Dear Affiliate Members,

I am pleased to share with you the Vol. 36 of our AM News Bulletin.

November is the month of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly, the most important statutory meeting of our Organization. As you know, it will be held in Madrid on November 30 – December 3, after the decision by the Government of Morocco to withdraw due to the evolution of the current global situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the framework of the General Assembly, the Affiliate Members Department will organize several meetings and activities that will reflect the work done this year and the future main initiatives and projects. First of all, we will celebrate the 43rd UNWTO Affiliate Members Plenary Session, in which the draft Programme of Work 2022, incorporating the main proposals shared by our Affiliate Members, will be presented, and the Revised Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Affiliate Members will be submitted to their approval.

In addition to this, the new Legal Framework for the Affiliate Members will be submitted to the approval of the General Assembly, and we trust it will contribute to increasing the quality of the Affiliate Membership and strengthening the cooperation between the Affiliate Members and the Member States.

Another important item of the Agenda is the admission of the new Affiliate Members. We will submit a high-quality list of more than 30 entities from all the regions of the world to the approval of the General Assembly.

In order to enrich the participation of our Affiliate Members in this important statutory meeting, another edition of the AM Corner will take place, providing them with the opportunity to present their projects and initiatives and so increasing their visibility.

We are also planning to organize an exhibition in partnership with Netflix to promote the Global Report on Cultural Affinity and Screen Tourism, which was recently published in the UNWTO E-Library. A combination of digital and physical assets will showcase the main findings of the report and will boost visibility on the reciprocity between sustainable tourism, culture and the audiovisual sector.

Lastly, on 25-26 December we will celebrate in Lloret de Mar the first World Sports Tourism Congress, in partnership with the Catalan Tourism Board. The event, which will be held in a hybrid format, will count on a list of renowned speakers that will share their knowledge on the current and future trends of Sports Tourism.

As always, I am at your disposal and look forward to hearing any comments you might have.

Looking forward to meeting you in Madrid and Lloret de Mar!

Yours sincerely,

Ion Vilcu
WHAT'S ON!
AGENDA OF AFFILIATE MEMBER’S EVENTS 2021

Check out the agenda of events organized by the UNWTO and the Affiliate Members in 2021! For your event to be featured in this section, please send us the details at am@unwto.org.

November 15-16: “Moving Forward Innovation Festival”, Andermatt (Switzerland) (Hybrid)
Organizer: World Tourism Forum Lucerne
Website

November 15-19: “4th International Congress on Technology and Tourism for Diversity” (Virtual)
Organizer: ONCE Foundation
Website

November 17-19: 15th International Congress of Gastronomy (Virtual)
Organizer: Universidad del Caribe
Website

November 22-26: MOVE 2021 – 6th International Conference on Subnational Measurement an Economic Analysis Tourism in Bogotá (Colombia)
Organizer: Instituto Distrital de Turismo de Bogotá (IDT)
Website

Organizer: Africa Tourism Partners Company
Website

November 25-26: World Sports Tourism Congress in Lloret de Mar, Catalonia (Spain)
Organizer: UNWTO and Catalan Tourism Board (ACT)
Website

November 25-26: The World in Florence – International Festival of World’s Cultural Expressions, Florence (Italy)
Organizer: Fondazione Romualdo del Bianco
Website

November 30 – December 3: 24th UNWTO General Assembly and 43rd UNWTO Affiliate Members Plenary Session in Madrid (Spain)
Organizer: UNWTO
Website

December 16: “Impact 2021 – New Tourism, New Directions”, Hong Kong (Hybrid)
Organizer: School of Hotel and Tourism Management at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Website

December 17: “2nd GBA Smart Tourism Forum”, Hong Kong (Hybrid)
Organizer: School of Hotel and Tourism Management at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Website

December 15-19: “4th Ibero-American Summit of Accessible Tourism”, La Havana (Cuba)
Organizer: Ibero-American Network of Accessible Tourism and Ministry of Tourism of Cuba

January, 19-23: International Tourism Fair of Madrid (FITUR)
Organizer: IFEMA
Website

March 23-25: “11th World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism”, Andorra
Organizer: UNWTO and Ministry of Tourism of Andorra
Website

June 27 – July 2: “1st Global Youth Tourism Summit”, Sorrento (Italy)
Organizer: UNWTO and Ministry of Tourism of Italy
Website
The 43rd session of the UNWTO Affiliate Members Plenary Session, the most important annual statutory meeting for our Affiliate Membership, will be held within the framework of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly in Madrid on 30th November.

This edition of our Plenary will be focused on two priority topics:

**Presentation of the draft Programme of Work of Affiliate Members for 2022 (PoW 2022)**

The Programme of Work 2022 is the roadmap document outlining the main objectives by the Affiliate Members Department in line with UNWTO’s main priorities and goals. For Affiliate Members the PoW represents the ideal framework and the opportunity to propose initiatives to be developed with the support or participation of UNWTO through the Affiliate Members Department.

The Programme of Work 2022 defines the priority lines of action of the Affiliate Members Department, in full alignment with UNWTO’s Management Vision, Objectives and Priorities, and reflecting the outcome of consultations with the Board of Affiliate Members and with the UNWTO Affiliate Membership as a whole. The document takes into consideration the proposals received from our Affiliate Members following the Call for Proposals launched in September.

Being a continuation of the previous PoW, this document constitutes yet another decisive step to reinforce the partnership among UNWTO, its Member States and its Affiliate Members.

During the Plenary Session, there will be a specific session where those contributions which were included in the draft of the PoW will be presented by our Affiliate Members. This is a great opportunity for them to present their future projects and initiatives and exchange views on the main proposals included in the PoW 2022.
Approval of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Affiliate Members

Pursuant to Decision 4 (CXII) of the 112nd Executive Council held in Tbilisi (Georgia) in September 2020, a Working Group for the Reform of the Affiliate Membership Legal Framework (WG-AMLR) was created, aimed to review the current Rules of Procedures of the Committee of the Affiliate Members in consultation with the Affiliate Members, represented by the Chair of the Board.

After 7 meetings held between December 2020 and July 2021, the WG-AMLR was very successful in its mission. In fact, its members elaborated an updated version of the Rules of Procedures of the Committee of the Affiliate Members that will be submitted to the approval of the 43rd Affiliate Members Plenary Session.

The Revised Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Affiliate Members will regulate exclusively the functioning of the Committee of the Affiliate Members, composed of the Plenary and the Board of the Affiliate Members. Among the proposed changes in the Rules of Procedure we highlight the following:

• For the Plenary of the Affiliate Members:
  - More functions and responsibilities
  - Meetings every 2 years in the framework of the General Assembly, instead of every year
  - Specific quorum for decision-making
  - Decisions by consensus, except when a majority is required

• For the Board of the Affiliate Members:
  - Term of office of the Board Members of 4 years instead of 2 years
  - Functions revised and aligned with the UNWTO legal framework

You can download here the Agenda of the Plenary!
PROPOSAL OF REFORM OF THE UNWTO AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP LEGAL FRAMEWORK WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL

Following the Decision 4(CXII) adopted by the Executive Council, a proposal of reform of the existing Rules of Procedures of the Affiliate Members and the creation of a Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership will be submitted to the 24th General Assembly for approval.

This proposal of Reform of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework, as requested by the Board of the Affiliate Members, will be composed of two separate documents:

1- Revised Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Affiliate Members will regulate exclusively the functioning of the Committee of the Affiliate Members, composed of the Plenary and the Board of the Affiliate Members.

According to the legal framework of the UNWTO, the Plenary will be the competent body to approve during the 43rd session of the Plenary, under agenda item 6, the amendments to these revised Rules of Procedure before submitting them to the 24th General Assembly.

2- Charter of Affiliate Membership which includes all the content concerning the Affiliate Membership (definition Affiliate Members, Right & Obligation, Admission process, withdrawal) and the new Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership.

The Main improvements through the Reform:

• Specific functions and working methods for the Plenary Session and the Board of the Affiliate Members.

• Establishment of a new specialized Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership which will provide Affiliate Members with an institutional channel of interaction and collaboration with Member States.

• Demanding Admission criteria and procedures in order to increase the quality of the Affiliate Membership.

• Faster withdrawal procedure will be also introduced

• Coherent structure of the new Legal Framework which reflects which body is competent for what.

Proposal of Reform of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework
A LIST OF OVER 30 ENTITIES TO BE ADMITTED AS AFFILIATE MEMBERS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

One important item of the agenda of the upcoming 24th UNWTO General Assembly will be the admission as Affiliate Members of over 30 new entities that presented their candidature.

Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), tourism boards at the national, regional and local level, professional organizations, universities and research centres, NGOs and associations are just some of the profiles that form the list of candidatures to be approved by the General Assembly.

As a proof of the interest by the private sector towards the Affiliate Membership, despite the difficult circumstances tourism stakeholders are facing, it has to be highlighted the wide geographical distribution of the candidates covering all the regions of the world. Spain, United States of America, Italy, Georgia, Germany, Belgium, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, México, Paraguay, Ghana, Nigeria, Japan and the Republic of Korea are some of the countries where the applying entities are registered.

This is a clear sign of the opportunities the UNWTO offers to the tourism private entities in terms of strengthening public-private partnerships, establishing win-win collaborations and developing joint initiatives to build a more responsible and sustainable tourism sector.

At the Affiliate Members Department we look forward to welcoming our new Affiliate Members!

NEW EDITION OF THE UNWTO AFFILIATE MEMBERS CORNER AT THE 24TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In line with the calendar of activities established through the Programme of Work for 2021 of the Affiliate Members Department, and following the success of the UNWTO Affiliate Members Corner as tool for visibility of Affiliate Members, the Affiliate Members Department will be organizing the “AFFILIATE MEMBERS CORNER” in the framework of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly – the most important statutory meeting of UNWTO, bringing together all sorts of stakeholders in the tourism sector.

This edition of the “UNWTO Affiliate Members Corner” will focus on how different Affiliate Members are contributing to a better post-COVID tourism scenario through innovative strategies, plans and ideas, paying special attention to:

- Development or implementation of new tourism products strategies in line with the 2030 Agenda.
- Examples of successful public-private cooperation projects for the recovery of tourism.
- Presentation of tourism-related research projects in key areas in the tourism value chain.

It will consist of a 2-hour session for previously selected Affiliate Members to present their work and initiatives on the priority tourism topic.

The Session will be open for all participants of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly.
THE AFFILIATE MEMBERS DEPARTMENT AND NETFLIX WILL ORGANIZE AN EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE THE GLOBAL REPORT ON CULTURAL AFFINITY AND SCREEN TOURISM

The Affiliate Members Department and Netflix are planning to organize an exhibition in the venue of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly to further promote the Global Report "Cultural Affinity and Screen Tourism", jointly developed by the two organizations and recently published in the UNWTO E-Library.

Furthermore, it will serve to build visibility of the reciprocity between sustainable tourism, culture and the audiovisual sector along with featuring the great collaboration between Netflix and the UNWTO, which started with the report and will continue in the next future.

A mix of digital and physical assets will bring the report to life in a visual and compelling way. Among the digital ones, there will be a teaser video that will increase viewers curiosity on Screen Tourism and its potential towards sustainability, a slideshow-on-loop with graphics and images on the key findings of the reports to spike people’s interest, and floor graphics adding an interactive experience to engage the audience.

As for the physical assets, the exhibition space will count on high-quality exhibit panels that will take the attendee on a visual journey through the report, and infographics illustrating its key findings.

You can download the report here: Cultural Affinity and Screen Tourism.
ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY FROM THE FIRST WORLD SPORTS TOURISM CONGRESS

On 25-26 November the city of Lloret de Mar, Cataluña (Spain) will host the first World Sports Tourism Congress, organized by the UNWTO and the Affiliate Member the Catalan Tourism Board (ACT).

Over two days experts from the public and private sectors and academics will debate on several aspects of Sports Tourism, such as:

- Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030
- Demand perspective, market size and potential
- Innovation in the development of stadiums, Olympic Games and mass participation events
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Sports visitor needs
- Successful destination governance and public-private strategies
- Digital transformation of sports
- Outdoor sports
- New research in the sector
- Commercialization, e-ticketing platforms and marketplaces

Each session will count on renowned speakers from all over the world who will share their knowledge and expertise with the audience.

You can find the programme and the list of confirmed speakers in the Official Webpage of the Congress. You are still on time to register and participate (virtually or in-person) in this Congress!

Do not miss this opportunity and join the discussions!
UNWTO HIGHLIGHTS

The ‘Glasgow Declaration for Climate Action in Tourism’ was launched at the COP26

Within the framework of the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 tourism businesses, governments and destinations committed to cut emissions in half by 2030 and achieve Net Zero by 2050 at the latest.

The Glasgow Declaration recognizes the urgent need for a globally consistent plan for climate action in tourism. The more than 300 signatories commit to measure, decarbonize, regenerate and unlock finance. Additionally, each signatory commits to deliver a concrete climate action plan, or an updated plan, within 12 months of signing.

Speaking at COP26, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili stressed that “while many private businesses have led the way in advancing climate action, a more ambitious sector-wide approach is needed to ensure tourism accelerates climate action in a meaningful way.” He added that “the Glasgow Declaration is a tool to help bridge the gap between good intentions and meaningful climate action.”

The Glasgow Declaration was developed through the collaboration of UNWTO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), VisitScotland, the Travel Foundation and Tourism Declare a Climate Emergency, within the framework of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme committed to accelerate sustainable consumption and production patterns. Tourism stakeholders can become signatories of the Glasgow Declaration by completing this form.

Glasgow Declaration
Climate Action in Tourism

The Glasgow Declaration will secure strong actions and commitment from the tourism sector to cut tourism emissions at least in half over the next decade and reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050.
UNWTO HIGHLIGHTS

UNWTO, WTTC & WTM Ministers’ Summit commits to investing in Tourism’s sustainable future

Tourism Ministers from across the world discussed the future of tourism during the UNWTO, WTTC & WTM Ministers’ Summit, held on the second day of World Travel Market London.

Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of UNWTO, highlighted that tourism needs support from governments, through stronger public-private partnerships and better-targeted financing investments, to rebuild in a sustainable and inclusive way.

He told delegates that the recent Rome Leaders’ Declaration issued by the G20 specifically emphasized the need to restore travel and tourism, which in turn can help developing economies. Furthermore, he added: “Public investments will encourage and leverage private investments all over the world and that tourism can benefit if governments deliver the right support”.

Julia Simpson, WTTC President and CEO, highlighted: “We need to invest in making sure destination are great places to live and not just great places to visit”.

For more information click here.
The 6th edition of the UNWTO World Forum highlights Gastronomy Tourism as a driver of rural development

From 31 October to 2 November Bruges, Flanders hosted the 6th edition of the UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism, focused on the sector’s unique ability to support rural businesses, create jobs and protect and promote culture and heritage. It counted on the institutional participation, along with the UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, of Mari Aziega, General Manager of the Basque Culinary Centre (BCC), the Flemish Minister Matthias Diependaele, and the Mayor of Bruges Dirk De Fauw.

For the first time, the Forum, organized by UNWTO and BCC included a special session dedicated to African Gastronomy, recognizing its potential as a tool of socio-economic development and for helping destinations across the continent enhance their distinct branding and market themselves to new audiences. This special session concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and Chefs in Africa.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: “Gastronomy tourism adds vitality to rural communities, supports small, local food producers and strengthens their position in the market contributing to add value to the tourism experience while promoting the preservation and development of local produce and know how”.

Also in Bruges, UNWTO showcased the talented entrepreneurs who are rising to the challenges posed by the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation along the gastronomy tourism value chain. Selected startups focused on, among the others taking climate action, reducing waste, and creating sustainable communities pitched their ideas to the Forum’s participants.

You can read more HERE
Tourism sector reunited at the Future of Tourism World Summit

UNWTO joined the Advanced Leadership Foundation and the Incyde Foundation of the Chambers of Commerce of Spain for the Future of Tourism World Summit, held in Barcelona the 26-27 October. The Summit represents the first time the sector has been brought together to look ahead since the start of the pandemic.

In a programme which reflected the key priorities of UNWTO and global tourism in general, the focus on the first day was on funding the future of tourism, particularly accelerating the shift towards net-zero growth. The discussions made clear tourism’s determination to embrace innovation and secure the funding necessary to enable the sector lives up to its climate action responsibilities.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: “This Summit makes clear the importance of collaboration, as well as the vital role funding tourism and harnessing the power of innovation will play in building a more resilient and sustainable tourism”.

The second day culminated in the “Barcelona Call to Action”, a statement of intent signed by governments, destinations and businesses outlining a shared vision for a greener, more inclusive and resilient tourism, citing the sector’s potential contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and the shift to net-zero.

The ten-point Call to Action includes a commitment to more fully integrating tourism into national and local actions plans, ensuring the sector is engaged in issues such as housing, the use of public space and the use of infrastructure. It also highlights the need to ensure the sector’s restart and future growth adhere to the principles of the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and are aligned with the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information click HERE.
The Green Key Certification Programme encourages hotels and other tourism facilities to implement high sustainability standards. Green Key was proud to be present at the COP26 event “Climate Action - Harnessing the Power of Networks!” Which was held on the 2nd November showcasing a few of Green Key’s examples of climate action as defined in the 10-year strategy (GAIA 20:30) of the Foundation for Environmental Education.

The contribution from Green Key at the event includes an interview with Dr Stefan Hanselmann, Head of Programmes and Cluster Coordinator at the GIZ Office in Siem Reap, Cambodia. GIZ, which is the German Corporation for International Cooperation and FEE have, together with a local hospitality school, been cooperating on a joint project to promote sustainable tourism for climate change in Cambodia.

There is also an interview with the Green Key awarded London Marriott Hotel Regent’s Park GM, Mr. Alok Dixit, about the work with climate change action in the hospitality industry through the participation in the Green Key Programme.
From 15 to 19 November this year, the 4th International Congress on Technology and Tourism for Diversity will take place in a virtual format.

At the ONCE Foundation we consider it an opportunity for business people, entrepreneurs, students, trainers, users, etc, to share and learn about good practices, new ideas, new perspectives, solutions and the advances that technology, smart destinations and support products offer to improve the quality of life of all people.

The capacity for adaptation, resilience, companies, training curricula, etc., will be enriched if it includes accessibility, as it will be a competitive advantage, offering a quality that others do not have.

Registrations: Congress web
INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL AFRICA TOURISM LEADERSHIP FORUM (ATLF) 2021

The annual Africa Tourism Leadership Forum (ATLF) will take place in Rwanda from 24 to 27 November with Rwanda Travel Week. This Pan-African dialogue platform will bring together over 100 key stakeholders from across Africa and 200 from Rwanda’s Africa’s travel, tourism, hospitality and aviation sectors to network, share insights, and devise strategies for intra-Africa travel and tourism growth across the continent, whilst enhancing the brand equity of “Destination Africa”.

Since inception in 2018, ATLF has been hosted by the Ghana Tourism Authority and Ghana Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (2018), Tourism KwaZulu-Natal and South African Tourism and Kwazulu-Natal Government (2019) and Rwanda Development Board and Rwanda Convention Bureau with the support of Mastercard Foundation. The event is supported by the UNWTO, NEPAD, Mastercard and many other international organisations, private sector entities and national tourism organisations.

Registrations here.
“MOVING FORWARD” AN INNOVATION FESTIVAL BY WORLD TOURISM FORUM LUCERNE

For over ten years, World Tourism Forum Lucerne (WTFL) has been bringing together industry experts, CEOs, investors, and start-ups, establishing itself as a prestigious global platform for exchange. By fostering cross-generational collaboration, new ideas and solutions emerge to benefit tourism today and in the future.

On 15/16 November 2021, WTFL is hosting an Innovation Festival in Andermatt, Switzerland. Online participation will also be possible.

At the hybrid conference, leading global personalities from inside and outside the travel and tourism industry will discuss current challenges. Under the theme “Moving Forward” innovative solutions will be explored that will benefit tourism, today and in future. Innovation, a driver for development and a central factor in overcoming crises, is the focus of this two-day conference.

SIGN UP NOW
festival2021.wtflucerne.org
On October 16th, 2021, the 4th National Park and Sustainable Tourism Symposium & the 2021 Annual Conference of Tourism Science was successfully held in Shanghai Institute of Tourism. Tourism Science is a prestigious seasonal academic publication operated by SIT, which is one of the three tourism journals listed in Chinese Social Science Citation index (CSSCI).

With the formal nomination of the first five National Parks in China recently, experts and scholars held in-depth discussion on three sub-themes including "Tourist Behavior and Eco-tourism Market", "Digital Innovation and Sustainable Tourism" and "National Park Management and Rural Revitalization".

The conference attracted nearly 200 scholars and students from Fudan University, Sun Yat-sen University, Nankai University etc. The number of audiences for online broadcasting was up to 5000.
NOSU University is expecting participants and guests from all North Caucasus Federal District of the Russian Federation. Delegations led by the rectors of all the universities and welcoming speeches of honored guests, organizers of the forum, federal and regional experts in the field of tourism: Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, Federal Agency for Tourism of Russia, National Union of the Hospitality Industry, Fund Visit Caucasus, regional Committee of Tourism, regional tourism entrepreneurs and many others.

Expected panels: Plenary session “Tourism and recreation complex - 2021: development prospects in a new reality”; Strategic session “Elaboration of a concept for the development of cultural and educational tourism in North Caucasus Federal District”; Panel session “Best practices in tourism development management and features of the master planning of tourist areas” and a Workshop meeting “Participation of universities in the development of youth tourism in the regions of North Caucasus: a project approach”.

NOSU UNIVERSITY IS PLANNING TO CELEBRATE AN “INTERREGIONAL EXPERT FORUM “NORTHERN CAUCASUS – 2030: TOURIST AND RECREATIONAL COMPLEX”

AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS
IMPACT 2021 – NEW TOURISM, NEW DIRECTIONS, 16 DECEMBER 2021

Following the success of the inaugural IMPACT Conference last year, IMPACT2021 will once again be organised with an aim to strengthening the impact of research on hospitality and tourism on the industry and society at large. Organised by the SHTM and its Hospitality and Tourism Research Centre together with STR, IMPACT2021 will be held on 16 December in hybrid mode.

2ND GBA SMART TOURISM FORUM, 17 DECEMBER 2021

Organised by the SHTM and its Hospitality and Tourism Research Centre together with STR, supported by the School of Tourism Management of Sun Yat-Sen University and the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, and sponsored by the University Grants Committee, the Second GBA Smart Tourism Forum will be delivered in hybrid mode at the School on 17 December 2021.
The UNWTO Affiliate Members Department is responsible for the management of the partnership between UNWTO and the private sector.

Contact us at: am@unwto.org