What is the World Committee on Tourism Ethics?

Established in 2003, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE) is an independent and impartial body under the aegis of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a specialized Agency of the United Nations responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

The Committee is a subsidiary organ of the UNWTO General Assembly to which it reports on a regular basis.

Mandate

The WCTE is mandated to raise awareness, promote and monitor the implementation of the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

The Code, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, addresses the socio-economic, cultural and environmental aspects of tourism and aims to guide all stakeholders in the development of sustainable and responsible tourism.

Vision

The WCTE vision is to uplift the ethical dimension of tourism as a fundamental pillar of sustainable tourism development.

Objectives

WCTE works to promote and ensure the inclusion of socially responsible policies and fair practices in tourism development among all stakeholders – governments, companies, host communities and tourists.
Priorities for 2018-2021

In addition to the long-term goal of advancing responsible and ethical tourism, the current WCTE has identified the following priority areas of work for its 2018-2021 mandate:

1. Technology and digital platforms in tourism
2. Over-tourism and impact on host communities
3. Decent work and inclusive growth
4. Gender equality and socio-economic empowerment

Composition

The present Committee* was appointed by the 22nd General Assembly in September 2017, and is constituted of eight permanent and three alternate members in addition to the Chairperson. All Members of the Committee serve in their personal capacities.

The office of the Chairperson is currently held by Mr Pascal Lamy, the former Director-General of World Trade Organization (WTO).

*Members of the WCTE: Chairperson, Pascal Lamy; Members: I Gede Ardika, Yoshiaki Hompo, Fiona Jeffery, Rosette Rugamba, Jean-Marc Mignon, Tanja Mihalic, Ron Oswald and Eugenio Yunis; Alternate members: Hiran Cooray, Suzy Hatough and Günnür Diker.