UNWTO Convention on the Protection of Tourists and the Rights and Obligations of Tourism Service Providers

59th Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Africa, Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia, 19 April 2017
2010: Icelandic volcano ash cloud caused chaos:

- Over 10 millions of passengers were stranded or unable to board flights not only in Europe but across the world.
- Some hotels received fewer incoming tourists, others increased prices to take advantage of stranded tourists.
Objectives of the Working Group

WG Members: Representatives of States, International Organizations and Private Sector

Discuss

• “Content” and “Form” of the draft Convention

Submit

• Wording proposals
  • Comments/concerns
  • Suggestions

Adoption

• Make compromise
  • Endeavour to reach an internal Agreement
Timeline of the meetings

- **6 Years** of work in this project
- **11 Working Group** Meetings
- **16 States** + **1 Associate Member**
- **3 International Organizations** (EC, ICAO, IATA)
- **15 Representatives** of the **Private Sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>1WG, 2WG, 3WG, 4WG, 5WG</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>6WG, 7WG, 8WG, 9WG, 10WG, 11WG</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Approval Package Travel Directive</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>PUBLIC CONSULTATION</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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Public Consultation: Replies 32 States + 1 Associate
Replies from Africa: Kenya, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

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Content of the Convention

General Part of the Convention
- Preamble
- Legal articles

Annex I
 Assistance obligation of States in Emergency Situations
- Standards: Binding Rules
- Recommended Practices

Annex II
 Package Travel
- Standards: Binding Rules
- Recommended Practices

Annex III
 Accommodation
- Standards: Binding Rules
- Recommended Practices
Next Steps

➢ **Report to the EC:** May 2017

➢ **GA:** September 2017

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Main Challenges

- **Long-term project**
  A treaty making process requires many years of discussions, negotiations and consultations with Governments.

- **Achieve global consensus:**
  Diverging interests in the Convention:

  - Regional interests
  - National interests
  - Private Sector’s interests
Thank you!