

UNWTO Commission for the Americas

Sixty-Six meeting Virtual, 24 June 2021, 17:00 – 21:00hrs (Madrid) /10:00 – 14:00hrs (Kingston)

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS AT ITS SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING

Kingston, Jamaica, 24 June 2021

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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- 3. Report of the UNWTO Secretary-General
- 4. Implementation of the Programme of Work for 2020-2021
 - 4.1. Regional Activities
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- 8. Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies
 - 8.1 Nomination of candidates to the various General Assembly offices and its subsidiary bodies
 - 8.1.1 **Two** Vice-Chairs of the General Assembly
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- 9. Ministerial Dialogue: Reactivation of the Tourism Sector for Inclusive Growth
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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - WELCOME BY THE CAM CHAIR

The Commission,

<u>Having taken note</u> of the procedures of the electronic voting system for the Regional Commission for the Americas on

- 1. Thanks the Chair of the UNWTO Commission for the Americas (Jamaica) for their welcome words;
- 2. <u>Agrees</u> to add to the provisional agenda the item on "Presentation of the activities performed by the Direction of Education, Innovation and Investments":
- 3. Adopts the agenda of its sixty-sixth meeting;
- 4. Adopts the electronic voting system during its 66th meeting.

COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIR

Agenda item 2

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the communication of the Chair of the UNWTO Commission for the Americas, by the Minister of Tourism of Jamaica on:

- Expressing gratitude to the Secretariat and to the members of the Commission for the Americas, for
 cooperation in efforts for the effective management of the pandemic and its impacts, in particular
 through the active participation in the work of the UNWTO Global Tourism Crisis Committee
 for developing recommendations and strategies to restart and boost tourism
- Recognizing the work of the UNWTO Committee for the Development of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists and of other working groups.
- Acknowledging the importance of remaining committed to practical and value-added solutions
 for the reactivation of the travel and tourism sector in the region. The Punta Cana Declaration
 was a proof of our commitment as a region and highlighted the implementation of such
 documents effectively in our communities and countries.
- Redoubling our efforts to work together in practical and meaningful ways for a return to the successful
 days of travel and tourism.
- Desiring that one outcome of this meeting, including the Ministerial Dialogue, will be not only a
 reiteration of our commitment and political will but at least one concrete step that the region can take
 together to reactivate tourism.
- 1. Thanks him for it;
- 2. Welcomes the efforts of the region in its measures towards the recovery of the tourism sector;

3. <u>Expresses</u> its commitment in providing its support to UNWTO in its work to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and, effectively and sustainably, enhance their tourism sector to participate in the re-opening of the tourism.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Agenda item 3

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> with great interest the fruitful exchange of the Secretary-General with all the Member States present at the meeting and based in his own report mainly the response of UNWTO to the challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic to support the Members, including:

- Providing an overview of the latest tourism trends and scenarios and outlining the main factors that will affect tourism recovery, including the lifting of the travel restrictions, the speed of rebuilding confidence and the speed of the vaccination roll-out;
- Emphasizing the importance of urgent coordination among governments, public and private sector, and international organizations to harmonize the health and safety protocols adopted by most countries to cope with the pandemic;
- Advancing on the harmonization of health and safety protocols and highlighting the activities on Rural Development through Tourism, theme of Year 2020;
- Underlying the activities related to the UNWTO Academy, especially on Youth and Talent Development;
- Developing recommendations for the transition to a Green Travel and Tourism Economy;
- Increasing the resources and strengthening UNWTO's capacity through partnerships with international financial institutions and international organizations through technical assistance and the COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Technical Assistance Package;
- Establishment of a UNWTO Regional Office for the Middle East in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the on-progress negotiations for opening another regional office for the Americas in Brazil and the possibility to open UNWTO offices in Argentina and Dominican Republic.
- 1. <u>Welcomes</u> the activities carried out to support the Members during the exceptionally challenging times for the Tourism industry worldwide.
- 2. <u>Supports</u> the work of the Secretariat in achieving the priorities set to support to Members in the recovery of their tourism sector and reinforcing its coordination with various institutions of the United Nations system.
- 3. <u>Thanks the interest shown by Brazil to continue working and negotiating for the opening of a new UNWTO regional office in the Americas.</u>

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK: REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 4.1

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the report presented by the UNWTO Deputy Regional Director for the Americas on the activities carried out in the region,

1. <u>Thanks him</u> for the detailed and useful presentation and <u>appreciates</u> the activities carried out to achieve a closer regional cooperation in the Americas to lead towards a sustainable recovery of the tourism industry;

- 2. <u>Welcomes</u> the intensive and continuous efforts carried out for the dissemination of knowledge, data, capacity-building, through communications, webinars, and conferences to the public and private sectors;
- 3. <u>Supports</u> its objectives to strengthen member relations, supporting institutional cooperation in the region, sharing and creating value for UNWTO members, empowering the reach of the Organization's technical departments and attracting new members;
- 4. <u>Encourages</u> the Regional Department to continue its activities in holding bilateral meetings with member states at all levels of government to discuss country's priorities and challenges:
- 5. <u>Encourages</u> the involvement of many countries of the region in the working groups of the Organization, such as the GTCC Technical group, the Committee for the Development of the ICPT, the Committee in Online Tourism Education:
- 6. <u>Praises</u> UNWTO's efforts to support the creation of a global innovation ecosystem, aiming at supporting start-ups at a national and international level, creating a strong network for seed investments aimed at scaling up and upgrading the digital efforts to restart tourism;
- 7. <u>Takes note</u> of the continuing activities related to the Wine and Gastronomy Tourism, supporting and encouraging the rural tourism focus of the UNWTO overall strategy;
- 8. <u>Expresses</u> gratitude to the work developed by the operational departments highlighting the necessity to have a stronger and more comprehensive perspective on the sustainable development of tourism and the social dimension of tourism in its different aspects as well as women empowerment;
- 9. <u>Encourages</u> the Regional Department for the Americas to continue its activities in line with the Survey on Members' priorities identified by the Member States of the region.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Agenda item 4.2

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the report presented by the Deputy Regional Director for the Americas regarding the activities carried out by the UNWTO Affiliate Members Department,

- 1. Thanks him for the information on the current priorities of the Affiliate Members' programme;
- 2. <u>Takes note</u> of the initiatives undertaken to support the Affiliate Members such as in the Integral Reform of their Legal Framework, the modernization of their network, creating better value for them;
- 3. <u>Notes with interest</u> the aim of offering to the Affiliate Members opportunities to showcase their projects and products, in implement joint projects and events;
- 4. Takes note that the Americas is the second region with the highest representation of Affiliate Members;
- 5. <u>Welcomes</u> the important contribution of the Affiliate Members to UNWTO's Programme of Work to promote partnerships, networking and the exchange of knowledge;
- 6. <u>Acknowledges</u> that Affiliate Members constitute a very valuable asset to the work of the Organization in expanding UNWTO's reach in projecting the principles and image of the Organization worldwide;
- 7. <u>Supports</u> UNWTO for its efforts in encouraging the tourism private sector to join the Affiliate Members and engage in UNWTO's work and activities.



RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON MEMBERS' PRIORITIES FOR THE GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2023

Agenda item 5

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the report presented by the Chief of Members Relations, regarding the results of the survey on Members' Priorities.

- 1. Thanks him for it;
- 2. <u>Appreciates</u> the special interest of UNWTO in identifying Members' priorities in view of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism industry worldwide;
- 3. <u>Notes</u> the importance given by the Members to the sustainability and the green transition, product diversification and adaptation to the needs of new customers to lead towards the recovery of their tourism sector;
- 4. <u>Acknowledges</u> the importance of rethinking tourism, including more sustainable projects and reinforcing the digital transformation to boost innovation;
- 5. <u>Welcomes</u> that most of the members of the region participated in the survey;
- 6. Appreciates the determination of UNWTO in supporting the Members on these new top priorities.

PRESENTATION OF THE BEST TOURISM VILLAGES INITIATIVE

Agenda item 6

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the presentation of the Best Tourism Villages initiative, by the Chief of Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness (TMIC),

- 1. Thanks the Chief for her detailed presentation;
- 2. <u>Takes note with interest</u> of the mission of the initiative being to advance the role of tourism in valuing and safeguarding rural villages along with their associated landscapes, knowledge systems, biological and cultural diversity, local values and activities;
- 3. <u>Appreciates</u> the promotion of innovative and transformative approaches to the development of tourism in rural destinations that contribute to the three pillars of sustainability economic, social and environmental in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the decision of the SG to allow Member States to present their proposals in Spanish and at the same time requests a postponement in the dates of submission of applications;
- 5. Encourages the Members States from the region to actively participate in the initiative.

ACTIVITIES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, EDUCATION, AND INVESTMENTS

The Commission,

Having heard the presentation of the Director of Innovation, Education, and Investments (IEI),

- 1. Thanks her for her detailed overview
- 2. Appreciates the work carried out by the Direction of Innovation, Education, and Investments
- 3. Encourages the participation of the Member States in the existing education and training initiatives presented by the UNWTO Academy and endorses the tourism online academy project as well as their proactive involvement in new initiatives.

UPDATE ON THE DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR THE PROTECTION OF TOURISTS Agenda item 7

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the update, presented by the UNWTO Legal Counsel, on the work of the Committee for the Development of an International Code for the Protection of Tourists,

- 1. Thanks her for her detailed overview:
- 2. <u>Takes note</u> of the achievements made with regard to the Definitions and the Assistance to international tourists in emergency situations;
- 3. <u>Notes with interest</u> the progress made with regards to the tourists' protection in contracts and on the international settlement of travel and tourism disputes via alternative means of dispute resolution;
- 4. <u>Appreciates</u> the work carried out by the Members of the Committee in reviewing the draft text of the Code and <u>encourages</u> them to continue their excellent work.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE VARIOUS XXIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

Agenda item 8.1

The Commission,

- 1. <u>Nominates,</u> **Paraguay** and **Uruguay** to serve as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (2 seats to be filled);
- 2. <u>Nominates</u> to the Assembly, **Guatemala** and **Jamaica** as its representatives for the Credentials Committee (2 seats to be filled).

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO REPRESENT THE REGION ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Agenda item 8.2

The Commission.

<u>Proposes</u>, following an electronic vote, **Argentina**, **Brazil**, and **Dominican Republic** to serve as its candidates for the vacant seats in the Executive Council corresponding to the region of the Americas, for a four-year term, for the period between the twenty-fourth and twenty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly (2021-2025) (3 seats to be filled).

The results of the vote were:

- Argentina (16 votes)
- Dominican Republic (15 votes)
- Brazil (14 votes)

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND TWO VICE-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2023

Agenda item 8.3

The Commission,

- 1. <u>Proposes</u>, following an electronic vote, **Paraguay** to serve as Chair of the Commission corresponding to the region of the Americas, for a two-year term, for the period between the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly (2021-2023);
- 2. <u>Thanks Jamaica</u> for its dedicated work as Chair of the Commission and its commitment to support the Members of the Commission and the Organization in alleviating the impact of the pandemic caused by the Covid-19 and helping the tourism industry in its recovery;
- 3. Nominates **Uruguay** and **Barbados** as its 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs respectively (2 seats to be filled);
- 4. Thanks Honduras and Paraguay for having performed the duties of Vice-Chairs during the period 2019-2021.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: REACTIVATION OF THE TOURISM SECTOR FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Agenda item 9

The Commission,

<u>Having heard</u> the presentation of the Deputy Regional Director for the Americas that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of global political action and coordination to mitigate the effects of the crisis and support recovery through measures that have proven to be fundamental for the survival of the sector and are especially important for MSMEs.

<u>Taking into consideration</u> that the Framework for Inclusive Community Development through Tourism has been developed to advance the potential of tourism as an effective means for contributing to and achieving inclusive community development and the Sustainable Development Goals considering:

- Empowering People: creating conditions in which all people, especially women and youth, can live, work, and thrive:
- Protecting the Planet: fostering collective efforts to protect our commons;
- Shaping New Frontiers: adopt long-term and bold strategies to utilize and share the benefits of innovation.

<u>Having heard also</u> the interventions of their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of delegations on the public tourism policies and best practices developed in their countries;

- 1. <u>Expresses its appreciation</u> to the Member States for their response to this initiative <u>and values</u> the efforts of their governments in light of the unprecedented state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges facing the sector and their public strategies aimed to support and encourage the well-being of the communities;
- 2. <u>Thanks</u> the Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Panamá and Paraguay for their valuable inputs and relevant comments in support of the necessity to implement public policies for the recovery of tourism Common Standards and Protocols, which can be summarized as follows:



- Encourage organizations working in development cooperation to prioritize tourism as an effective means
 to advance inclusion by supporting governments and local communities to develop policies and action
 plans that build and enhance public-private-community cooperation;
- Make tourism an effective tool for inclusive development through fair and efficient distribution of the benefits of tourism throughout their territories;
- Build capacities (especially in areas such as digital literacy, financial literacy, marketing, or languages) among local communities, in particular for youth, women and ethnic, indigenous and other minority groups;
- Obtain employment in tourism companies, supply goods and services to tourists and tourism enterprises
 and establish competitive small and medium-sized tourism enterprises, is critical for generating income
 and equitable distribution of wealth;
- Implement a gender-responsive, sustainable approach to tourism planning and management should consider women's needs at a community level, generate opportunities for women to be entrepreneurial through diversified income generating activities and help to integrate gender equality at all levels of the sector;
- Develop accessible environments, infrastructure, and services in communities benefits the local community and creates a more inclusive society for all while opening new market opportunities.
- 3. <u>Support</u> the efforts made by the Member States for strengthening regional integration and communication through tourism with the intention to establish a common strategy to overcome the challenges that affect the region.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 24TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY Agenda item 10

The Commission,

Having heard the information provided by the Deputy Regional Director for the Americas,

- 1. <u>Takes note</u> that the decision on the dates of the 24th session will be announced in the next month, after being informed by the Secretary General that the General Assembly would take place anytime during the last week of November/first week of December:
- 2. <u>Thanks the Organization</u> for the preparations underway for the hosting of the 24th session of the General Assembly in Marrakesh, Morocco, by the end of 2021.

PLACE AND DATE OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Agenda item 11

The Commission,

Having heard the report of the Secretary-General,

Thanks **Uruguay** for presenting its candidature to host the 67th Meeting of the UNWTO and accepts its invitation;

<u>Entrusts</u> the Secretariat with making the necessary arrangements for the holding of the next Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for the Americas.

ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AMERICAS FULL MEMBERS

H.E. Mr. Matías Lammens **ARGENTINA** Minister of Tourism and Sports

Ministry of Tourism and Sports

Mr. Leandro Balasini

Director of International Relations

Directorate of International and Institutional Relations

Ministry of Tourism and Sports

Ms. Ana Inés García Allievi **Technical Assistant**

Directorate of International and Institutional Relations

Ministry of Tourism and Sports

Ms. Yanina Martinez

Secretary of Tourism Promotion

State Secretariat for Tourism Promotion

BAHAMAS Ms. Joy Jibrilu

Director General

Ministry of Tourism and Aviation

Lynette Virgil

Head - International Relations Ministry of Tourism and Aviation

BARBADOS Hon. Ms. Lisa Cummins

> Minister of Tourism & International Transport Ministry of Tourism & International Transport

Ms. Donna Cadogan **Permanent Secretary**

Ministry of Tourism & International Transport

Ms. Marsha Alleyne

Chief Product Development Officer

Ministry of Tourism & International Transport

BRAZIL Hon. Mr. Daniel Nepomuceno

> Viceminister Ministry of Tourism

Mr. Rafael Augusto Luisi de Oliveira Jefe de la AsesorÃ-a Especial del Ministro



Ms. Débora Moraes da Cunha Gonalves Jefe de la AsesorÃ-a Especial de Relaciones

Internacionales

Mr. Carlos Alberto Gomes de Brito

President **EMBRATUR**

Mr. Heitor Magalhaes de Sousa Kadri Overseas Operations Manager

EMBRATUR

H.E. Mr. José Luis Uriarte CHILE

Undersecretary of Tourism

Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism

Sofía Valenzuela International Advisor

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Co Acting Viceminister of Tourism

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Minister of Tourism

Costa Rican Institute of Tourism

Mr. Hermes Navarro

Chief of Investment Attraction Costa Rican Institute of Tourism

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Head of International Relations

Ministry of Tourism

Ms. Jacqueline DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

> Viceminister of Tourism Ministry of Tourism

H.E. Mr. Anibal De Castro

Ambassador

Nathalie Abreu Patxot

Advisor

Ms. Ana Garcia Pando **ECUADOR**

> Viceminister of Tourism Ministry of Tourism

H.E. Ms. Morena Ileana Valdez Vigil **EL SALVADOR**

Minister of Tourism



Ministry of Tourism

Ms. Carolina Cerna

Director of International Relations

Ministry of Tourism

GUATEMALA H. E, Mr. Mynor Arturo Cordón Lemus

General Director

INGUAT

Ms. Ana GuadalupeDieguez **Director of Pruduct Development**

INGUAT

Mr. Erwin Antonio Garcia

Tourism Competitiveness Advisor

INGUAT

HONDURAS Ms. Tatiana María Siercke Nuñez

Manager of Institutional and International Relations

Honduran Institute of Tourism

JAMAICA Hon, Mr. Edmund Bartlett

> Minister of Tourism Ministry of Tourism

Ms. Jennifer Griffiths **Permanent Secretary** Ministry of tourism

Ms. Tyesha Turner

Director, Tourism Trade and International Relations

Ministry of Tourism

Ms. Tamar Henry **Logistics Coordinator** Ministry of Tourism

MEXICO Hon. Mr. Miguel Torruco Marqués

Secretary of Tourism

Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico (SECTUR)

Mr. Humberto Hernández Haddad

Undersecretary

Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico (SECTUR)

Mr. Emmanuel Rey

General Director for International Affairs and

Cooperation

Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico (SECTUR)

NICARAGUA Mrs. Shantanny Anasha Campbell Lewis

Co General Director of Administration

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Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR)

Ms. Karina Ramírez Sampson

Projects and International Cooperation

INTUR

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Viceminister

PanamaTourism Authority

PARAGUAY Hon. Ms. Sofia Montiel

Minister - Executive Secretary

National Secretariat of Tourism (SENATUR)

PERU Ms. Madeleine Burns

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Ms. Mariella Soldi

Advisor to the Minister's Cabinet Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism

Mr. Joan Barrena

Director to the Peruvian Commercial Office in Madrid

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO Mr. Edward Lee Tang

Tourism Coordinator

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

<u>URUGUAY</u> H.E. Mr. Germán Cardoso Ferreira

Minister of Tourism Ministry of Tourism

Mr. RemoMonzeglio Viceminister of Tourism

Mr. Daniel Reta Adjunto al Ministro

Mr. Oscar Iroldi Technical Coordinator

<u>VENEZUELA</u> Ms. Leticia Gómez

Viceminister of International Tourism Ministry of Popular Power for Tourism

MEMBER STATES FROM OTHER UNWTO REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

SAUDI ARABIA H.E. Mr. Ahmed ALKHATEEB

Minister of Tourism of Saudi Arabia

UNWTO AFFILIATE MEMBERS



World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - A Specialized Agency of the United Nations

American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute Mr. Cuauhtemoc Novello

Managing Director, the Caribbean and Latin America

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Presidente Ejecutiva

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Camara Argentina de Turismo Mr. Aldo Elías

Presidente

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COTELCO Mr. Gustavo Toro

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FAEVYT - Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de

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FEHGRA Mr. Jordi busquets

Asesor General

FITUR - IFEMA MADRID Ms. Maria Valcarce Rodriguez

Directora FITUR

Ms. Silvia Bueno Commercial manager

George Washington University Dr. Donald Hawkins

First Vice Chair, Board of Affiliate Members

ICF Mr. Jared Harckham

VP Managing Director

Ms. Yolanda Perdomo Tourism Strategist

Red Española de Turismo Accesible - REDESTABLE Mr. Diego Javier González Velasco

Presidente

Tripadvisor Mr. Fabrizio Orlando

Global Industry Relations Associate Director

Universidad del Caribe Mr. Pedro Moncada Jiménez

Profesor Investigador

Heritage Education Network Belize Ms. Ella Erzsebet Bekesi

Director

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Ms. Safiya Horne-Bique

Director

Mr. Kennedy Pemberton

Adviser

Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Ms. Faye Gill

Director, Membership Services

Caribbean Public Health Agency (CPHA) Ms. Lisa Indar

Director- Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control

Ms. Frieda Mohammed

InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

(IICA)

Ms. Ena Harvey

Representative, IICA Barbados

Ms. Beverly Best

Director

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Chief, Culture And Tourism Section

Mr. Santiago Noboa

Especialista en Cultura y Turismo

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Ms. Maria Fowell

Senior Technical Specialist Tourism

UNWTO SECRETARIAT

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Mr. Alejandro VARELA

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Mr. Edgardo MEJÍA IT Associate

Mr. Kamal BAGHIRLI Multimedia Specialist

