

**PROTOCOL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR TOURISM**

**Part I (rev.)**

**World Committee on Tourism Ethics-  
Body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the  
Global Code of Ethics for Tourism**

(adopted by the General Assembly resolution 607(XIX) in October 2011)

- (a) A World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall be created comprising nine eminent nationals, preferably from the Member States of UNWTO, independent from governments and with no contractual relationship with UNWTO, who are appointed by the General Assembly in their personal capacity. They shall serve the Committee with independence and impartiality and shall not report to and shall not seek nor receive any orders or instructions from any authority other than the World Committee on Tourism Ethics or the General Assembly of UNWTO.
- (b) The functions of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall be:
- i. monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
  - ii. the research and issuance of reports, recommendations and observations on ethical matters related to tourism; and
  - iii. the proposal and approval of texts of conventions and other legal instruments on specific issues related to the Code of Ethics provisions.
- (c) A Permanent Secretariat of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, hosted by the Italian Department of Tourism, is established in Rome whose tasks are to: (i) promote and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism among Member States and Affiliate members, (ii) provide research and data collection on ethical questions, and (iii) organize, in Italy, meetings of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics and international events related to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.”
- (d) The members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall be appointed as follows:
- Nominations to the Committee may be presented by the Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of UNWTO, as well as by the Secretary-General;
  - A selection board shall be established by the General Assembly and composed of the Chair of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Executive Council and the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members, the Secretary-General and the Legal Adviser of UNWTO. The selection board will examine the proposed nominations in order to recommend to the General Assembly the names of the nine personalities to be appointed by the latter to serve on the Committee as follows:

- i. eight candidates to serve as members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics; and
  - ii. one candidate to serve as chairperson;
- In the same way, the names of candidates will be submitted to the General Assembly to replace members whose terms of office have expired or who have resigned or otherwise ceased to be available;
  - The Executive Council may designate an observer to the Committee.

The UNWTO Secretary-General or his/her representative, as well as a representative of the Permanent Secretariat in Rome, will attend the meetings of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics *ex officio*. The Legal Adviser of the World Tourism Organization shall participate in an advisory capacity, in the Committee meetings.

On selecting and appointing the members of the Committee, account shall be taken of the need for a balanced composition of this body from a regional, gender and sectorial perspective, and for a diversification of the qualifications and personal status of its members, from the economic, environmental and social as well as legal viewpoint. The members shall be appointed for four years and their term of office may be renewed only once.

The members of the Committee are re-appointed by half every two years.

- (e) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall establish its own Rules of Procedure, and refer them to the General Assembly.
- (f) A majority presence of the Committee members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at its meetings; in the event that a member is absent, he/she will not be represented by a substitute at meetings; the Committee shall make its best efforts to adopt its decisions by consensus; however, in the event of a tie in the voting, the chairperson shall have the casting vote;
- (g) UNWTO shall undertake to cover the travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances occasioned by the participation in the meetings of the nine members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics; it being understood that the members of the Committee shall not receive any remuneration; the secretariat of the Committee shall be provided by the services of the UNWTO Secretariat and by the Permanent Secretariat of Rome; the operating costs remaining payable by the Organization may, wholly or in part, be charged to a trust fund financed by voluntary contributions.
- (h) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall meet at least once a year. These meetings will be held at UNWTO Headquarters or at the Permanent Secretariat in Rome, unless it is decided otherwise, provided the host country covers the costs and expenses involved in holding the meeting at a different venue.
- (i) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics may invite experts or external institutions to contribute to its proceedings.

- (j) On the basis of periodic reports submitted to them by Full Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members of UNWTO, the UNWTO Regional Commissions shall, every two years, examine the application of the Code in their respective regions; they shall record their findings in a report to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics.
  - (k) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall exercise a global function as an observatory for the challenges encountered in implementing the Code and for proposed recommendations; it shall summarize the reports drawn up by the Regional Commissions and supplement them with the information it has collected with the assistance of the Secretary-General and the support of the Board of Affiliate Members.
  - (l) The Secretary-General shall refer the report of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics to the General Assembly, together with his/her own observations. The General Assembly shall decide what follow-up action to take on the report and the recommendations thus submitted to it, which national tourism administrations and other stakeholders in tourism development shall subsequently have the task of implementing.
  - (m) The Secretary-General of UNWTO shall submit, on a regular basis, a report on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for its submission to the UN General Assembly.
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