

Agenda item 4(b)

**Report of the Committee on Tourism  
and Sustainability**

CE/112/4(b)  
Madrid, 22 July 2020  
Original: English

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**Executive summary**

As part of its mandate to advise and guide the Secretariat, the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS), a subsidiary organ of the Executive Council, conducted two meetings since reporting last to the Executive Council.

The CTS conducted its twelfth meeting in September 2019, in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, within the framework of the 23rd session of the UNWTO General Assembly. The Members of the Committee noted the Secretariat's overview on the preliminary results of the UNWTO/International Transport Forum (ITF) research on the Transportation related CO2 Emissions of the Tourism Sector and recommended the establishment of a working group on policy recommendations.

At its thirteenth meeting, in Madrid in January 2020, the CTS with its new composition for 2019-2023, elected Egypt and Serbia as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, (2019-2021) until the 24th session of the General Assembly and Croatia and Angola, as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, from 2021 until the 25th session of the General Assembly.

It also decided to itself assume the role of the working group envisioned at its 12th meeting and to ensure that policy recommendations are actionable and aimed at supporting high ambition scenario for the tourism sector.

The CTS further recommended that Members actively participate and support through their representations to the United Nations in New York the negotiations of the resolution relative to the report on the "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection" expected to start as from September 2020.

**DRAFT DECISION<sup>1</sup>**

**Agenda item 4(b)**

Report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability  
(document CE/112/4(b))

*The Executive Council*

1. *Takes note* of the information and recommendations provided; and
2. *Encourages* the Members to actively participate and support through their representations to the United Nations in New York the negotiations of the resolution to the report on “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection” prepared by UNWTO for the United Nations General Assembly, which are expected to start as from September 2020.

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<sup>1</sup>This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.

## I. Background and composition

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1. As part of its mandate to advise and guide the Secretariat, the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS), a subsidiary organ of the Executive Council, conducted two meetings since reporting last to the Executive Council.
2. The CTS is governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Technical Committees on Competitiveness and Sustainability approved by the Executive Council in CE/DEC/9(XCVI).

## II. Meetings of the CTS

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### Twelfth meeting of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability

3. The CTS conducted its twelfth meeting in September 2019, in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, within the framework of the 23rd session of the UNWTO General Assembly, and whose agenda is provided in Annex I hereto.
4. The meeting gathered over 60 participants including representatives from 17 Member States: Barbados, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Namibia, Paraguay, Philippines, Serbia and Uzbekistan in their capacity as members of the Committee and observers.
5. The Secretariat provided on this occasion an overview of the progress achieved in a number of key areas of work, namely: the presentation of the findings of the Baseline Report on the Integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns into Tourism Policies; the Global Meeting of the UNWTO International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories and its role in supporting the implementation of sustainable tourism policies; the preliminary results of the UNWTO/International Transport Forum (ITF) research on the Transportation Related CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions of the Tourism Sector; and UNWTO's role in CBD's Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Contribution.
6. The Members of the Committee noted the Secretariat's overview on the preliminary results of the UNWTO/International Transport Forum (ITF) research on the Transportation Related CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions of the Tourism Sector and recommended the establishment of a working group on policy recommendations.
7. With a view to meeting in person and benefitting from this opportunity to engage actively and regularly contribute to the work of the Committee, proceed with the election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, discuss the work of the CTS and set the tone for the expected outcome in the coming years, the members of the Committee suggested that the next CTS meeting, which will be the first one of the new mandate, be held in January 2020, either at IFEMA in the framework of FITUR 2020 or at UNWTO headquarters.

### Thirteenth meeting of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability

8. The thirteenth meeting of the CTS took place in Madrid in January 2020 within the framework of the FITUR international tourism fair, whose agenda is provided in Annex II hereto. Eight of the nine State members participated in the first meeting of the newly elected members for the period 2019-2023, namely: Algeria, Angola, Bhutan, Croatia, Egypt, Honduras, Philippines and Serbia. Flanders attended the meeting in its capacity as representative of the Associate Members of UNWTO.
9. In accordance with the established Rules of Procedure of the UNWTO technical committees, the State members of the CTS at their first meeting proceeded to elect among themselves their Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
10. The CTS members unanimously accepted their candidates' proposal to establish the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of their committee as follows:

Chair: Egypt and Croatia

Vice-Chair: Serbia and Angola

11. It was decided by the CTS members that the first mandate of Egypt and Serbia as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, (2019-2021) will end at the 24th session of the General Assembly and, consequently the second mandate of Croatia and Angola, as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, will start in 2021 and end in 2023 at the 25th session of the General Assembly.
12. During the meeting, the Secretariat presented the main areas of the current work in the area of sustainability and highlighted the experience of the past committee members as a first validation process to present recommendations to the Executive Council and consequently to the General Assembly especially on issues related to sustainability: Integration of SCP into Tourism Policies; Transport related CO2 Emissions of the Tourism Sector; UNFCCC COP25, UN Climate Change Conference; Report on Resolution 73/245, Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection; Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Development in Central America; and 2019 Global INSTO meeting.
13. The Secretariat outlined the preparations under way for the preparation of the report on "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection" based on the UNGA Resolution 73/245 including the expected timings for the survey and submission of the report and encouraged the Member States to use this opportunity to address issues of relevance for the tourism sector in this important document.

#### **Fourteenth meeting of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability**

14. The fourteenth meeting of the CTS took place virtually in July 2020. The meeting gathered seven of the nine Member states, namely: Algeria, Angola, Bhutan, Croatia, Egypt, Philippines, and Serbia. Flanders attended the meeting in its capacity as representative of the Associate Members of UNWTO.
15. The meeting reviewed the draft report on the implementation of UNGA resolution 73/245, Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection, prepared by the Secretariat, and served as a platform to collect the regional views through the CTS members and to reflect them in the final version of the report that will be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

#### **Update on the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme**

16. UNWTO has been leading the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme of the One Planet network since 2015 in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme. The programme promotes multi-stakeholder collaboration and acts as an implementation mechanism for SDG12. The governments of France and Spain are the current co-leads of the tourism programme.
17. The total 6 programmes of the One Planet network focusing on buildings and construction, consumer information, food systems, lifestyles and education, public procurement and tourism are committed to accelerate sustainable consumption and production and to advance the decoupling of economic growth from the use of natural resources, which in the case of tourism is very much needed.
18. Each year, programme members have the opportunity to affiliate their activities to the programme and aggregate their efforts to implement SDG12 with the results being presented to ECOSOC on an annual basis. Over time, activities have evolved from more output-oriented actions (such as trainings or outreach) to more outcome-oriented actions (policy instruments, monitoring mechanisms, commitments, etc.) which are essential to accelerate sustainable consumption and production.
19. As part of the new strategy for the implementation of the programme until 2022, it has been decided to shift the focus to address fewer topics but in a more thorough manner. The perfect example of this shift is the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, which was developed within the framework of the tourism programme and is led by UN Environment and UNWTO in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. The initiative was launched on 22 January 2020 at FITUR and unites the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. It enables businesses and governments to take concerted action, leading by example in the shift towards a circularity in the use of plastics.
20. The CTS members, having heard the Secretariat's summary regarding the discussions on the report of the Secretariat on "Transport Related CO2 emissions of the Tourism Sector" which took

place with the previous members of the Committee at the 12th CTS which recommended the establishment of a working group on policy recommendations, concluded that the CTS shall assume the role previously envisioned for the working group, ensuring that the policy recommendations are actionable and aimed at supporting high ambition scenario for the tourism sector.

21. Based on the proposal of the CTS Members, Egypt kindly accepted to host the next in-person meeting in Egypt at a place and date which will be decided in coordination with the Secretariat.

#### **Follow-up on the meetings of the CTS**

22. The CTS further recommended that Members actively support through their official missions to the United Nations in New York the negotiations of the resolution to the report on the "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection" expected to start as from September 2020.

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## Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)

Twelfth meeting

CTS/12/Agenda  
Saint Petersburg, 10 September 2019

### Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Introduction by the Executive Director
3. Discussion of the current thematic priorities:
  - a. Presentation of the findings of the *Baseline Report on the Integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns into Tourism Policies*;
  - b. Supporting the implementation of sustainable tourism policies through the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) of UNWTO;
  - c. Results of the UNWTO/International Transport Forum (ITF) research on the *Transportation related CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions of the Tourism Sector*;
  - d. UNWTO's role in CBD's Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Contribution.
4. Future activities of the Committee:
  - a. Summary of the work of the CTS;
  - b. Future in-person CTS meetings;
  - c. Open discussion;
  - d. 13 September 2019, CTS meeting to elect the Chair and the Vice Chair of the new Committee.
5. Other issues
6. Closing remarks by the Acting Chair of the CTS

## **Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)**

Thirteenth meeting  
FITUR, IFEMA, North Convention Centre  
Rooms N113 & N114

CTS/13/Agenda  
Madrid, 23 January 2020

### **Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Introduction by the Executive Director
3. Confirmation of the Chair and election of the Vice-Chair of the Committee
  - Remarks by the Candidates:
    - a. Chair (Egypt)
    - b. Vice-Chair (Angola)  
(Croatia)  
(Serbia)
  - Elections
4. Update by the Secretariat on the recent developments and the future activities of the Committee
5. Reflection on the sustainability priorities of the Programme of Work of the Organization
6. Update on the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme
7. Establishment of a working group on policy recommendations based on the report of the Secretariat on "Transport Related CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions of the Tourism Sector"
8. Other issues
9. Closing remarks by the Chair of the CTS

**Annex III: Fourteenth meeting of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS) (Virtual)**

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**Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (CTS)**

Fourteenth meeting (Virtual)  
Tuesday, 7 July 2020  
14:00 hrs (Madrid time)

CTS/14/Agenda  
Madrid, 10 June 2020

**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Welcoming remarks by the Chair of the CTS
3. Introduction by the Executive Director
4. Presentation of the draft report on the Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection
5. Regional views:
  - a. Africa
  - b. Americas
  - c. Asia and the Pacific
  - d. Europe
  - e. Middle East
6. Other issues
7. Closing remarks by the Chair of the CTS