

Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST):

Editorial Board

Terms of Reference

March 2023

1. Background

Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) aims to provide an internationally agreed statistical framework to measure the impacts and dependencies of tourism on the economy, society and the environment—at national and subnational levels. The Statistical Framework for MST (SF-MST) will support efforts to produce data that is more comparable, integrated and credible and to better guide decisions and policy with respect to sustainable tourism, including the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

The Expert Group on MST in charge of leading the development of the Statistical Framework for MST, was established by the UNWTO Committee on Statistics in collaboration with UNSD and works in coordination with the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA).

The MST Editorial Board aims to provide guidance to the UNWTO's Committee on Statistics in terms of management of SF-MST drafting and consultation process. The MST Editorial Board is composed of a limited number of countries as well as regional and international organizations that have been playing a major role in the MST project.

At its [third meeting](#) (15-16 December 2022), the Expert Group on MST adopted an ambitious roadmap to step up efforts towards the finalization of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism, and its endorsement as the new measurement standard for the sector, by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2024.

2. Role and main activities

The MST Editorial Board plays a key role in achieving the MST roadmap, as follows:

- Guidance to UNWTO's Committee on Statistics in terms of management of SF-MST drafting and consultation process
- Advice on the research agenda and tasks
- Consider feedback from consultation on SF-MST
- Recommend technical treatments for finalizing SF-MST in response to consultation feedback and ongoing research
- Support and advocate for the SF-MST



3. Timeline

- ⇒ 20 or 21 April: 1st online meeting to discuss the comments received from the consultation held in December/January
- ⇒ Mid-May: review new version of SF-MST (4.0)
- ⇒ Mid-June: meeting of the Expert Group on MST + UNWTO's Committee on Statistics
- ⇒ End-September: SF-MST version 4.0 circulated to all members of the Expert Group on MST

4. Working arrangements

The Editorial Board will be chaired by a lead country and will work through electronic exchanges and if need be, through periodic virtual meetings. The members of the Editorial Board are expected to participate (physically or online) in the 4th meeting of the Expert Group on MST.

5. Resources/references to consider:

- [Symposium on country experiences and 3rd meeting of the Expert Group on MST](#)
- [SF-MST Chapter 1](#) (Introduction)
- [SF-MST Chapter 2](#) (Economic)
- [SF-MST Chapter 3](#) (Environment)
- [SF-MST Chapter 4](#) (Social)
- [SF-MST Chapter 5](#) (Subnational)
- [Experiences from pilot studies in Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism](#)
- [Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism – Learning from pilots](#)