



UNWTO
World Tourism Organization

COVID – 19 RELATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS A GLOBAL REVIEW FOR TOURISM

FIFTH REPORT AS OF 23 JUNE 2020





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Prepared by
UNWTO
Sustainable Development of Tourism Department

Acknowledgments

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Table of Contents

1.	Key Facts.....	2
2.	Introduction	4
3.	Rationale and focus of the analysis	5
4.	Methodological note	5
5.	Overview of COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020	6
5.1	Volume and severity of travel restrictions on international tourism	6
5.2	Evolution of travel restrictions over time	7
5.3	Regional analysis of travel restrictions	8
5.4	Categories of travel restrictions affecting international tourists	9
6.	Further analysis of travel restrictions.....	10
6.1	Travel restrictions in emerging and advanced economies.....	10
6.2	Travel restrictions in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	10
6.3	Travel restrictions in the Schengen Area.....	13
6.4	Travel restrictions in relation to the economic importance of tourism.....	15
6.5	Travel restrictions in relation to a destination`s dependence on source markets	16
6.6	The importance of consistent and reliable information	17
Annex 1	Overview on the different categories and applying destinations as of 15 June	19
Annex 2	Clusters by economic importance of tourism.....	21
Annex 3	Groups of international source market and corresponding destinations.....	22
Annex 4	Schengen Area.....	23
Annex 5	Overview on COVID-19 and pandemic measures, including travel restrictions.....	23

Table of Figures

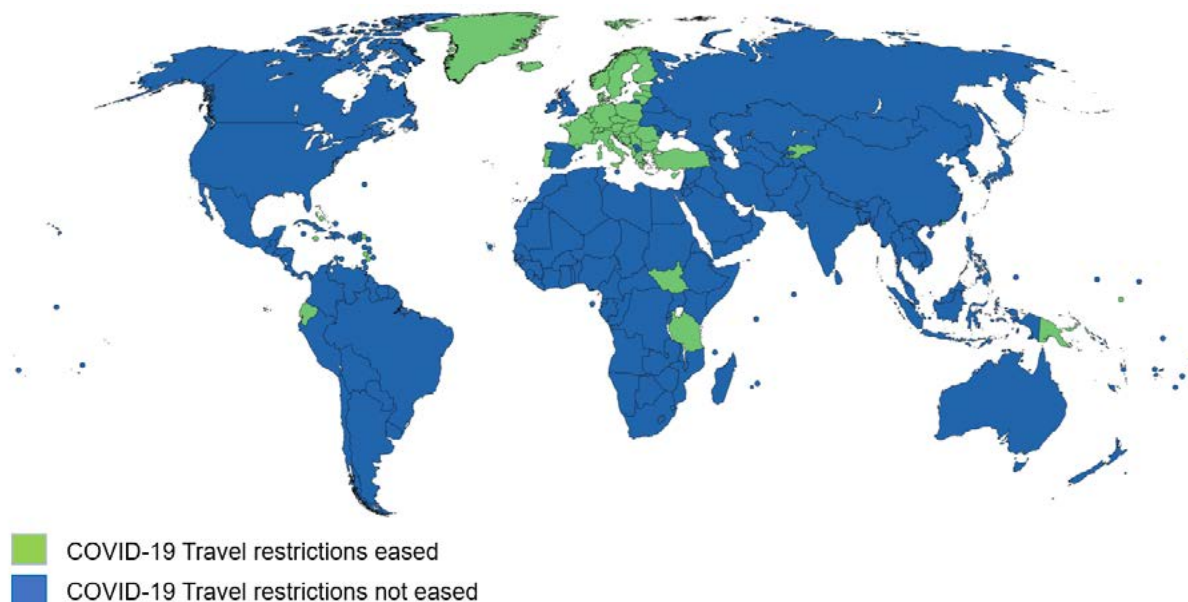
Figure 1	Destinations with travel restrictions to international tourism as of 15 June 2020	6
Figure 2	Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020.....	7
Figure 3	Category of travel restrictions by destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions	7
Figure 4	Changes in type of travel restriction over time	8
Figure 5	Regional breakdown of travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020.....	9
Figure 6	Category of travel restrictions by destination with COVID-19 travel restrictions	10
Figure 7	Easing of travel restrictions in emerging and advanced economies as of 15 June 2020.....	11
Figure 8	Global and regional breakdown of travel restrictions consisting of complete border closures applied by SIDS	12
Figure 9	Overview of SIDS by travel restriction in place as of 15 June 2020	13
Figure 10	Destinations with complete border closure for international tourism by economic importance of tourism (changes over time)	16

1. Key Facts

As of 15 June 2020

- **48 destinations (22% of all destinations worldwide) have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions** for international tourism. This represents an increase of 41 destinations (from 3% to 22%) since 18 May 2020.
- Among the destinations that have eased travel restrictions are:
 - 37 destinations in Europe, including 24 of the 26 Schengen Member States
 - 6 destinations in the Americas, including 5 Small Island Developing States
 - 3 destinations in Asia and the Pacific, including 2 Small Island Developing States
 - 2 destinations in Africa
- **65% of all destinations worldwide (141 destinations) continue to have their borders completely closed for international tourism. This represents a decrease of 22 destinations (10%)** when comparing with measures in place on 18 May 2020, which is so far the time when the highest percentage of total border closures (76%) for international tourism was observed.

Figure A – Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020¹.

¹ The maps elaborated by UNWTO are for reference only and do not imply any judgement on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

- From a **regional** point of view, the destinations that have completely closed their borders represent:
 - 85% of destinations in Africa
 - 76% of destinations in the Americas
 - 67% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific
 - 26% of destinations in Europe
 - 92% of destinations in the Middle East
- **24% of all destinations worldwide** (51 destinations) have had travel restrictions in place **for 19 weeks** and **37%** (80 destinations) **for 15 weeks**.
- The following categories of COVID-19 related travel restrictions are being applied across destinations worldwide (total destinations are 217):
 - **Complete or partial closure of borders:**

189 destinations (87%) have completely or partially closed their borders (increase from 185 destinations on 18 May 2020).

 - Out of these, **141 destinations have completely closed** their borders. This represents a decrease of 22 destinations from the 163 destinations which on 18 May 2020 had applied this measure for international tourists including air, sea and land border.
 - The remaining **48 destinations have partially closed** their borders. This number has increased from 22 destinations on 18 May 2020 to 48 destinations, given the gradual lifting of complete border closures observed.
 - **Suspension of flights:**

10 destinations (5%) have suspended completely or partially international flights (decrease from 11 destinations on 18 May 2020).
 - **Destination-specific travel restriction:**

7 destinations (3%) are implementing the closing of borders in a more differentiated manner by banning the entry for passengers from specific countries of origin (decrease from 10 destinations on 18 May 2020).
 - **Different measures:**

The remaining **11 destinations (5%)** are applying different measures, such as quarantine or self-isolation for 14 days, visa measures, or requesting medical screenings and/or medical certificate before or after arrival (this category has not registered changes since 18 May 2020).

2. Introduction

This is the fifth issue of a series of reports on COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism, aimed at providing an overview and analysis on the implementation of travel restrictions by governments as one of the means to address the global health crisis of COVID-19.

These reports are updated on a regular basis to support mitigation and recovery efforts of the tourism sector, providing a global overview of the measures in place and analysing them from a tourism perspective.

The reports aim at supporting the responsible and successful implementation of exit strategies through which countries are managing the recovery of their tourism sector, while identifying critical issues and best practices of COVID-19 related travel measures and their implications on tourism.

The monitoring of travel restrictions is carried out only from the standpoint of travel facilitation for tourism purposes (i.e. focusing on temporary visitors/tourists) and therefore does not take into account any measures directed to residents, diplomats and other categories of travellers, nor consider travel advisories issued by governments for their respective citizens/residents.

This work is carried out by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Sustainable Development of Tourism Department (SDT) that, *inter alia*, monitors visa policies around the world since 2008 and produces the Visa Openness Reports, which focus on entry requirements for tourism purposes.²

2 World Tourism Organization, Travel Facilitation reports, available online at: www.unwto.org/sustainable-development/travel-facilitation.

3. Rationale and focus of the analysis

In line with the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, many destinations are currently preparing proactively for the opening of international borders and a few destinations have already lifted travel restrictions for international tourism.

This fifth report focuses on further enhancing the understanding of the context of travel restrictions, their easing and lifting and includes analysis of travel restrictions in some selected economic and political blocs, in particular emerging and advanced economies, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Schengen area.

Furthermore, for this edition, an additional focus was placed on understanding travel restrictions in connection with the level of diversification of source markets for destinations. For this purpose, data was collected to analyse source markets that represent at least 60% of all International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) to a destination. Subsequently, four groups of destinations were formed according to the diversification of their source markets and analysed to better understand relationships with the lifting of restrictions.

4. Methodological Note

All reports in this series are based on desk research carried out since the end of January 2020.³ They contain the results of monitoring travel restrictions that have been implemented during this period by destinations worldwide.⁴

For the first two reports in this series, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Travel Centre⁵ was the main source of information. In addition, websites such as International SOS⁶ and the World Health Organization (WHO) Extranet were consulted for destinations that were not featured on IATA website.

For the third report, in order to gain a better understanding of the different categories of travel restrictions, and further insights on the distinction between complete and partial closure of borders, the information from IATA and International SOS were analysed, compared and validated for all destinations.

The fourth and fifth reports build on data received from the UN World Food Programme (WFP)⁷. The information was further analysed and validated by UNWTO using additional online sources that allowed fine-tuning the understanding. For the first time, the newly launched website “Reopen Europe”⁸ was used for validating information for travel within Member States of the European Union (EU). The report presents travel restrictions in place for international tourism in destinations worldwide as of 15 June 2020.

3 Disclaimer about Information Accuracy: Although every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information, UNWTO cannot make warranties as to the accuracy of content. If inaccuracies are observed, please revert to sdt@unwto.org. As changes in travel restrictions are occurring very fast, changes after the time of this publication may also impact on the accuracy of the information.

4 For more information on the previous four editions of the Report COVID-19 Related Travel Restrictions – A Global Review for Tourism, visit: <https://www.unwto.org/covid-19-travel-restrictions>.

5 IATA Travel Centre, available online at: <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/>.

6 International SOS is a medical and travel security services company, for more info on Travel restrictions, flight operations and screening see: <https://pandemic.internationalsos.com/2019-ncov/ncov-travel-restrictions-flight-operations-and-screening>.

7 World Travel Restrictions - UN World Food Programme, available online at: <https://unwfp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/db5b5df309ac4f10bfd36145a6f8880e>.

8 For more information visit the official website of the European Union: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>.

5. Overview on COVID-19 related Travel Restrictions as of 15 June 2020

5.1 Volume and severity of travel restrictions on international tourism

The declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the WHO on 11 March 2020 resulted in an unprecedented global lockdown. Three months later, a growing number of destinations have started to ease travel restrictions for international tourism and in particular lifting the complete closure of borders. However, destinations worldwide continue to have in place other types of COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

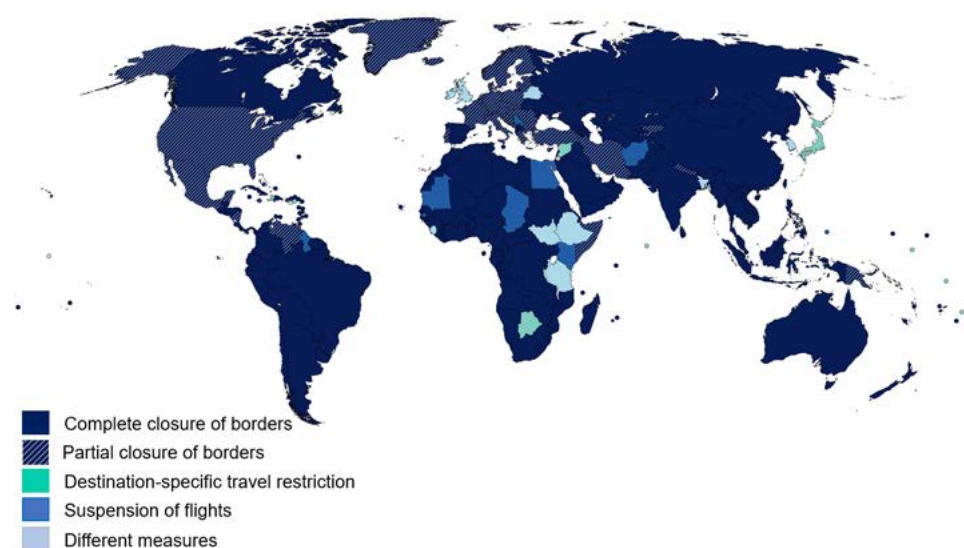
As of 15 June 2020, a total of 48 destinations⁹ (22% of all destinations worldwide) have eased travel restrictions for international tourism purposes (Figure 2). This is an increase of 41 destinations compared to 18 May 2020.

Out of these 48 destinations, 40 (84%) are facilitating the restart of international tourism,

in particular intra-regional international tourism, through the lifting of closures of borders. For the rest, different types of restrictions remain in place, including requirements such as medical tests, certificates or quarantine upon arrival (4 destinations, 8%), the suspension of flights (3 destinations, 6%) or allowing only passengers originating from certain source markets to enter (1 destination, 2%) (Figure 3).

Destinations are easing travel restrictions based on public health considerations within their own destination, as well as on public health considerations of their source markets. So far, borders are opening mainly between countries with a similar public health situation and infection rates. However, health concerns and uncertainties prevail which combined with the potential application of measures to passengers upon return from travel, are still making international travel for tourism purposes very challenging.

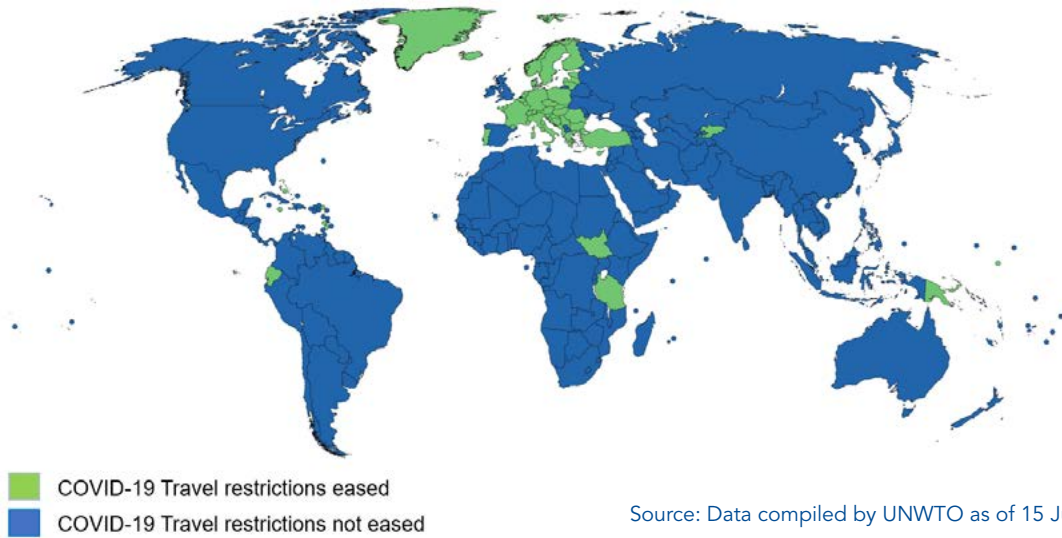
Figure 1 - Destinations with travel restrictions to international tourism as of 15 June 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020

⁹ Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey.

Figure 2 - Destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020



Significant discussions on opening borders for international tourism are underway, including negotiations on various approaches such as the complete opening of borders, bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries, as well as the creation of so called “bubbles”, “tourism corridors” or “green lanes”.

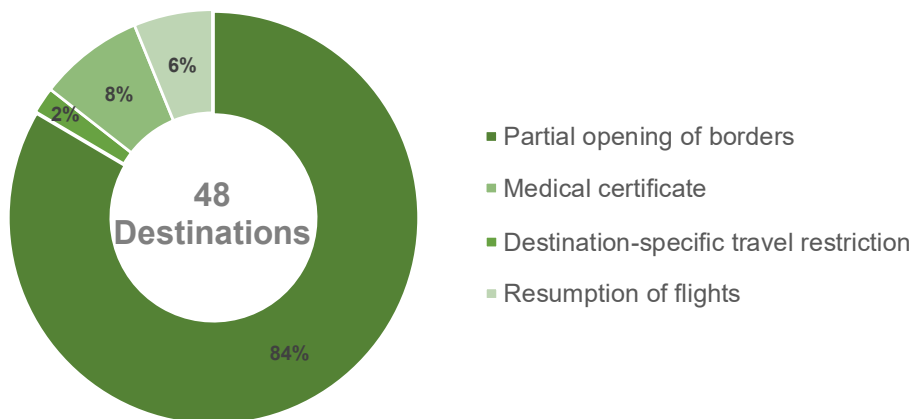
5.2 Evolution of travel restrictions over time

As of 15 June 2020, most destinations worldwide (65%) continue to have their

borders completely closed to international tourists (141 destinations out of 217 in total). However, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19, a significant decrease (10%) in the number of destinations applying the most severe type of travel restrictions took place. This development places the peak of COVID-19 related travel restrictions on 18 May 2020, when 75% of all destinations worldwide had completely closed their borders for international tourism.

The gradual lifting of complete closure of borders is resulting in an increase of the number

Figure 3 - Category of travel restrictions by destinations that have eased COVID-19 related travel restrictions



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020

of destinations which are applying the second most severe measure which is the partial closure of borders, with 22% of countries having that measure in place on 15 June 2020 (an increase of 12% from 18 May 2020) (Figure 4).

This responsible opening of borders, proportionate to the public health threat and local risk assessment, is one of the main principles recommended by UNWTO in the Global Guidelines to Restart Tourism¹⁰ to guide the recovery of the sector.

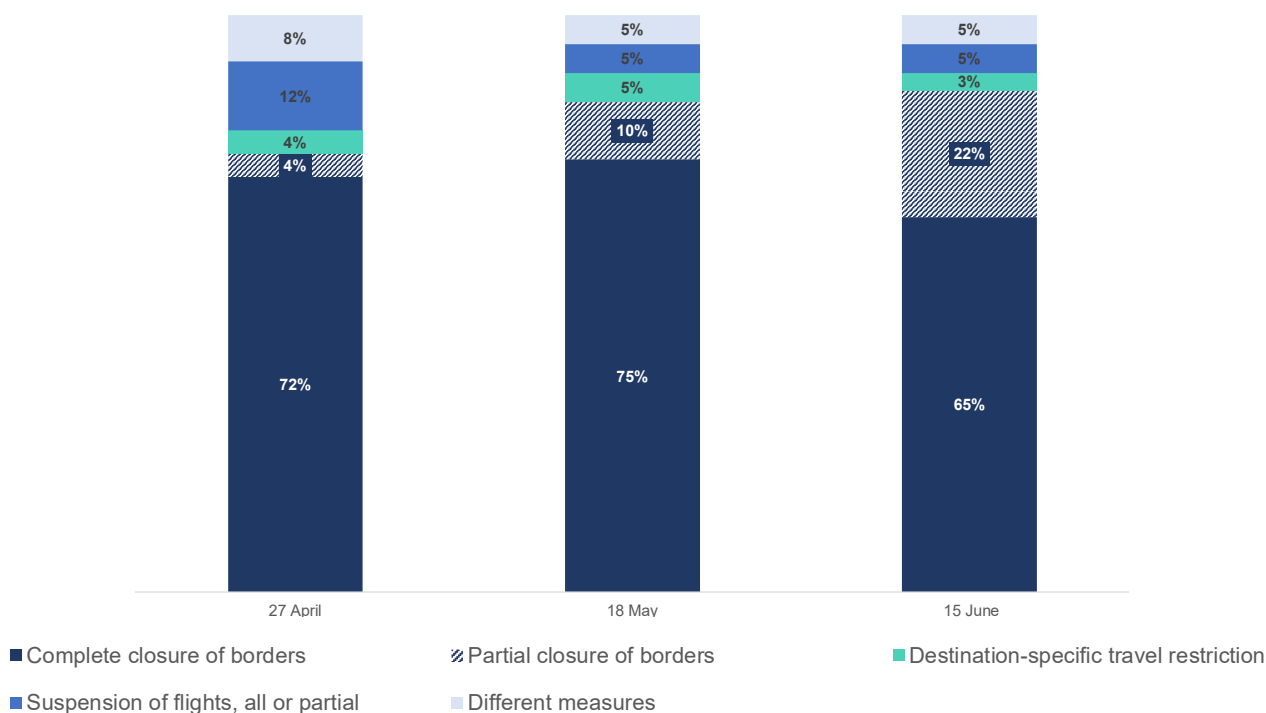
However, travel restrictions in 37% of all destinations worldwide (80 destinations), including the complete or partial closure of borders, destination-specific travel restrictions, suspension of flights and other measures have been now already in place for 15 weeks. In 24% of destinations worldwide

(51 destinations) they have been already in place for 19 weeks.

5.3 Regional analysis of travel restrictions

Despite the easing of travel restrictions in 48 destinations worldwide, the complete or partial closure of borders continues to be the most dominant type of travel restriction across regions. It is applied in 92% of destinations in the Middle East (no variation from 18 May 2020), 91% of destinations in Europe (change from 93% on 18 May 2020), 90% of destinations in the Americas (change from 92% on 18 May 2020), 87% of destinations in Africa (change from 79% on 18 May 2020) and 78% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific (change from 74% on 18 May 2020).

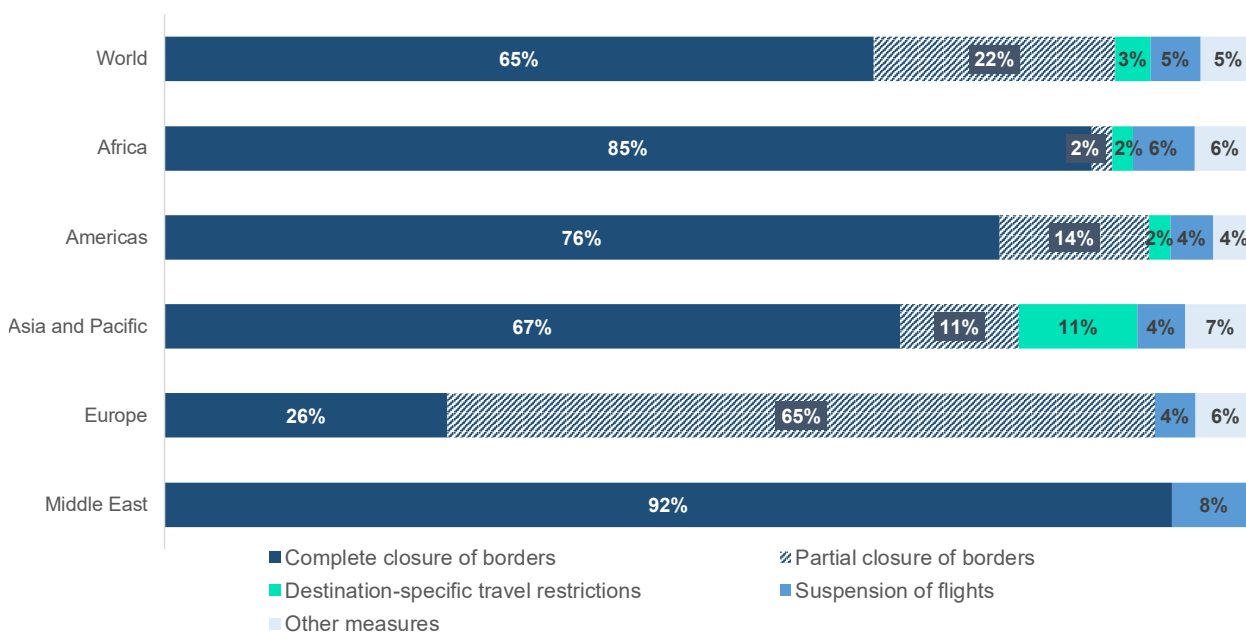
Figure 4 - Changes in type of travel restriction over time



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

10 World Tourism Organization (2020), Global Guidelines To Restart Tourism, available online at: <https://www.unwto.org/news/unwto-launches-global-guidelines-to-restart-tourism>.

Figure 5 - Regional breakdown of travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

Complete closure of borders is observed in 92% of destinations in the Middle East (change from 69% on 18 May 2020), 85% of destinations in Africa (change from 74% on 18 May 2020), 76% of destinations in the Americas (change from 86% on 18 May 2020), 67% of destinations in Asia and the Pacific (no variation from 18 May 2020) and 26% of destinations in Europe (change from 74% on 18 May 2020) (Figure 5).

5.4 Categories of travel restrictions affecting international tourists

At the beginning of the crisis two main categories of travel restrictions were observed, one directed at passengers coming from a country that had confirmed COVID-19 cases (destination-specific travel restriction) and the other one being the restrictions of visa.

Over time additional measures were observed, such as the request for medical certificates upon arrival at a destination or the request for self-isolation or quarantine.

Once WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, two new, more extreme categories of travel restrictions started to be applied, namely the complete and partial closure of borders and suspension of flights by governments.

As of 15 June 2020, the partial and complete closure of borders represents the type of measure used by the majority of destinations worldwide (87%).

The following categories of COVID-19 related travel restrictions are being applied across destinations worldwide (total destinations = 217) (Figure 6):

- o **Complete or partial closure of borders:**
 - As of 15 June 2020, **189 destinations (87%)** have completely or partially closed borders (increase from 185 destinations on 18 May 2020).
 - Out of these, 141 destinations have completely closed their borders (decrease from 163 destinations) for

international tourists including air, sea and land border.

- The remaining 48 destinations have partially closed borders, (increase from 22 destinations) resulting in a significant reduction of the entry points to access their destinations.

o **Suspension of flights:**

10 destinations (5%) have suspended completely or partially international flights (decrease from 11 destinations on 18 May 2020).

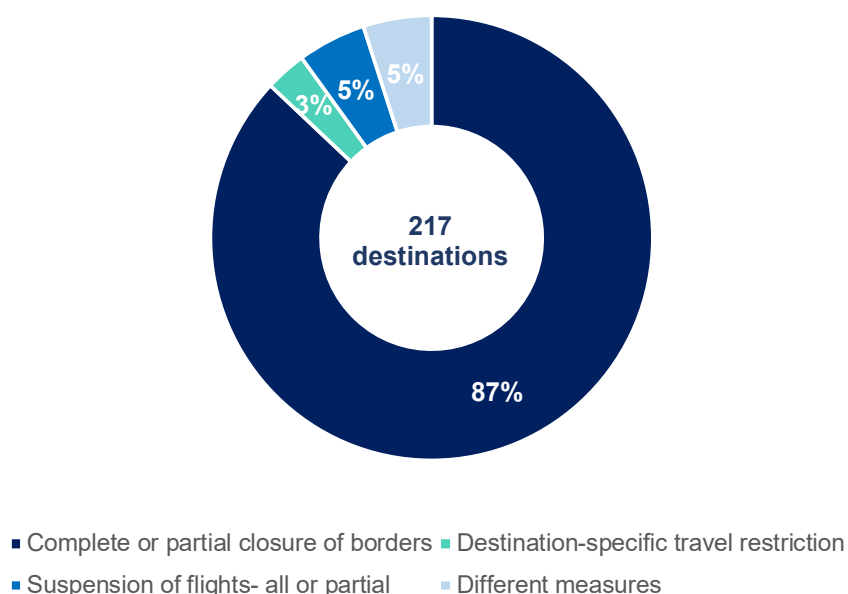
o **Destination-specific travel restriction:**

7 destinations (3%) are implementing the closing of borders in a more differentiated manner by banning the entry for passengers from specific countries of origin (decrease from 10 destinations).

o **Different measures:**

The remaining 11 destinations (5%) are applying different measures, such as quarantine or self-isolation for 14 days, visa measures, or requesting a medical certificate upon arrival (there has been no variation from 18 May 2020).

Figure 6 - Category of travel restrictions by destination with COVID-19 travel restrictions



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

6. Further analysis of travel restrictions

6.1 Travel restrictions in emerging and advanced economies

To further enhance the context of travel restrictions, in particular their easing and lifting, the analysis was conducted taking into account the classification of emerging and advanced economies by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).¹¹

As of 15 June 2020, the complete closure of borders is observed in:

- o 75% of destinations of emerging economies (132 destinations);
- o 21% of destinations of advanced economies (9 destinations).

The partial opening of destinations is observed in:

- o 12% of destinations of emerging economies (21 destinations);
- o 64% of destinations of advanced economies (27 destinations).

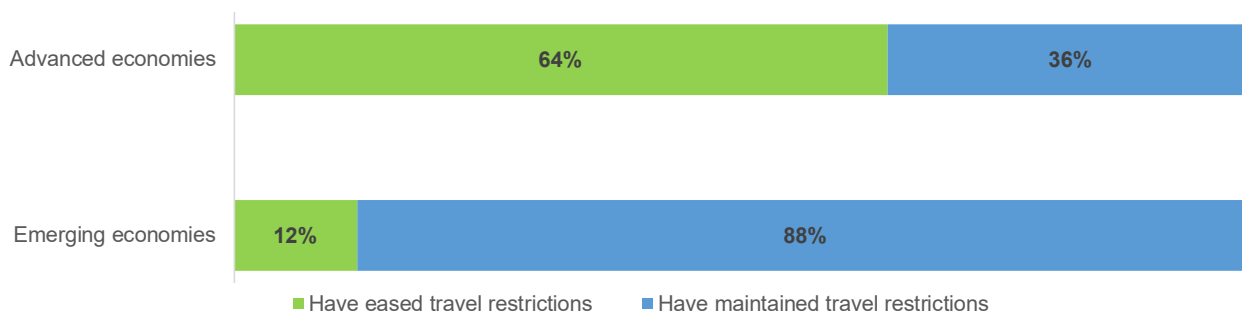
The analysis points at advanced economies, which for the most part are located in Europe (74% of European destinations are classified as advanced economies), being the ones having opted to ease travel restrictions in a majority of cases. In fact, 64% of destinations of advanced economies (27 destinations) have eased travel restrictions, whereas only 12% of destinations of emerging economies (21 destinations) have started relaxing travel restrictions for international tourism (Figure 7).

6.2 Travel restrictions in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

As of 15 June 2020, 41 SIDS¹² representing 76% of the total 54 SIDS destinations have completely closed their borders (decrease from 46 SIDS on 18 May 2020). In addition, 7 SIDS representing 13% of the total SIDS have started easing travel restrictions.

Looking at the regional breakdown of SIDS, all SIDS in the African region (6 destinations) and in the Middle East (1 destination) are observing

Figure 7 - Easing of travel restrictions in emerging and advanced economies as of 15 June 2020

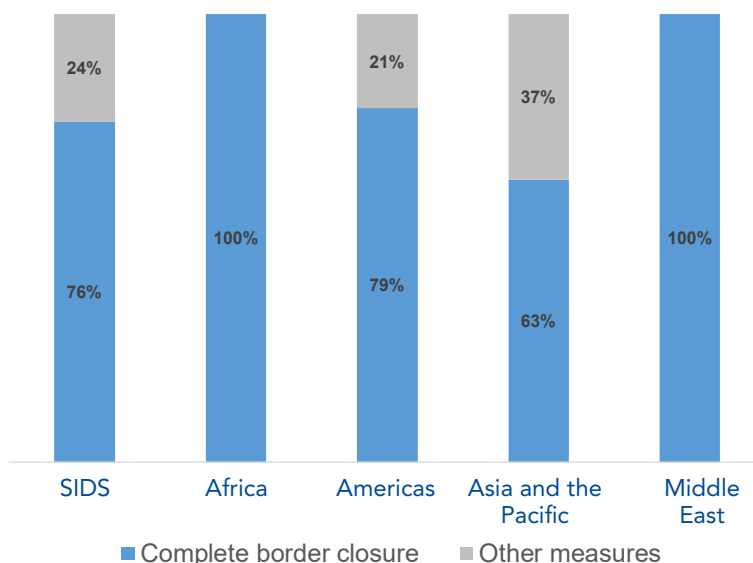


Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

11 Out of the total 217 destinations worldwide, 175 destinations belong to the group of emerging economies and 42 destinations to the group of advanced economies.

12 The analysis contained in this report related to SIDS is based on 54 out of the total 58 SIDS (38 UN Members and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of Regional Commissions). For more information on SIDS please visit: <http://unohrls.org/>.

Figure 8 - Global and regional breakdown of travel restrictions consisting of complete border closures applied by SIDS



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

the complete closure of their borders. In the Americas, 22 destinations are applying this same measure (decrease from 26 destinations on 18 May 2020). In Asia and the Pacific, 12 destinations have completely closed their borders (decrease from 13 destinations), while the majority of remaining SIDS in this region have opted for destination-specific travel restrictions (4 destinations) banning the entry only for passengers coming from countries significantly affected by COVID-19 (Figure 8).

Many SIDS (41% of all SIDS) were among the first destinations that introduced travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On 7 February 2020, one week after COVID-19 was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), out of the 51 destinations that already had implemented travel restrictions, 22 destinations were SIDS, with 64% from Asia and the Pacific, 27% from the Americas and 9% from Africa. At present (19 weeks later), these 22 SIDS still have

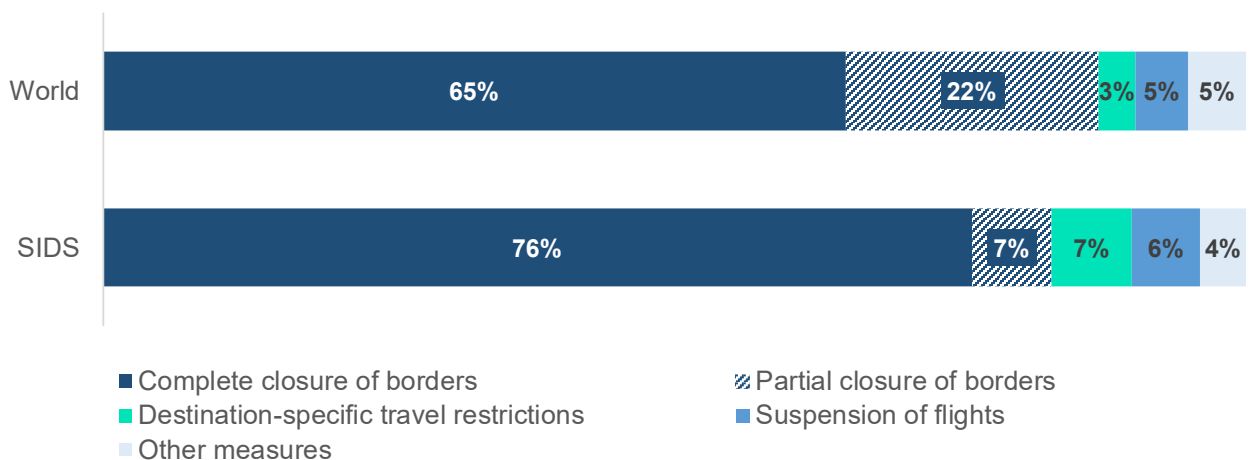
travel restrictions in place, with 14 of them having their borders completely closed and 4 having partially opened their borders (3 from the Americas and 1 from Asia and the Pacific).

In line with trend identified within the Fourth Report (see section 5.3.) which points at a reduction of the variety of measures when the economic importance of tourism increases, the same trend continues to be observed for SIDS, which in their majority have a moderate to high importance of tourism in their economies. The complete border closure continues to be more common among SIDS in comparison to global averages.

Among the 7 SIDS that have eased travel restrictions as of 15 June 2020, 5 are from the Caribbean. These destinations, besides counting on a high contribution of tourism to their economies, had already prior to the COVID-19 outbreak a high level of facilitation in place and belonged to the most open destinations in the world.¹³

13 The Schengen area covers 26 countries ("Schengen States") without border controls between them, for more information see: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/schengen_visa_en.

Figure 9 - Overview of SIDS by travel restriction in place as of 15 June 2020



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

6.3 Travel restrictions in the Schengen Area¹⁴

The external borders of the EU have been closed to non-EU citizens for more than three months.¹⁵ On 11 June 2020 the European Commission invited Member States to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel in the EU until 30 June 2020. Furthermore, it was stressed that as a next step restrictions “should be lifted for countries selected together by Member States, based on a set of principles and objective criteria including the health situation, the ability to apply containment measures during travel, and reciprocity considerations”.¹⁶

For the internal borders in the Schengen area various restrictive measures have been applied during the last three months. Such measures have significantly limited the movement of tourists between destinations of the region and subsequently brought

intraregional tourism¹⁷ almost to a complete standstill. On 11 June 2020, the European Commission recommended to its Member States to remove such restrictions by 15 June 2020.¹⁸

As of 16 June 2020, 92% (24 destinations) of the 26 Member States of the Schengen Area have partially opened their borders to other EU countries, facilitating the restart of intraregional tourism. Given that the summer holiday season is about to start in the Northern Hemisphere, these steps are of particular relevance towards the restoration of intraregional tourism within the European Union.

Before these recent changes, the complete closure of borders for international tourism had been the most common type of measure during the last three months, and was on 18 May still applied in 69% of destinations (18 destinations) of the Schengen Area.

14 On 16 March 2020, the European Commission proposed the temporary restriction of all non-essential travel from third countries to the EU+ area for 30 days. For more information see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0115&from=EN>.

15 This restriction was extended by another 30 days on 8 May 2020. See at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_823.

16 European Commission, Travel and transportation during the coronavirus pandemic, see section “Temporary non-essential travel restrictions”, online page available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/travel-and-transportation-during-coronavirus-pandemic_en.

17 Intraregional tourism refers to tourist movements from one country to another country within the same region.

18 Ibid.

Of particular importance for the restoration of the tourism sector in the European Union and easing of travel restrictions has been the Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures¹⁹ that was issued on 15 April 2020 by the European Commission (EC). This Roadmap proposes a “phased approach for the opening of internal and external borders”²⁰. For the lifting of internal borders, the Roadmap points at three main elements to be considered when assessing the readiness to gradually lift the travel restrictions and the controls at internal borders, namely i) epidemiological criteria, ii) health system capacity and iii) appropriate monitoring capacity. It also highlights that restrictions “should first be eased between areas with comparably low reported circulation of the virus”. The reopening of external borders and access of non-EU residents to the EU should happen in a second stage and “should take into account the spread of the virus outside the EU”.²¹

On 13 May 2020, the EC presented guidelines on the future of Tourism and Transport for 2020 and beyond²², in which a set of recommendations are provided, including the gradual lifting of internal travel restrictions with all necessary safety and precautionary measures in place.²³ For this purpose, criteria have been elaborated that Member States shall take into account for the lifting of restrictions to free movement and internal border controls, highlighting that travel should first be lifted in areas “with a comparable epidemiological situation based on guidance issued by the European

Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), and where sufficient capabilities are in place in terms of hospitals, testing, surveillance and contact tracing”.²⁴ The guidelines also highlight the necessity to continuously update communications on this matter, as to ensure that “people crossing borders can plan and act on the basis of transparent information and full awareness of the situation”.²⁵ In this context, the creation of a single website for travellers was proposed. On Monday, 15 June 2020, the website “Reopen Europe” was launched.²⁶ It provides information on travel requirements and restrictions for each Schengen State in all languages of the European Union. Another precondition listed is the ability to ensure that containment measures, such as physical distancing, can be followed throughout the traveller’s journey. The lifting shall take place in three phases: Phase 0 being the current situation where internal borders are closed; Phase 1 indicates that, if complete opening of national borders is not possible due to the epidemiological developments, connections could be established across regions of Member States with a sufficiently similar epidemiological situation; and Phase 2 which consists in lifting all COVID-19 related restrictions and controls of internal borders, while keeping the necessary health measures in place.

According to these guidelines the Member States are in Phase 1, as in most cases countries have selectively opened their borders to destinations with similar health situations, but also based on the importance of the dependence on source markets for tourism.

19 European Commission, Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures, available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_-_a_european_roadmap_to_lifting_coronavirus_containment_measures_0.pdf.

20 Ibid., p.11.

21 Ibid.

22 European Commission, Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond, available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-commission-tourism-transport-2020-and-beyond_en.pdf.

23 European Commission Communication: COVID-19 Towards a phased and coordinated approach for restoring freedom of movement and lifting internal border controls, available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_freemovement.pdf.

24 Ibid. p.5.

25 Ibid.

26 Re-open EU, an official website of the European Union, available online at: <https://reopen.europa.eu/de>.

6.4 Travel restrictions in relation to the economic importance of tourism

The following analysis focuses on the relations between travel restrictions and the importance of tourism for the economy of destinations. For this purpose, destinations were grouped in four clusters of economic importance, namely, low, moderate, considerable and high (Table 1).²⁷

On 18 May 2020, when a peak of travel restrictions was noted and 163 destinations had completely closed their borders for international tourism, it was observed that with an increasing importance of tourism for the economy, the complete closure of borders was the measure more frequently applied.

As of 15 June 2020, the analysis shows that all destinations which have eased their measures from a complete closure of borders to a less restrictive measures are destinations in which tourism is of moderate, considerable or high importance.

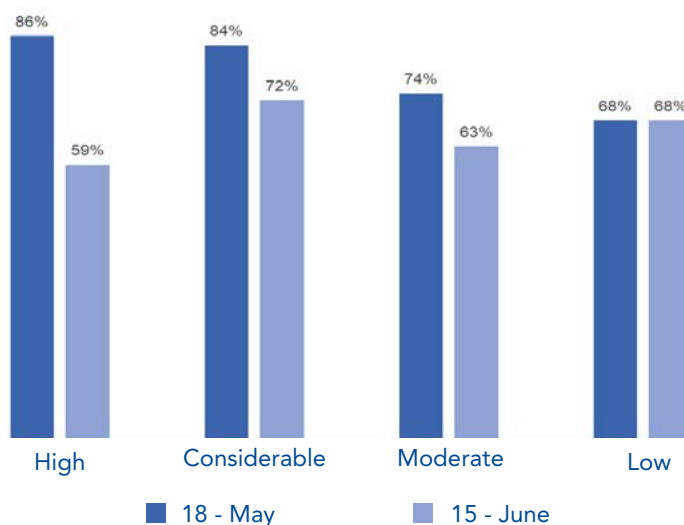
As such the number of destinations with high dependence on tourism that had applied the complete border closure decreased from 86% to 59%, while the number of destinations with a considerable dependence of tourism decreased from 84% by 72%, and the number of destinations with moderate dependence from 74% to 63%. The numbers of destinations with a low dependence of tourism has not changed over the last month and remained at 68% (Figure 10).

Table 1 - Destination clusters by economic importance of tourism

	Number of destinations and regional breakdown
Low: T-GDP <=5%	25 destinations: 10 in Africa, 5 in the Americas, 4 in Asia and the Pacific, 5 in Europe, 1 in the Middle East
Moderate: T-GDP >5% and <= 10%	80 destinations: 19 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 28 in Europe and 8 in the Middle East
Considerable: T-GDP >10% and <=20%	47 destinations: 12 in Africa, 10 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 10 in Europe, 4 in the Middle East
High: T-GDP >20%	29 destinations: 3 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 6 in Asia and the Pacific, 6 in Europe

27 Clusters are aligned with World Bank: COVID-19 Guidance Note. Impact and Policy response in the tourism sector. Under preparation.

Figure 10 - Destinations with complete border closure for international tourism by economic importance of tourism (changes over time)



Source: Data compiled by UNWTO as of 15 June 2020.

6.5 Travel restrictions in relation to a destination’s dependence on source markets

The following analysis focuses on the dependence of destinations on their source

markets, in order to better understand the relation to the travel restrictions applied. For this purpose, the amount of source markets that make 60% of total International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) in a destination was analysed.²⁸

Table 2 – Groups of international source market and corresponding destinations

Amount of source markets that make 60% of International Tourist Arrivals (ITA) in a destination	Number of destinations ²⁹ and regional breakdown
Group A: 1-2 International source markets	57 destinations: 5 in Africa, 28 in the Americas, 14 in Asia and the Pacific, 7 in Europe, 3 in the Middle East
Group B: 3-5 International source markets	64 destinations: 13 in Africa, 16 in the Americas, 19 in Asia and the Pacific, 13 in Europe and 3 in the Middle East.
Group C: 6-9 International source markets	51 destinations: 10 in Africa, 5 in the Americas, 11 in Asia and the Pacific, 24 in Europe, 1 in the Middle East
Group D: 10+ International source markets	35 destinations: 16 in Africa, 2 in the Americas, 1 in Asia and the Pacific, 10 in Europe and 6 in the Middle East.

28 As a result of this analysis, four groups were created: Group A includes destinations in which 1-2 source markets make 60% of the total ITA; Group B includes destinations depending on 3-5 ITA source markets; Group C from 6-9 ITA source markets; Group D depending on 10 or more (10+) ITA source markets.

29 Relevant Information on source markets was identified for 207 out of 217 destinations worldwide.

Looking at the measures applied in each of these groups and in particular at complete border closures, 86 destinations from both Group A (41 out of 57 destinations in total) and B (45 out of 64 in total), with a dependence on 1 to 5 international source markets, have their borders closed for international tourism. 50 destinations from both Group C (26 of 51 destinations in total) and D (24 destinations out of 35 in total), with a dependence on 6 to 10 or more, also have borders closed.

Besides easing of travel restrictions within the Schengen area, it is interesting to note that those countries from outside of the Schengen area, which now moved from a total closure of borders to a less restrictive measure complied with one or both of the two following criteria: a higher proportion of tourism in the GDP and/ or a stronger dependence on source markets.

6.6 The importance of consistent and reliable information

As destinations around the world are now starting to lift the travel restrictions they have introduced, developments are expected to vary widely, depending on the actual situation and context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the different geographical areas.

Consequently, immigration procedures and requirements will differ from destination to destination, which is especially challenging for the consistency of information on procedures and requirements across the different national authorities, namely health, foreign affairs, immigration and tourism authorities of a country.

Providing reliable, consistent and easy to access information on immigration procedures for international tourists has created already in the past in the context of Visa unnecessary burdens for travelers, which could have easily been avoided.

It is now, especially in view of the upcoming fast changing procedures and requirements, even more important, and national authorities must ensure that immigration procedures and requirements are provided in a timely, reliable and consistent manner across all information systems and platforms, to maintain confidence and trust.

This is in line with the recommendations made by the One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector which was released on 5 June 2020 and calls for the integration of epidemiological indicators in tourism monitoring as “strengthening monitoring mechanisms in this direction has the potential to lead the way for tourism to recover as an economic activity, ensuring that the easing of travel restrictions is based on evidence”.³⁰

In addition, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, in its meeting on June 5, 2020, issued a statement, drawing on some of the public health measures planned or already in place such as travel restrictions, quarantine conditions, etc.,³¹ underlines that such measures, “while being based on public health concerns, they nevertheless should abide by ethical principles, in particular the ones that appear in the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism³² and the UNWTO Framework on Tourism Ethics”³³.

30 One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme (2020) - One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector, available online at: <https://www.unwto.org/covid-19-oneplanet-responsible-recovery>.

31 World Committee on Tourism Ethics meeting, for more information visit: <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-ethics-a-special-session-on-covid-19-and-tourism>.

32 World Tourism Organization, Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, available online at: <https://www.unwto.org/global-code-of-ethics-for-tourism>.

33 World Tourism Organization, Convention on Tourism ethics, available online at: <https://www.unwto.org/ethics-convention>.



ANNEXES



Annex 1

Overview on the different categories and applying destinations as of 15 June³⁴

Complete or partial closing of borders

Applied by 189 destinations (87% of all destinations worldwide).

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bonaire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros Islands, Congo, Congo (Democratic Rep. of), Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, French Guyana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guinea (Republic of), Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonie, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria,

North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Reunion, Romania, The Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saba, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Maarten, St Vincent and Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands British, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Suspension of flights - partially or completely

Applied by 10 destinations (5% of all destinations worldwide).

Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Chad, Egypt, Guyana, Kenya, Mauritania, Palau, Serbia.

Destination-specific travel restrictions aimed at passengers from specific countries

Applied by 7 destinations (3% of all destinations worldwide).

Botswana, Japan, Maldives, Nauru, Niue, St Eustatius, Tuvalu.

³⁴ Some destinations apply more than one measure, in this case the measure affecting tourists most is used for the purpose of this analysis.

Quarantine or self-isolation related measures

Applied by 4 destinations (2% of all destinations worldwide).

Belarus, Ethiopia, Ireland, United Kingdom.

Visa measures - Visa are invalidated or no longer visa exempt or visa cannot be obtained any longer upon arrival

Applied by 2 destinations (1% of all destinations worldwide).

Bangladesh, Republic of Korea.

Medical certificate before arrival

Applied by 5 destinations (2% of all destinations worldwide).

Ecuador, Kiribati, South Sudan, St Lucia, Tanzania.

23 Some destinations apply more than one measure, in this case the measure affecting tourists most is used for the purpose of this analysis.

Annex 2

Clusters by economic importance of tourism

HIGH T-GDP >20% (29 destinations)

Albania, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cayman Islands, Croatia, Dominica, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Jamaica, Macao SAR, Maldives, Montenegro, The Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines, Vanuatu, Virgin Islands British.

CONSIDERABLE T-GDP >10% and <=20% (47 destinations)

Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bermuda, Botswana, Bulgaria, China, Comoros Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Gambia, Honduras, Hong Kong SAR, Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay.

MODERATE T-GDP >5% and <= 10% (80 destinations)

Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel,

Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Martinique, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, The Netherlands, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Reunion, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

LOW T-GDP <=5% (25 destinations)

Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea (Republic of), Guyana, Ireland, Korea (Republic of), Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Puerto Rico, The Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Uzbekistan.

Annex 3

Groups of international source market and corresponding destinations

GROUP A: 1-2 international source markets (57 destinations)

Botswana, Comoros Islands, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Canada, Cayman Islands, El Salvador, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Saba, St Eustatius, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Suriname, Turks and Caicos, Uruguay, Virgin Islands British, Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong SAR, Laos, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Macao SAR, Myanmar, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Andorra, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, San Marino, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman.

GROUP B: 3-5 international source markets (64 destinations)

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, French Polynesia, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonie, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Peru, The Philippines, The Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, South Africa, St Maarten,

St Vincent and Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan Province of China, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

GROUP C: 6-9 international source markets (51 destinations)

Angola, Australia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guinea (Republic of), Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor Leste, United Kingdom, Venezuela.

GROUP D: 10+ international source markets (35 destinations)

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Rep. of), Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Qatar, Reunion, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Annex 4

Schengen Area

Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

Annex 5

Overview on COVID-19 and pandemic measures, including travel restrictions

On 31 December 2019, a pneumonia of unknown cause was detected first in Wuhan, China and reported to the local WHO office. Four weeks later, on 30 January 2020 the WHO declared the outbreak of this virus, initially named 2019-nCoV, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). At that stage WHO referred to 83 cases in 18 countries³⁵ and did not recommend any travel or trade restriction. In a joint statement by UNWTO and WHO released on 26 February 2020, it was indicated that “Tourism’s response needs to be measured and consistent, proportionate to the public health threat and based on local risk assessment, involving every part of the tourism value chain”.³⁶

While from end of December 2019 until end of February 2020 China reported the largest amount of COVID-19 cases, by February 2020 the virus had already spread almost all over the globe. When WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020, 114 countries had reported 118,000 cases with Europe becoming the worst-affected region. As of 18 May 2020, there are worldwide reported 4,618,821 COVID-19 cases with 311,847 deaths.³⁷

Based on the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response guidance

35 World Health Organization (2020), *Statement on the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*, 30 January 2020, available online at: [www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

36 World Tourism Organization, World Health Organization (2020), *Joint statement on tourism and covid-19: UNWTO and WHO call for responsibility and coordination*, 26 February 2020, available online at: https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-03/31012020%20Coronavirus_Feb_2020%20EN_3.pdf.

37 World Health Organization, *Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), Situation report 119*, available online at: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200518-covid-19-sitrep-119.pdf?sfvrsn=4bd9de25_4.

document for governments³⁸, a variety of measures have been implemented worldwide in order to reduce the spread of the virus. These include individual measures, such as the promotion of hand and respiratory hygiene, as well as societal level measures, such as protocols related to social distancing which include the suspension of school classes, adjusting work patterns, the reduction of unnecessary travel and overcrowding of mass transport systems as well as the development of frameworks for cancellation/restriction of mass gatherings.³⁹ Moreover, with regards to international travel, measures to “develop capacities for emergency public health actions at designated points of entry in accordance with International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) Annex 1 B.2.”, which include relevant control mechanisms for arriving and departing travellers, have been implemented.

Furthermore, additional provisions of the IHR⁴⁰ have guided the introduction of measures. For instance, under Chapter III on special provisions for travellers, the treatment of suspected travellers when entering a destination is outlined, ranging from medical examination to providing the person with food and water.⁴¹ Also under IHR Article 43, it is stated that additional health measures shall be based on scientific principles, available scientific evidence and available specific guidance of WHO. In this context, the implementation of additional health measures that significantly interfere with international traffic, shall be reported to WHO within 48 hours, including the public health rationale and relevant scientific information. Significant interference means “refusal of

entry or departure of international travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, good, and the like, or their delay, for more than 24 hours”. The IHR stipulates that WHO shall share this information with other governments and request that the measure is reviewed within three months. Furthermore, WHO may request a government that implemented such measure to reconsider its application.⁴²

38 International Health Regulations (2005), Third Edition, WHO, pp. 40-42, available online at: www.who.int/ihr/publications/9789241580496/en.

39 International Health Regulations (2005).

40 International Health Regulations (2005).

41 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 23-24.

42 International Health Regulations (2005), pp. 29.



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