

UNWTO Commission for Africa

Sixty-second meeting
Saint-Petersburg, Russia,
Provisional agenda item 6.2.4

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Update on the Committee on Statistics

I. **General background**

- Mission

This high level technical Committee is a subsidiary advisory body of the UNWTO Executive Council. Its overall mission is articulated around five objectives:

- proposing initiatives related to the design and implementation of international tourism statistics recommendations;
- promoting international comparability of tourism statistics by proposing initiatives relative to the collection, homogeneity, processing and dissemination of data;
- supporting efforts to integrate such data into the frameworks of the system of national tourism statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account;
- helping member countries in their initiatives to improve their respective national systems of tourism statistics and in the development of the TSA;
- liaising with other international bodies with delegated responsibilities for leadership and coordination of related international statistics and their standards within sphere of the UN system.

- Working methods

This Committee meets once a year in-person. Those meetings gathered together Members of the Committee and invited observers recognized for their expertise in the area of statistics coming from Member States and Non Member States, as well as national and international organizations and institutions. Between sessions, the Committee maintains electronic communications.

II. **Composition**

For the period 2015-2019, the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account is composed by:

- **Chair:** Spain (2018-2019). Austria (2016-2017).
- **Vice-chair:** Georgia

- **Members States:** Austria, Brazil, Chile, France, Georgia, India, Mozambique, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain
- **Representative of the Associate Members:** Macao, China
- **Representatives of the Affiliate Members:** Instituto para la Calidad Turística (Spain) as Chairman of the Affiliate Members Board.

III. Main ongoing activities

- UNWTO compilation guide for tourism statistics

UNWTO Compilation Guide on Tourism Statistics has become an official document endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission. It will be made available in all UN languages.

The final edited version will be submitted to the UNWTO Executive Council, and the Compilation Guide will be disseminated in this year UNWTO General Assembly for general information to member States.

- Monitoring of IRTS 2008 Implementation

The Committee also started first steps to monitoring the current state of implementation of the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS) 2008. The committee will continue working on improving insights from such monitoring.

- UN Post-2015 Development Agenda and measuring sustainability of tourism

In the framework of the UN post-2015 Development Agenda, the UN General Assembly adopted in December 2014 the document "[Road to Dignity](#)" that reminds the whole UN system of its role of guiding and developing a comprehensive programme of action on data and indicators. Out of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), goal 8, 12 and 14 refer to tourism, in particular target 8.9 (devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism) and target 12.b (develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism) will be of interest for UNWTO.

The Committee highlighted the need for UNWTO to advance in the internationally comparable measurement of sustainability in tourism by developing standards-based measurement tools and guidelines as a means to inform policy and decision-making (in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals). The committee underlined the relevance to develop measurable and manageable indicators to track progress in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets that mention sustainable tourism in particular following the latest UN resolution with regard to data. Indicators to measure tourism will focus on a national level.

- Sub-national measurement of tourism and INRouTe

The committee supports the joint initiative proposed by UNWTO Statistics and TSA programme and The International Network on Regional Economics, Mobility and Tourism (INRouTe) to advance the methodology of measuring tourism at sub-national level.