasion demands, major issues shall be subject to approval by the CEO.

4) The Director-General shall assist the CEO in the exercise of his/her functions and powers.

ARTICLE XI

STAFF

1. The Staff shall be appointed by the CEO upon the recommendation of the Director General.

2. The paramount consideration in the employment of staff and in the determination of the conditions of work shall be the highest standard of quality, integrity, efficiency and competence.
3. Salary scales, insurance, pension schemes and other terms of employment shall be laid down in staff regulations, and shall in principle be internationally competitive and comparable with those of the United Nations and affiliated institutions and other relevant international organizations.

ARTICLE XII
FINANCING

1. The budget of the ST-EP Foundation shall be funded by states, international organizations, corporations, individuals and other public or private institutions that voluntarily contribute with cash contributions, endowments, dues and allotments.

2. The budget of the ST-EP Foundation shall be appropriated with the legal fruit from the assets and the contributions, endowments and income from the fund appropriation projects and other projects.

3. The financial operations of the ST-EP Foundation shall be governed by financial regulations adopted by the Board of Governors.

4. An annual audit of the operations of the ST-EP Foundation shall be conducted by an independent international accounting firm appointed by the Board of Governors. The audit report reviewed by the Board of Governors shall be reported to the ST-EP Council and the UN-WTO.

5. No part of the funds of ST-EP shall be used to the benefit of, or be distributable to, members of the ST-EP Council, Governors of the Board of Governors, CEO and ST-EP’s staff and other private persons, except that ST-EP shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of its aims. The travel and associated expenses of the Governors to attend Board meetings may also be covered by the Foundation.
ARTICLE XIII
1) ACCOUNTING

1. Asset Categorization

1) The assets of the ST-EP Foundation shall be divided into permanent assets and operating assets.
2) The following will be considered as permanent assets and the rest will be operating assets:
   i) Asset contributed as permanent assets when the Foundation was established
   ii) Assets acquired through contribution or without compensation
   iii) Assets declared by the Board of Governors as permanent assets

2. Asset Management

The maintenance, preservation and management of permanent property is subject to the decision of the Board of Governors.

3. Asset Evaluation

Evaluation of all the assets of the ST-EP Foundation shall be effected at the market price of the asset when it was acquired, provided that if the asset was re-valuated, than it shall be done as the re-valuated value.

4. Operating Financial Resource

Operating assets, legal fruits of permanent assets, business income and other income shall appropriate the expenses required to maintain and run the ST-EP Foundation.

5. Categorization of Accounting

The Accounting of the ST-EP Foundation shall be divided into General Project Accounting and Goal Project Accounting.
6. **Accounting Principle**
   The Accounting of the ST-EP Foundation shall be in accordance with the International Accounting Standard.

7. **Fiscal Year**
   The Fiscal Year of the ST-EP Foundation shall be the same as the Host Government.

**ARTICLE XIV**
**ST-EP ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1. The WTO Committee on Sustainable Development of Tourism will act as ST-EP Advisory Committee.


**ARTICLE XV**
**PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

1. The ST-EP Foundation may conclude with the Host Government and other states that suit its goals agreements relating to the facilities, privileges and immunities that are granted to individual members of the Foundation. i.e., Governors, the CEO, the Director-General, staff of ST-EP and the experts performing missions on behalf of the ST-EP Foundation for the purpose of exercising official duties.

2. The privileges and immunities are granted in the interest of the ST-EP Foundation and not for personal benefit.

**ARTICLE XVI**
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In order to achieve its objectives in the most efficient way, the ST-EP Foundation may enter into agreements for cooperation with relevant countries, regions, international organizations, both public and private foundations and associations.

ARTICLE XVII
AMENDMENTS

1. The Constitution may be amended by the Board of Governors by a 2/3 majority of the members present and voting. The proposed amendments of the Constitution together with its full text shall be notified to all the Governors at least two weeks in advance of the Board of Governors meeting.

2. The amended Constitution with the approval of the Board of Governors shall be submitted to the ST-EP Council for approval by a 2/3 majority of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE XVIII
DISSOLUTION

1. The ST-EP Foundation may be dissolved by a ¾ majority of all voting members of the ST-EP Council, if it is determined that the purposes of the ST-EP Foundation have been achieved to a satisfactory degree or if it is determined that the ST-EP Foundation will no longer be able to function effectively.

2. In the case of dissolution, any land, buildings and movable assets situated on the territory of the host government, shall revert to the host government. Other assets of the Foundation shall be used for similar purposes or distributed to institutions having purposes similar to those of the ST-EP Foundation to institutions having purposes similar to those of the ST-EP Foundation in accordance with the consultations between the Host Government and WTO.
ANNEX 2

Memorandum of Understanding

WTO – World Tourism Organization
SNV – Netherlands Development Organization

The Hague, November 11 2004
The mission of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) is to promote and develop sustainable tourism as a significant means of fostering international peace and understanding, economic development and international trade. Sustainable tourism is a form of tourism that respects the environment and cultural values and stimulates an exchange of experiences between peoples of the world. In the context of development it is important to recognize that sustainable tourism is to have a positive impact on the reduction of poverty.

At the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, WTO launched the ST-EP (Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty) Initiative which will focus on longstanding work to encourage tourism development that is sustainable – from the social, economic and ecological points of view – and which specifically alleviates poverty, bringing development and jobs to people living on less than a dollar a day. It will target the world's poorest countries, particularly in Africa and developing states in general.

SNV – Netherlands Development Organization is a Dutch development assistance organization focusing on the provision of advisory services to meso-level organizations in developing countries with the broad objectives to improve organizational and institutional capacities, improve local governance and reduce poverty.

SNV – Netherlands Development Organization has a proven track record in working in various developing countries on sustainable tourism activities including the support of the national tourism authorities, local businesses and the elaboration of strategic and operational sustainable tourism development programs.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to document and substantiate the already existing working relationship between WTO and SNV, as well as to serve as a guideline for expanding the working relationship of the WTO and the SNV, with a view to help increase overall efficiency and effectiveness in each organisation’s field of operation, with specific reference to pro poor sustainable tourism in developing countries. Both organizations are committed to work together on various programs to strengthen the impact of their actions with a final objective to contribute to poverty reduction.

Scope

The MOU includes all activities in which WTO and SNV can achieve mutual synergy and increased effectiveness, with specific reference to activities in the field of sustainable tourism.
Specific references for the entire duration of the MOU are made to the following areas of cooperation:

1. Programmatic operations –

While both organisations will continue to establish their own operations with regard to sustainable tourism in favour of the poor in developing and least developed countries, this MOU underscores the commitment of the organisations to engage into joint action wherever and whenever possible. Special reference is made to the current SNV regional pro poor sustainable tourism activities in West Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, South – East Asia, The Himalayan region, the Andes / Amazon region as well as the mid-American region. Any planned WTO – ST-EP mission or project in these regions and countries will be communicated in advance to SNV and vice-versa, in order to seek adequate coordination and/or joint actions.

2. Knowledge management and dissemination –

Both organisations will continue to develop their own knowledge base, as well as providing their knowledge services to governments, NGOs and other agencies interested in sustainable tourism. This MOU underscores the commitment of the organisations to engage in stronger cooperation in knowledge management and dissemination. As a matter of priority; each organisation will invite the other for participation in relevant workshops, seminars, meetings; the possibilities to establish a joint website will be explored; joint studies to improve the knowledge base may be undertaken; cross-referencing to each other’s relevant publications will be taken on as a matter of compliance; distribution of each other’s publications will be explored.

3. Resource mobilisation –

Each organisation depends – to some extent – on resources provided by third parties. As soon as feasible, joint action to mobilise additional resources for joint activities will be planned and undertaken. Specific reference is made here to the ST-EP programme of WTO, to which SNV feels committed.

4. Human resource management –

Both organisations have a professional and qualified set of technical advisors and network of consultants. Where feasible and relevant, each other’s advisory capacity will be deployed.

5. Financial management –

This MOU does not include financial commitments between the two organisations, although these could be explored in the future. For each activity or series of activities that may result from the execution of this MOU, separate contractual agreements will be applied. In principle, each organisation will cover the cost of inputs in workshops, seminars and
CE/74/12
Annex 2
Identification missions from its own means, whereas financial arrangements
on a cost-sharing basis can be made for technical assistance inputs in the
implementation of ST-EP programs.

Contact persons

For the purposes of this MoU, the following focal points are designated by
each organization:
WTO: Mr. Eugenio Yunis, Chief, Sustainable Development of Tourism
Department
SNV: Mr. Marcel Leijzer, Senior Policy Officer Sustainable Tourism

Duration and Termination of the MOU

This MOU becomes effective on the date of signature by both parties. Either
party, upon a 90-days written notice to the other party, may terminate the
agreement, without liability, at any time and for any reason it deems
convenient. Unless earlier terminated, this MOU remains in effect for a
period of three years from the date of signature.

Reconciliation of disagreements

Any disagreement will normally be resolved amicably at working level. If
this is not possible, the focal points will seek to settle the issue and ensure
a mutually satisfactory solution. Senior management of both parties will be
involved as necessary.

Review of the MOU

The MOU will be reviewed for accuracy an on annual basis and if necessary
following pertinent changes in policies, procedures and structures of the
parties involved. Review of this agreement may be instigated by either
organisation.
Signatories

The signing of this MOU implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

On behalf of the Organisation I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

For WTO - World Tourism Organisation:

Signature: ..........................................................

Name: Francesco Frangialli
Title: Secretary General
Place: The Hague
Date: 11-11-2004

For SNV - Netherlands Development Organisation:

Signature: ..........................................................

Name: Dirk Elsen
Title: Chairman, Board of Directors
Place: The Hague
Date: 11-11-2004

Witness:

Signature: ..........................................................

Name: Agnes van Ardenne
Title: Minister of Development Cooperation
Place: The Hague
Date: 11-11-2004
ANNEX 3

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ST-EP FOUNDATION
AND ITS HEADQUARTERS

The Government of the Republic of Korea (hereafter "Korea") and the World Tourism Organization (hereafter "WTO"),

Desiring to encourage international cooperation in developing sustainable tourism to help eliminate poverty

Recalling the launch of the ST-EP project at the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002 and the declaration by the Secretary General of the United Nations that ST-EP will promote economically and ecologically sustainable tourism, aimed at alleviating poverty and bringing jobs to people in developing countries, which objectives are consistent with the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Taking into consideration Resolution A/RES/471(XV) adopted by the General Assembly of WTO in Beijing in October 2003, which

"Considered the report on the ST-EP initiative (Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty) submitted by the Secretary-General under the proposal formulated by his Special Advisor, and the plan proposed for the implementation of the initiative.

Notes with appreciation the efforts devoted and the actions taken to ensure completion of the ST-EP framework in time for its fifteenth session;

Welcomes the partnership established with UNCTAD;

Approves the plan submitted to it for the completion of the initiative and its subsequent implementation from 2004 onwards;

Concurs with the proposal for a ST-EP Forum to exchange views and coordinate activities between participants in the initiative;

Agrees to the continuation of actions aimed at establishing a ST-EP Foundation whose board of directors should be composed of eminent persons who are qualified with regard to its purpose;

Entrusts the Secretary-General with taking the necessary measures to secure the necessary funding and to implement the initiative, and

Requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress of the ST-EP initiative at its sixteenth session."
Taking note of the support expressed for the ST-EP project by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Kofi A. Annan in the letter addressed to the Secretary-General of WTO in 2004.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The Foundation

WTO will establish the ST-EP Foundation with its Headquarters in the Republic of Korea.

It will be a non-profit charitable Foundation under Korean laws, fully compatible with relevant international laws, and established with the capacity to stand alone, while retaining links with the WTO, its founder.

The Organs of the Foundation shall be the President of the ST-EP Foundation, representing the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Council of Leaders, consisting of representatives of founding contributing member countries and international personalities, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ST-EP Foundation.

WTO shall be represented in the ST-EP Foundation by its Secretary-General in the capacity of Commissioner.

WTO and Korea will give the Foundation all possible and appropriate support and will promote its activities and programs in a feasible and appropriate manner.

The President will lead the Foundation in its quest for Patrimony.

The Chairperson of the Council will preside over the Council of Leaders, which will normally be held once a year.

The CEO will direct the activities of the Foundation, with a view to securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The CEO will report regularly to the Secretary-General about the activities of the Foundation so that he may inform the Executive Council & the General Assembly about the progress of the ST-EP Program.

The terms of the officers (namely the President, the Chairperson and the CEO) will run from WTO Assembly to Assembly and will be renewable for a maximum of three consecutive terms.

The CEO will submit projects to the Council of Leaders for consideration following approval by the President and the Commissioner.

Article 2. Korean Support

Korea will facilitate the establishment of the ST-EP Foundation and the location of its Headquarters in Seoul.
Korea will provide seed funding of $US 5 million to the Foundation - $2 million following signature of this agreement and $1 million a year annually thereafter for 3 years. It will support the drive for new funding to establish a Patrimony of $20 million by 2010. It will use its good offices to support the link with sports and cultural tourism initiatives.

Korea shall provide to the Foundation full support for establishment and operations in Seoul, according to international conditions applicable to WTO as a UN Agency.

Article 3. WTO Support

WTO will provide technical and expert assistance in support of the Foundation activities – particularly in relation to its Research and Operations Award projects.

WTO, with the approval of its Executive Council, will provide in 2004 $500,000 for ST-EP projects without prejudice to other contributions which may be made in subsequent years.

The Officers of the Foundation will be invited to attend the meetings of the General Assembly, of the Executive Council and of the relevant Regional Commissions meetings as Observers when issues related to the Foundation are on the agenda.

Article 4. Foundation Actions

The Foundation will, as rapidly as possible:

Establish the Council of Leaders,

Secure and maintain funds for the ST-EP Program,

Disburse such Funds Annually for ST-EP Research and Operations,

Advance ST-EP Brand, Research, Principles & Model Programs through an annual high profile media event, with a lecture by a top-level global leader and awards presentation


Article 5. WTO Coordination

The Foundation will perform its functions in close coordination with the WTO so as to:

Support research & tourism projects that meet ethical standards, in line with the UN Millennium Development Goals and the WTO Global Code of Ethics and which link sustainable tourism with poverty elimination.

Help Inform public opinion on the importance of sustainable tourism projects in developing countries generally and the world’s poorest countries specifically. And promote ST-EP as a Global Brand of ethical & effective projects which sustainably reduce poverty.
Acquire & administer such assets needed to accomplish its mission, while limiting its annual administration expenses to less than 5% of its patrimony goal. In this context, to particularly focus on the links with other sectors such as culture and sports.

Co-operate with other international bodies in the public, private, NGO and Voluntary sectors, working towards similar goals;

Article 6. Transition

The Secretary General of WTO, in full consultation with the Korean Ministry of Culture and Tourism will appoint the officers of the Foundation namely, the Founding President, the Chairperson of the Council and the CEO until the WTO 2005 General Assembly. They, together with the Secretary-General, will form the preparatory committee to prepare Council nominations, source further funding, fulfill Foundation legal requirements & administrative arrangements for the Headquarters.

Simultaneously, the 2004 initial seed funding of $2 million will be made available by Korea to WTO. These funds will be disbursed under standard WTO administrative procedures for voluntary contributions based on a 12 month budget agreed with the Secretary-General and reported to the Executive Council.

The Preparatory Committee Office will open in May 2004. The detailed standards of Foundation development, sponsorship approaches, project implementation and research criteria will be developed; and the ST-EP program will go into full operation as envisioned during 2005. Events for fundraising will commence as soon as possible. Beginning in 2006, WTO will facilitate the integration of ST-EP Research and Operations with Seoul, including international & qualified Koreans as officers and staff.

Article 7. Effectiveness

The present Agreement shall become effective provisionally upon signature by both sides.

It shall enter into force permanently on the date when both sides shall have officially confirmed they have completed the formalities required by their respective laws and statutory provisions and when formally ratified by the WTO General Assembly.

Either side may terminate this Agreement with a one-year notice, following the initial 4 year funding period. In the event of termination both parties shall continue to use their good offices to support the goals, principles and activities of the ST-EP Foundation.

Done at Seoul on 25th March 2004.

For the Government of the Republic of Korea

For the World Tourism Organization

[Signatures]

Minister Of Culture and Tourism

Secretary General