

FOR DECISION

Agenda item 12
**Report of the World Committee on
Tourism Ethics**

A/24/12
Madrid, 23 August 2021
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Executive summary

This report provides an overview on the activities undertaken by the World Committee on Tourism Ethics - a subsidiary body of the General Assembly - since the twenty-third session of the UNWTO General Assembly.

With the COVID-19 pandemic having a severe impact on every player of the heterogeneous tourism sector, the report underlines the different actions led by the Committee to promote a sustainable and responsible post-COVID-19 tourism recovery.

Moreover, after presenting the Programme of Work of the current mandate of the Committee, the report includes an update on the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics as well as the responsible actions implemented by the companies and trade associations that have adhered to Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

Finally, the report introduces the proposed revision of the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism – Part I for approval as well as the revised Rules of Procedure for information.

Action by the General Assembly

DRAFT RESOLUTION¹

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Chair and members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the efforts deployed in streamlining the promotion and the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
2. *Takes note* of the updated version of the Committee's Rules of Procedure as presented in Annex III of document A/24/11 and approves the amendments to the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism - Part I as presented in Annex II;
3. *Encourages* Member States to consider ratifying, accepting and/or acceding to the Convention and its Optional Protocol adopted at the twenty-third General Assembly and to place it as a matter of significance so as to guide the sustainable development of tourism;

¹ This is a draft resolution. For the final resolution adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.

4. *Endorses* the Recommendation on COVID-19 Certificates for International Travel (Annex I) and encourages Member States to take into consideration this recommendation in their tourism recovery strategies;
5. *Acknowledges* the activities undertaken by the Committee, to encourage safe and responsible tourism recovery, inter alia, the revision of the “*Tips for a Responsible Traveller*” and the promotion of rights of the most vulnerable groups such as women, indigenous people, youth, and people with disabilities; and
6. *Congratulates* the 450 companies and trade associations from 68 countries, which have adhered to the Code as of May 2021 and appreciates the World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the Report summarizing the implementation efforts of the adhered signatories to the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism prior and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I. Introduction

1. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) is an independent and impartial body composed of a chairperson and eight members who are appointed in their personal capacity by the General Assembly.
2. Through its resolution 607(XIX) of 2011, the General Assembly approved the reform of its subsidiary body, the Committee, and defined its new functions as the following:
 - (a) Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the [Global Code of Ethics for Tourism \(GCET\)](#);
 - (b) Researching and issuing reports, recommendations and observations on ethical matters related to tourism; and
 - (c) Proposing and approving texts of conventions and other legal instruments on specific issues related to the GCET provisions.
3. Furthermore, once the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) enters into force, the Committee will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of its provisions and for receiving corresponding reports from the State Parties.

II. Activities of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics

4. Since August 2019, date of last report of the Committee on the implementation of the GCET to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly (GA) ([A/23/11](#)), the Committee has met on 4 occasions (Madrid, November 2019; Virtual, June 2020; Virtual, November 2020; and Virtual, May 2021) during which it examined a wide array of ethical issues raising various challenges to the tourism sector. In the last three meetings, a special focus was placed on COVID-19 outbreak and the ethical challenges imposed on the tourism communities and possible responsible recovery strategies.
5. In addition to the aforementioned focus, the Committee continued to work, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Pascal Lamy, on its Programme of Work for the period of 2017-2021 around the following four priority areas, which are closely linked to the areas of work of UNWTO:
 - (a) Technology and digital platforms in tourism
 - (b) Over-tourism and its impact on host communities
 - (c) Decent work and inclusive growth
 - (d) Gender equality and socio-economic empowerment
6. Additionally, other pertinent topics considered by the Committee include indigenous tourism, accessible destinations, respect to intangible cultural heritage, rights of workers in Tourism, sustainability in Tourism and post COVID-19 Tourism.

Revision of the Protocol of Implementation of the GCET – Part I and of the Rules of Procedure of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics

7. The Committee has proposed a revision of the [Protocol of Implementation of the GCET – Part I](#) related to the World Committee of Tourism Ethics that was revised and adopted by the General Assembly, in October 2011, through resolution 607(XIX) following its initial adoption in 2003. The proposed revision was agreed by the Committee during its 23rd and 26th meetings and includes the removal of any clause that mentions the previous permanent Secretariat of the Committee in Rome as well as other minor changes reflected in Annex II.

Additionally, the Committee revised its Rules of Procedure that were last acknowledged by the UNWTO GA resolution A/RES/667(XXI) of 2015 and consequently submits its revised version (Annex III) of the Rules to the present session of the General Assembly, for information, in

accordance with its Rule 12 and provision (e) of the Protocol of Implementation of the GCET-Part I(rev) adopted by the GA through resolution 607(XIX) in October 2011

III. UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics

8. The [UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics along with its Optional Protocol](#) was officially adopted by the Twenty-Third session of the UNWTO General Assembly, in its resolution [A/RES/722\(XXIII\)](#) of September 2019. Following the adoption, the Convention was open for signature from 16 October 2019 until 15 October 2020, in accordance with its Article 18. During this period, Indonesia was the first and only Member State signing on 2 October 2020. The Convention is currently open for ratification, acceptance, approval, and accession and shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of once one of these instruments by 10 Member States, in accordance with its Article 20 (1).
9. A special [webpage](#) created online includes all needed steps to follow, should a Member State wish to ratify, accept, approve, and access to the Convention. The Legal Counsel of the UNWTO is the depositary of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics (treatydepositary@unwto.org).

IV. Research and Issuance of Reports, Recommendations, and Statements on Ethical Matters Related to Tourism

COVID-19 Certificates for International Travel

10. The Committee, has adopted at its 26th meeting, held virtually on 7 May 2021, a *Recommendation on COVID-19 Certificates for International Travel* (hereinafter referred to as “the Recommendation” (Annex I).
11. The Recommendation, guided by the Convention and the GCET, is a product of months of multidisciplinary consultations with various representatives from the tourism sector, academia, international organizations, and experts in the field of ethics.
12. Acknowledging that the tourism sector has been severely affected by the pandemic, the Recommendation provides a global ethical framework aiming at facilitating international travel, which plays a significant role in the recovery of tourism while maintaining an ethical and sustainable approach.
13. The conditions listed in the Recommendation promote the use of a unique document, provided free of charge, and limited in its duration, for primarily international mobility. The Committee recommended issuing both digital and paper format certificates together with the provision of a maximum data protection and security. While international cooperation should ensure the equitable distribution of vaccines, the Committee recommended against the inclusion of said vaccines and related certificates in package tours or similar products.

Ensuring Global Ethics of Tourism after COVID-19

14. In addition, the Committee issued a [Statement](#) following their remote meeting of 5 June 2020 underlining the need to abide by ethical principles when applying the necessary measures for supporting a post-COVID-19 tourism recovery. These principles should be in line with those contained in the GCET and the Convention and cover different issues, namely, non-discrimination and equity, accessibility, tourist and consumer protection, protection of data privacy, protection of the right to an informed decision and workers’ rights and social protection.

COVID-19 and Vulnerable Groups

15. The Committee has supported the work of the UNWTO Ethics, Culture and Social Responsibility department, in collaboration with relevant international, national and local partners, in developing a set of recommendations to help governments and tourism businesses craft an inclusive response to COVID-19 ensuring that vulnerable groups are not left behind. The recommendations were designed to fully embrace the following four

vulnerable groups, namely, *Women, People with Disabilities, Indigenous Communities and Youth*.

16. Women make up a majority of the tourism workforce worldwide and are often concentrated in informal or precarious employment, which has meant that they have felt the economic shock to the sector caused by COVID-19 quickest and hardest.
17. As for people with disabilities and seniors, they are heavily affected by COVID-19 and are often excluded from communications on public health and travel updates, decision-making, and information on accessibility of basic services. Their health conditions and social isolation can expose them to serious risks. The pandemic outbreak, coinciding with the off-season in many destinations, also hit many people with access requirements travelling or “about to board”.
18. In addition, the cultural expressions of indigenous people are among the most distinctive features of tourism destinations, making them key players within the sector. Despite their global relevance, indigenous people have historically been among the most marginalized of population groups. As the pandemic impacts heavily on the tourism industry, those disadvantaged indigenous communities will be affected first and most severely.
19. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has put youth in the spotlight, particularly given the potential social and economic consequences for this demographic, both in emerging and mature destinations. As a sector, tourism is labour-intensive, and young people are a dominant part of the workforce. At the same time, young travellers are a big market and how they travel has long shaped the sector and will have a huge influence on its future.

Tips for a Responsible Traveller

20. During the first semester of 2020, and as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee undertook a revision of the “[Tips for a Responsible Traveller](#)” which are addressed to tourists and travellers and give basic guidance on respecting common heritage, protecting the environment, supporting the local economy and, in sum, being an informed and respectful traveller. During this revision, the *Tips* included updated recommendations relevant to ensuring safe and secure travel.

Report on the Implementation of the GCET to the United Nations General Assembly

21. The [report](#) (A/75/254) on the implementation of the GCET was submitted to the 75th United Nations (UN) General Assembly held in September 2020. Whereas this report is submitted once every five years, it was followed by a series of informal meetings held by the Second Committee on the Resolution of the report. The [Resolution](#) (A/RES/75/223) was driven by Morocco and Guatemala and reflected the adoption of the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics as well as the importance of the GCET as a guideline for a more sustainable post-COVID-19 tourism recovery.

V. Monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism

Private Sector Commitment to the GCET

22. The Private Sector Commitment initiative was launched by UNWTO in 2011 to promote the implementation of the GCET by private tourism companies and trade associations. Its overall objective is to stimulate transparency, responsibility, and sustainability in the tourism sector on a global scale, and have companies reflect on their actions in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

23. Subdivided by five thematic areas (1- *corporate governance and business ethics*, 2- *employment quality*, 3- *social equity and Human Rights*, 4- *community well-being*, and 5- *environmental sustainability*), the self-evaluating questionnaire is the monitoring tool being carried out by the private sector signatories to the GCET (hereinafter referred to as “*the Signatories*”). Signatories commit to submit a regular biennial questionnaire to the Committee. Since 2011, 580 tourism companies and trade associations from 68 countries have adhered to this initiative.
24. The reporting on a regular basis is a one of the few requirements for companies and associations to remain on the list of Code signatories that is featured on the UNWTO Ethics webpage. When no response is received by the Committee within a reasonable timeframe, the entity in question is considered for suspension. Consequently, following the decision of the 21st WCTE meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in December 2018, 130 signatories were suspended from their membership.
25. Bearing in mind the suspensions as well as the recent adherents, as of May 2021, the total number of private sector signatories to the GCET amounted to 450 (267 companies and 183 associations) from 68 countries.

Implementation by the Private Sector Signatories of the GCET

26. In February 2020, personalized letters were sent to 366 signatories reminding them to send their reporting questionnaires that were due in 2020. 24% of the total number of recipient companies, and 21% of the recipient associations answered and submitted their report.
27. Regarding community well-being, several companies alleged to have supported local populations in a myriad of ways. The Spanish airline company IBERIA and Envera association, a non-profit organization of the Employees of Iberia Parents of persons with disabilities, joined efforts to provide jobs for 400 people with disability per year. Whereas in the Philippines, El Nido Resorts launched an initiative which allows guests to interact with the local fishermen and learn about the fisherfolk. This initiative aims not only to provide additional economic income to the locals but also increase awareness among tourists on the need to protect the Bacuit Bay.
28. Other entities had clear focus on education and professional training for community support in their surveys. *Club MED* partnered with the international non-governmental organization (NGO) *Agrisud* to support 336 very small businesses to improve their production and fill the gap between the supply and demand, resulting in 715,000 euros and nearly 182 tons of products delivered. Said partnership was awarded by UNWTO for its effective contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
29. In addition, the *Mexican Palace Resort* launched a special programme for the protection and conservation of sea turtles. Costa Rica’s tour operator *Rios Tropicales* managed to successfully purchase 2,470 acres of rainforest land. This land is being reforested with 30,963 native species trees and protected from logging and illegal hunting. The efforts on reforestation continue with the Serbian tourist service provider, *My Exit Adventure Doo*, with the development of the Green Revolution Initiative, a platform that mobilizes the public and initiates mass reforestation in Serbia. Furthermore, *Jordan Marriott Hotels* reported that they are fully powered by solar energy plants with an investment of 17,655,367 USD covering 405,000 m².
30. The Japanese entity Nishimuraya hotel corporation has developed software to ensure that its employees are not overworking and are able to take their holidays even during the busy period. This comes as an important pillar in the company’s strategy to support mental well-being of personnel.
31. On an environmental level, the Jordan Inbound Tour Operator Asso launched “Himmeh w Lammeh”, an initiative that led to a collaboration between national and private entities in the tourism sector. The initiative aimed at increasing awareness on littering and its negative impact on the environment through conducting research on the topic (whose

methodology was designed in line with the Code's principles) and facilitating volunteering activities for a cleaner Jordan.

32. Finally, various associations have reported that the Code of Ethics played a significant role in widening their visions. Ms. Susanne Andersson, the Chairman of the Swedish Svensk Turism AB stated the following: "The National Strategy for the Swedish Tourism Industry focuses on developing the tourism industry in a social, environmental and economical sustainable way. UNWTO's Global Code of Ethics is widening our perspectives and reminding us of the global nature of tourism and the importance of working together for a sustainable future".

Outcome of the COVID-19 Special Survey among UNWTO Signatories of the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

33. As the sector faces up to an unprecedented challenge, the Committee, through its Chairman Mr. Pascal Lamy, has contacted the signatories of the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism in April 2020 for an additional brief questionnaire. Whereas the survey was open for a short timeframe (12 days) due to the urgency of the situation, its objective was to seek information on the measures taken by the entities to support the fight against the COVID-19 and to mitigate its numerous negative socio-economic impacts.
34. The questionnaire included items such as COVID-19's level of impact on entities, the measures taken on workers, communities and governmental level. The responses to the questionnaire revealed the actions taken by signatories of the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, in total, 58 entities from 25 countries. The respondents belonged to five categories, namely, *Accommodation* (38%), *Travel Agencies/Tour Operators* (34%), *Tourism Chambers/Associations/Federations* (16%), *Other Tourism Services* (7%) and *Transportation* (5%). The COVID-19 outbreak had a direct strong impact on 60% of the participating entities which reported that they had to temporarily shut down the business. As for the rest, 35% were extremely affected with a possibility of shutting down in the future, whereas only 5% reported that the outbreak had a mild impact on them.
35. Moreover, the study revealed that, despite staff furloughs, employers across the sector are stepping up their support for workers and for communities. The survey found that many companies are providing a 24-hour psychological service for their employees, while also maintaining medical insurance and facilitating platforms with motivational videos, medical updates, and training. Many are also offering free lodging and food for stranded international staff and their families.
36. Monetary donations have been given to city councils, underprivileged families and rural communities, and food and supplies have been sent to frontline workers and vulnerable groups. Some business chambers are working with public, real estate, financial and legal entities to provide Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with funding and identify guarantors for those unable to receive a loan. Associations have engaged in local pandemic committees to flag the most pressing issues and better articulate their support.
37. Hotels have donated thousands of gift nights to medical staff for their holidays and remained open for them and COVID-19 patients whenever necessary. Guides offered virtual tours for voluntary contributions donated to hospitals, and transportation companies offered their channels to bring critical emergency equipment to save lives. Volunteer platforms also have been set up to create youth loans. Virtual solidarity groups gathered hundreds of travel agents with multiple jobs to exchange goods and support their livelihoods.

38. Some good examples of concrete campaigns were presented by various signatories. In the Accommodation category, the *Costa Rican Westin Reserva Hotels* set up a network with local social welfare organizations to support vulnerable families through the donation of food and hygiene products. They turned the cessation of the hotel operation into an opportunity for in-kind donation of the supplies from the hotel's general store. In addition, the Spanish *Melia Hotel* addressed their food and hygiene product donations to hospitals, non-governmental organizations and social entities and administration. Part of Melia's solidarity campaign targeted healthcare professionals currently fighting COVID-19 by offering 20,000 hotel nights.
39. The Spanish transportation entity *RENFE railway* is a good example for responsible actions during the pandemic. RENFE offered a free High Speed-Long Distance service for medical staff as per their request; said services were also used for the transportation of necessary medical equipment such as respirator prototypes and medications. The trains were medicalized for transferring patients between Spanish Autonomous Communities. RENFE joined efforts with other organizations in *#HayLuzAlFinalDelTunel* campaign. *#HayLuzAlFinalDelTunel* (*There is light at the end of the tunnel*) aims at spreading positive news in the current hard time. In addition, understanding the challenging time the tourism sector is facing, RENFE suspended the collection of rent of 20 locomotives and 200 private companies' wagons.
40. Finally, the participating associations played a significant role in liaising between their governments and members. Whereas the needs of their members were expressed, many associations provided them with legal and financial advice. A good practice was reflected by the *Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey* (TOBB), which is currently working with banks to make their resources as well as those of 365 Chambers available to its members. TOBB is about to launch the SME Support Loan where parties from the public, real estate and financial sectors provide SMEs quality financing support services. TOBB will be working in cooperation with *Credit Guarantee Fund* (CGF) – a TOBB affiliate organization – which will act as a guarantor for SMEs and non-SMEs that are unable to get a loan due to insufficient collateral. In addition, representatives from TOBB have been invited to the Local Pandemic Committee meetings. This committee is important especially for delivering their members' demands.

VI. Conclusion

41. The globe is faced with a pandemic affecting every level of the society and every stakeholder of the tourism sector. Mindful of the importance of international collaborations, UNWTO is working with international organizations and governments as well as the private sector to further inclusive responses to COVID-19 in these difficult times.
42. In the past two years, much of the work of the Organization has been directly and indirectly linked to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. Issues such Technology and digital platforms in tourism, Over-tourism and its impact on host communities, Decent work and inclusive growth, Gender equality and socio-economic empowerment, indigenous tourism, accessible destinations, respect of intangible cultural heritage, environmental sustainability, rights of workers in Tourism, were all present on the table of the Committee. Moreover, bearing in mind the current COVID-19 outbreak, the Committee gave a special focus on Tourism within the pandemic, and more specifically on post-pandemic recovery and ethical approaches. Hence its May 2021 recommendation on COVID-19 certificates for international travel. In addition, exceptionally, the signatories of the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism submitted an additional report on the measures taken by their entities to mitigate the crisis in a responsible manner towards their communities and employers.

43. Finally, whereas much work is yet to be done, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism continues to serve as a reference - in times of crisis and in times of recovery - for all the parties involved in the tourism value cycle to achieve sustainable tourism development. With the adoption of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism will co-exist and will always function through the Committee that will continue to report to both the UNWTO and to the UN General Assemblies.

Annex I: Recommendation on COVID-19 Certificates for International Travel

The **World Committee on Tourism Ethics**, an independent and impartial body of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), responsible for the promotion of the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, as well as the evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of its principles;

Whereas the World Committee on Tourism Ethics is saddened by the significant loss of human lives and the suffering of millions of people around the world as the result of the COVID-19 outbreak;

Highlighting the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on international tourism resulting in an estimated loss of USD 1.3 trillion in export revenues and putting between 100 and 120 million direct tourism jobs at risk², which has disproportionately affected women and young people;

Recognizing the urgent need to restart tourism in view of the summer tourist season in the Northern Hemisphere, which precedes the tourist season on the Southern Hemisphere, in order to mitigate the negative economic and social effects on tourism destinations, local populations and tourism workers;

Acknowledging the existence of various initiatives concerning health or COVID-19 related certificates and passports³ as well as a number of bilateral agreements between states with a view to facilitating the entry of vaccinated persons into their respective territories;

Considering international cooperation and global coordination as well as interoperability to be of highest importance for the implementation of these certificates worldwide;

Taking into account the right of national authorities to regulate the use of these certificates within their territories, in line with the principle of subsidiarity;

Calling upon the relevant national and international authorities to achieve a broad vaccine distribution and roll-out, by all useful means, while deploying a high degree of solidarity towards less advantaged countries and protecting local populations in this regard;

Noting that technological, sanitary, and legal matters related to COVID-19 certificates do not fall under the remit of this Committee.

Acknowledging the applicability to this context of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), and the temporary recommendations⁴ issued by World Health Organization (WHO) under the IHR in reference to the public health emergency of international concern, encouraging States Parties to “implement coordinated, time-limited, risk-based, and evidence-based approaches for health measures in relation to international traffic” while considering the “limited (although growing) evidence about the performance of vaccines in reducing transmission”.

Having in mind the principles and rules protective of personal data, which are of particular importance in the matter of health protection, notably the Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Reaffirming in this context the validity and importance of the UNWTO Framework

² “Tourism suffers its deepest crisis in 2020 with a drop of 74% in international arrivals” ([UNWTO Barometer, year 19, issue 1, January 2021](#))

³ Examples: [AOKPass](#) (International Chamber of Commerce), [Travel Pass](#) (IATA), [Common Pass \(World Economic Forum\)](#), [Digital Green Certificate \(European Union\)](#)

⁴ [Statement on the 7th meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Convention on Tourism Ethics and the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, a roadmap for responsible, sustainable and accessible tourism, the provision⁵ of which are addressed to all tourism stakeholders, including governments, companies and tourists alike;

Emphasizing the ethical principles of both the Code and the Convention according to which tourism movements should be free, fair, accessible, and sustainable, and should reconcile economic concerns, with the sanitary precautions of the host populations while maintaining the principles of non-discrimination;

Recommends that any COVID-19 certificate for international travel would have to meet the following conditions:

1. The certificate should be a unique document, containing information on the vaccination status, and/or diagnostic (molecular, PCR and antigen) and/or information about recovery status;
2. The certificate should be limited in duration and its use should be discontinued as soon as the World Health Organization no longer considers COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC);
3. The certificate should be used primarily for international mobility;
4. For a maximum accessibility, the certificate should be available both in digital and paper format;
5. The certificate must ensure, in both formats, data protection and security, as well as the privacy of the holder. Said certificate must also provide a guarantee of authenticity to avoid fraud and misuses;
6. The certificate should be free of charge; international cooperation and governments should ensure the population's wide access to free vaccines and affordable tests;
7. The provision of vaccines and related certificates at destination countries should not form part of package tours or other similar products nor should such initiatives be supported by governments.

Madrid, May 2021

⁵[UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#), articles 5, 6, 7 and 8

Annex II: Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Part I (rev.)

World Committee on Tourism Ethics- Body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

(adopted by the General Assembly resolution 607(XIX) in October 2011)

PROPOSED REVISION

- (a) A World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall be created comprising nine eminent nationals, preferably from the Member States of UNWTO, independent from governments and with no contractual relationship with UNWTO, who are appointed by the General Assembly in their personal capacity. They shall serve the Committee with independence and impartiality and shall not report to and shall not seek nor receive any orders or instructions from any authority other than the World Committee on Tourism Ethics or the General Assembly of UNWTO.
- (b) The functions of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall be:
- monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
 - the research and issuance of reports, recommendations and observations on ethical matters related to tourism; and
 - the proposal and approval of texts of conventions and other legal instruments on specific issues related to the Code of Ethics provisions.
- ~~(c) A Permanent Secretariat of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, hosted by the Italian Department of Tourism, is established in Rome whose tasks are to: (i) promote and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism among Member States and Affiliate members, (ii) provide research and data collection on ethical questions, and (iii) organize, in Italy, meetings of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics and international events related to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism".~~
- (c) The members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall be appointed as follows:
- Nominations to the Committee may be presented by the Full, Associate and Affiliate Members of UNWTO, as well as by the Secretary-General;
 - A selection board shall be established by the General Assembly and composed of the Chair of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Executive Council and the Chair of the Board of the Affiliate Members, the Secretary-General and the Legal ~~Advisor~~—Counsel of UNWTO. The selection board will examine the proposed nominations in order to recommend to the General Assembly the names of the nine personalities to be appointed by the latter to serve on the Committee as follows:
 - i. eight candidates to serve as members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics; and
 - ii. one candidate to serve as chairperson;
 - In the same way, the names of candidates will be submitted to the General Assembly to replace members whose terms of office have expired or who have resigned or otherwise ceased to be available;

- The Executive Council may designate an observer to the Committee.

The UNWTO Secretary-General or his/her representative ~~as well as a representative of the Permanent Secretariat in Rome~~ will attend the meetings of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics ex officio. The Legal ~~Adviser-Counsel~~ of the World Tourism Organization shall participate, as necessary, in the Committee Meetings in an advisory capacity and may address the Committee on any point of law he/she deems appropriate.

On selecting and appointing the members of the Committee, account shall be taken of the need for a balanced composition of this body from a regional, gender and sectorial perspective, and for a diversification of the qualifications and personal status of its members, from the economic, environmental and social as well as legal viewpoint. The members shall be appointed for four years and their term of office may be renewed only once.

The members of the Committee are re-appointed by half every two years.

- (d) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall establish its own Rules of Procedure, and refer them to the General Assembly.
- (e) A majority presence of the Committee members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at its meetings; in the event that a member is absent, he/she will not be represented by a substitute at meetings; the Committee shall make its best efforts to adopt its decisions by consensus; however, in the event of a tie in the voting, the chairperson shall have the casting vote;
- (f) UNWTO shall undertake to cover the travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances occasioned by the participation in the meetings of the nine members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics; it being understood that the members of the Committee shall not receive any remuneration; the secretariat of the Committee shall be provided by the services of the UNWTO Secretariat ~~and by the Permanent Secretariat of Rome~~; the operating costs remaining payable by the Organization may, wholly or in part, be charged to a trust fund financed by voluntary contributions.
- (g) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall meet at least once a year. These meetings will be held at UNWTO Headquarters ~~or at the Permanent Secretariat in Rome~~, unless it is decided otherwise, provided the host country covers the costs and expenses involved in holding the meeting at a different venue.
- (h) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics may invite experts or external institutions to contribute to its proceedings.
- (i) On the basis of periodic reports submitted to them by Full Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members of UNWTO, the UNWTO Regional Commissions shall, every two years, examine the application of the Code in their respective regions; they shall record their findings in a report to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics.
- (j) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall exercise a global function as an observatory for the challenges encountered in implementing the Code and for proposed recommendations; it shall summarize the reports drawn up by the Regional Commissions and supplement them with the information it has collected with the assistance of the Secretary-General and the support of the Board of Affiliate Members.
- (k) The Secretary-General shall refer the report of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics to the General Assembly, together with his/her own observations. The General Assembly shall decide what follow-up action to take on the report and the recommendations thus submitted to it, which national tourism administrations and other stakeholders in tourism development shall subsequently have the task of implementing.
- (l) The Secretary-General of UNWTO shall submit, on a regular basis, a report on

the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for its submission to the UN General Assembly.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

(As approved by WCTE at its 13th meeting held in Madrid on February 2014 and amended at its 14th meeting held in Rome on November 2014 and acknowledged by UNWTO General Assembly resolution A/RES/667(XXI) of September 2015)

PROPOSED REVISION

Preamble

1. These Rules of Procedure are adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution A/RES/406/XIII whereby the General Assembly adopted the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and entrusted the World Committee on Tourism Ethics with preparing the guidelines for application with a view to specifying how the principles set forth in the Code are to be implemented, and provision (d) of the annex to resolution A/RES/438(XIV) stipulating that the World Committee on Tourism Ethics shall establish its own Rules of Procedure.

2. These Rules are subordinate to the Statutes of the World Tourism Organization. In cases where its stipulations are deficient or unclear, such stipulations shall be interpreted in the light of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and those of the Executive Council of the Organization.

3. For the purposes of these Rules, the terms "UNWTO", "Assembly", "Council", "Committee" and "Protocol" shall mean, respectively, the World Tourism Organization, the General Assembly and Executive Council of the UNWTO, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, and the Protocol of Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism annexed to resolution A/RES/438(XIV) as modified by resolutions A/RES/469(XV) and A/RES/607(XIX).

Composition of the Committee

Rule 1

1. The Committee shall consist of a chairperson and eight members and three alternates.

2. The members of the Committee and the alternates shall be appointed in their personal capacity in accordance with the stipulations of provisions (a) and (b) of the Protocol. If a member resigns or is unable to continue serving on the Committee, the substitute of the outgoing member will be designated by drawing a lot among the alternate members.

3. A member of the Committee who fails to attend a total of two sessions of the Committee shall be considered to have resigned from the Committee, except if the Committee accepts that these absences were justified by *force majeure* circumstances.

4. The members of the Committee shall serve the Committee with independence and impartiality and shall not report to and shall not seek nor receive any orders or instructions from any authority other than the World Committee on Tourism Ethics or the General Assembly of UNWTO.

5. The members and alternate members of the Committee shall make the following written declaration witnessed by the Secretary-General or an authorized representative:

“I solemnly declare and promise to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me by the UNWTO, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the World Committee of Tourism Ethics only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other source.”

Rule 2

1. The presence of six members of the Committee's members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at its meetings. The alternate members may participate in the meetings of the Committee without a right to vote.
2. In case of fortuitous impediment of the Chairperson of the Committee for a particular meeting, the meeting will be chaired by the oldest member of the Committee.

Rule 3

1. If an observer is designated by the Executive Council he or she may participate in the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.
2. The Secretary-General shall attend *ex officio* or may arrange to be represented at the meetings of the Committee. The Secretary-General may address the Committee orally or in writing on any point he/she deems appropriate.
3. The Legal Adviser—Counsel of UNWTO shall participate, as necessary, in the Committee meetings in an advisory capacity and may address the Committee on any point of law he/she deems appropriate.
4. ~~A representative of the Centre for the Promotion of the Global Code of Ethics will participate in the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.~~

Meetings of the Committee

Rule 4

1. The Committee shall meet once a year, and for as long as its agenda requires.
2. A second meeting during the same year or, if circumstances so warrant, an extraordinary meeting, may be convened if the Committee so decides, and after consultation with the Secretary-General.

Rule 5

1. The provisional agenda of each meeting shall be drawn up by the Chairperson with the assistance of the UNWTO. It shall include any item the inclusion of which has been requested by the Assembly, by the Council or, if agreed by the Chairperson of the Committee, by the UNWTO Regional Commissions or by the Committee of Affiliate Members. Full Members of the Organization may bring to the Committee's attention matters or situations that they deem worthy of consideration.

~~2. The representative of the Centre for the Promotion of the Global Code of Ethics will be given to present a report on the activities of the Centre at any ordinary meeting of the Committee.~~

2. The provisional agenda of each ordinary meeting, together with the supporting documents, shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the members of the Committee and to the observers at least thirty days before the start of the meeting. In the event that an extraordinary meeting is convened, the provisional agenda, together with the supporting documents, shall be transmitted to the members of the Committee as soon as possible and using the most expeditious means.

3. The Committee shall adopt its agenda. If the circumstances so warrant, the Committee may place on its agenda supplementary items proposed by the Executive Council, by the Secretary-General, or by one of its members.

Rule 6

1. The meetings of the Committee shall be open only to the members of the Committee and the observers mentioned in Rule 3 unless the Committee decides otherwise. The Committee may invite persons whose presence it deems useful to follow its discussions as observers. Members of the UNWTO staff whose presence is necessary for its proceedings may attend the meetings.

2. The Committee may invite experts or external institutions to contribute to its proceedings.

3. The Committee shall decide on the publicity to be given to its deliberations, whose results it shall communicate to the appropriate recipients.

Rule 7

No one may address the Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairperson.

Rule 8

1. The Committee's working language shall be English. Nevertheless, a second working language may be adopted by the Committee in cases where it is deemed useful for the smooth proceeding of the deliberations of a session of the Committee, within the limits of the available funds.

Rule 9

1. The Committee shall adopt its biennial report, the various decisions it takes (except for those concerning persons), and the recommendations it formulates, preferably by consensus.

2. In the event that all the necessary efforts do not result in a consensus, the decision or recommendation shall be adopted by majority of the members present, with abstentions not being counted in the tally of votes.

3. Voting on decisions concerning persons shall be carried out by secret ballot. In all other cases, the Committee shall vote by a show of hands. In the event of a tie in the voting, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

Functions of the Committee

Rule 10

1. The Committee shall perform the functions of promoting the principles of the Code, of evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the Code, of issuing reports, recommendations and observations on ethical matters related to tourism and to propose and approve texts of conventions and other legal instruments on specific issues related to the Code of Ethics provisions. To this end, it shall collect information relative to such implementation and shall draw up an inventory of the efforts made by the different stakeholders in tourism to promote and apply the Code, and of the problems encountered in doing so.
2. The Secretary-General shall transmit to the Committee the pertinent information in his/her possession with the support of the Committee of Affiliate Members.
3. The Secretary-General shall place at the Committee's disposal the personnel necessary for the performance of its functions.

Rule 11

1. The Committee shall summarize the information collected and shall include in its biennial report the conclusions drawn from the analysis of such information. Should the need arise; it shall draw up proposals to amend or supplement the Code and to enhance its dissemination and implementation. Separately from its biennial report, the Committee may draw up any recommendations it deems useful.
2. The Secretary-General shall transmit the report and recommendations of the Committee to the Council and to the Regional Commissions, together with his/her observations, for information. The Secretary-General shall transmit to the Assembly the recommendations of the Committee together with his/her own observations and, as the case may be, any comments called for by such documents on the part of the Council and the Regional Commissions.

Final provisions

Rule 12

1. These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Committee. Its text shall be transmitted to ~~the Council and to the~~ Assembly for their information.
2. It may be amended by the Committee as necessary. Amendments may be proposed by the Assembly, the Council, or the Secretary-General, or by any member of the Committee. The text of proposals for amendments shall be transmitted to the members of the Committee by the Secretary-General at least thirty days before the Committee meeting at which they are to be considered.