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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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – WELCOME BY THE CAM CHAIR

The Commission,

Having taken note 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. Agrees 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,

Having heard 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. **Expresses** 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,

**Having heard** 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. **Welcomes** the activities carried out to support the Members during the exceptionally challenging times for the Tourism industry worldwide.

2. **Supports** 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. **Thanks** the interest shown by Brazil to continue working and negotiating for the opening of a new UNWTO regional office in the Americas.

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

**Agenda Item 4.1**

The Commission,

**Having heard** the report presented by the UNWTO Deputy Regional Director for the Americas on the activities carried out in the region,

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

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2. Welcomes 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. Supports 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. Encourages 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. Encourages 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. Praises 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. Takes note of the continuing activities related to the Wine and Gastronomy Tourism, supporting and encouraging the rural tourism focus of the UNWTO overall strategy;

8. Expresses 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. Encourages 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,

Having heard 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. Takes note 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. Notes with interest 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. Welcomes the important contribution of the Affiliate Members to UNWTO’s Programme of Work to promote partnerships, networking and the exchange of knowledge;

6. Acknowledges 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. Supports 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,

Having heard the report presented by the Chief of Members Relations, regarding the results of the survey on Members’ Priorities,

1. **Thanks** him for it;
2. **Appreciates** 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. **Notes** 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. **Acknowledges** the importance of rethinking tourism, including more sustainable projects and reinforcing the digital transformation to boost innovation;
5. **Welcomes** 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,

Having heard 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. **Takes note with interest** 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. **Appreciates** 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. **Welcomes** 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,

Having heard 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. **Takes note** of the achievements made with regard to the Definitions and the Assistance to international tourists in emergency situations;

3. **Notes with interest** 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. **Appreciates** the work carried out by the Members of the Committee in reviewing the draft text of the Code and **encourages** them to continue their excellent work.

### NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE VARIOUS XXIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES

**Agenda item 8.1**

The Commission,

1. **Nominates** Paraguay and Uruguay to serve as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (2 seats to be filled);

2. **Nominates** 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,

Proposes, 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:
The Commission,

1. Proposes, 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. Thanks **Jamaica** 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**

The Commission,

**Having heard** 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.

Taking into consideration 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.

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

1. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Member States for their response to this initiative and values 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. **Thanks** 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. Support 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. Takes note 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. Thanks the Organization 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;

Entrusts 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

ARGENTINA

H.E. Mr. Matías Lammens
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 Asesoría Especial del Ministro
Ms. Débora Moraes da Cunha Gonçalves  
Jefe de la Asesoría Especial de Relaciones Internacionales

Mr. Carlos Alberto Gomes de Brito  
President
EMBRATUR

Mr. Heitor Magalhaes de Sousa Kadri  
Overseas Operations Manager
EMBRATUR

CHILE
H.E. Mr. José Luis Uriarte  
Undersecretary of Tourism
Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism

Sofía Valenzuela  
International Advisor

COLOMBIA
Ms. Constanza Olaya  
Co Acting Viceminister of Tourism
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

Mr. Oscar Javier Siza Moreno  
Director of Sectorial Analysis and Promotion
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

COSTA RICA
H.E. Mr. Gustavo Segura  
Minister of Tourism
Costa Rican Institute of Tourism

Mr. Hermes Navarro  
Chief of Investment Attraction
Costa Rican Institute of Tourism

CUBA
Ms. Marivel Pérez Pérez  
Head of International Relations
Ministry of Tourism

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Ms. Jacqueline Mora  
Viceminister of Tourism
Ministry of Tourism

H.E. Mr. Aníbal De Castro  
Ambassador

Nathalie Abreu Patxot  
Advisor

ECUADOR
Ms. Ana Garcia Pando  
Viceminister of Tourism
Ministry of Tourism

EL SALVADOR
H.E. Ms. Morena Ileana Valdez Vigil  
Minister of Tourism
GUATEMALA

H. E. Mr. Mynor Arturo Cordón Lemus
General Director
INGUAT

Ms. Ana Guadalupe Dieguez
Director of Product Development
INGUAT

Mr. Erwin Antonio García
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
Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR)

Ms. Karina Ramírez Sampson  
Projects and International Cooperation  
INTUR

PANAMA

Ms. Denise Guillen  
Viceminister  
Panama Tourism Authority

PARAGUAY

Hon. Ms. Sofía Montiel  
Minister - Executive Secretary  
National Secretariat of Tourism (SENATUR)

PERU

Ms. Madeleine Burns  
Advisor to the Minister’s Cabinet  
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism

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

URUGUAY

H.E. Mr. Germán Cardoso Ferreira  
Minister of Tourism  
Ministry of Tourism

Mr. Remo Monzeglio  
Viceminister of Tourism

Mr. Daniel Reta  
Adjunto al Ministro

Mr. Oscar Iroldi  
Technical Coordinator

VENEZUELA

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Hotel &amp; Lodging Educational Institute</td>
<td>Mr. Cuauhtemoc Novello</td>
<td>Managing Director, the Caribbean and Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asociacion Colombiana de Agencias de Viajes y Turismo - ANATO -</td>
<td>Ms. Paula Marcela Cortes Calle</td>
<td>Presidente Ejecutiva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University</td>
<td>Mr. Ilham Madatov</td>
<td>Rector Prof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camara Argentina de Turismo</td>
<td>Mr. Aldo Elias</td>
<td>Presidente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CED - World Centre of Excellence for Destinations</td>
<td>Mr. Francois Bedard</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>COTELCO</td>
<td>Mr. Gustavo Toro</td>
<td>Presidente Ejecutivo</td>
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<td>Dark Sky Association</td>
<td>Ms. Apolonia Rodrigues</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Aurea Rodrigues</td>
<td>Coordinator of Research</td>
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<td>Duy Tan University</td>
<td>Mr. Kim Luan Bui</td>
<td>Vice Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estudio Singerman &amp; Makon Latam Consulting</td>
<td>Mr. Pablo Singerman</td>
<td>CEO and Founder</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAEVYT - Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Empresas de Viajes y Turismo</td>
<td>Mr. Horacio Reppucci</td>
<td>Miembro de CD - Vocal 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEHGRA</td>
<td>Mr. Jordi busquets</td>
<td>Asesor General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FITUR - IFEMA MADRID</td>
<td>Ms. Maria Valcarce Rodríguez</td>
<td>Directora FITUR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Silvia Bueno</td>
<td>Commercial manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Washington University</td>
<td>Dr. Donald Hawkins</td>
<td>First Vice Chair, Board of Affiliate Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICF</td>
<td>Mr. Jared Harckham</td>
<td>VP Managing Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Yolanda Perdomo</td>
<td>Tourism Strategist</td>
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<td>Red Española de Turismo Accesible - REDESTABLE</td>
<td>Mr. Diego Javier González Velasco</td>
<td>Presidente</td>
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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

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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

Organization of American States (OAS)

Mr. Richard Campbell
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

Mr. Zurab POLOLIKASHVILI
Secretary-General

Mr. Alejandro VARELA
Deputy Regional Director for the Americas

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Mr. Beka JAKELI
Chief of Member Relations

Ms. Shirin EL' TAYAN
Chief of Protocol

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Chief
Department of Market Intelligence and Competitiveness

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Programme Assistant for the Americas

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Conferences Assistant

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IT Associate

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