

FORUM: ECOSOC

QUESTION OF: Measures to ensure sustainable tourism

SUBMITTED BY: The Republic of India

CO-SUBMITTERS: UNWTO, World Bank, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Norway, Jamaica, League of Arab States, Colombia, IMF, Swaziland, Armenia, Netherlands, Turkmenistan, UNODC, HRW, United States, Egypt, France, Brazil

ECOSOC,

Defining sustainable tourism as the protection of biodiversity in ecological sites, the respect of tradition and culture in tourism hotspots, and the ensurance of economic benefits of tourism,

Emphasizing the need for policies and practices that would minimize adverse effects of tourism on the use of natural resources, infrastructures and its socio-cultural impact,

Dissatisfied with the issue of revenue generated by tourists in developing countries being lost to other countries' economies, partially neutralizing the money generated by this tourism,

Fully aware that tourism greatly increases an individual's carbon footprint due to excessive consumerism of travelers and easy accessibility to means of transport,

Recalling that sustainable tourism must keep in mind the well-being of the tourist, the residents, and the site that serves as the destination,

Recognizing that less economically developed countries will find difficulty in providing funding towards a systematic and supported approach to sustainable tourism,

Advocating tourism as a way to promote equality and develop relations with other countries,

Alarmed by current tourism practices that often lead to the misappropriation of people group for marketing purposes, causing the deprivation of their cultural authenticity and contributing to the extinction of genuine and/or marginal cultures in an increasingly globalized world,

Fully aware that tourism is one of the largest industries in the world, it generates taxes, employment, income and foreign exchange inflows, which are essential for many countries, especially for small island developing states that usually rely on tourism as a main source of economic development,

Recalling the work performed by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and all related organizations such as the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) and by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and all related organizations, such as the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) which was created to promote global sustainable tourism and identify specific areas; finally, especially taking note of the results of the four previous UNWTO/UNESCO World Conferences on Tourism and Culture as well as the reports created by the International Monetary Fund,

Further recalling resolution 70/193 adopted by the General Assembly on December 22nd, 2015, in which it encouraged countries to support sustainable tourism as a way to promote and accelerate sustainable development, mostly in poverty eradication, as well as the Manila Declaration signed by 107 delegations on September 27th, 1980, which talks about the nature of world tourism and how it can create equality among countries and help to economic development,

1. Calls upon the creation of a specific sector within the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), whose function is to secure a stable revenue source for disadvantaged populations in tourism host regions in order to eliminate poverty and develop sustainable economies; bearing this

in mind, this organization would more particularly take measures in order but not limited to:

- a) reducing seasonality
- b) guaranteeing employment along with the International Labour Organization
- c) improving local management of tourism;

2. Strongly urges all member states' governments to:

- a) undertake reforms in order to establish a sustainable form of tourism by means such as but not limited to:
 - i. reorienting infrastructure investment in order to fight the overcrowding process of tourist hot spots and the degradation of relevant sites it may cause
 - ii. providing more jobs for individuals working in the tourism sector and avoid the issue of leakages
 - iii. developing a simpler tax system in order to avoid lower tax rates that could potentially create massive revenue losses and benefit international investors
- b) promote positive transnational cooperation within the tourism industry
- c) oblige themselves to eradicate poverty thanks to tourism, in collaboration with the UNWTO agency evoked in clause 1, by means such as but not limited to
 - i. subsidize local tourism industries during traveling seasons
 - ii. tax or levy tourism incomes in a way benefiting the less fortunate;

3. Firmly demands the restoration and conservation of cultural assets, such as historical landmarks and significant architecture, including the:

- a) protection of World Heritage Sites, including the ones on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, and any other assets protected by international conventions and/or national laws
- b) development and maintenance of cultural assets to leverage sustainable tourism;

4. Further urges all UN member states to collaborate more closely with UNESCO and all related organizations by means such as but not limited to:

- a) extending, as much as possible, their financial contribution to UNESCO projects
- b) committing themselves to getting listed to UNESCO's World Heritage List their remarkable domestic sites
- c) strengthening diplomatic bonds with the institution;

5. Encourages UNESCO to collaborate with the UNWTO and pursue the projects it has been spearheading in order to promote sustainable tourism, by means such as but not limited to:

- a) developing their World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme
- b) extending worldwide initiatives similar to the creation in Europe of the new traveling platform " World Heritage Journeys of the European Union"
- c) facilitating the inscription to the World Heritage List of remarkable cultural sites, without forgetting the importance of immaterial cultural particularities
- d) creating a special agency charged with the protection of marginal cultures against globalization and cultural misappropriation for marketing purposes;

6. Strongly requests the preservation of religious sites and the facilitation of religious tourism as part of a global cultural and social heritage, and in this optic:

- a) urges all member states and organizations to cooperate in order to manage and monitor the departures and arrivals of tourists traveling for approved religious purposes
- b) encourages the UNWTO and the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) to pay more attention to the global situation of religious tourism by creating, if needed, a special investigation committee charged with reporting on the global situation of religious tourism which will focus on the reviewing of religious tourism indicators in order to ensure safety and respect for persons of each religion;

7. Calls upon the importance of the World Tourism Organization's implementation of low-carbon tourism in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, most importantly through the means of ensuring sustainable air travel by urging:
 - a) all relevant Member States, international companies, universities, agencies, entities and organizations to work together to create specific guidelines for air travel that will follow these critical green initiatives
 - b) all member states and industries to continue to invest financially in the research of sustainable air travel, paying special attention to topics such as but not limited to:
 - i. interior design to maximize the seating, storage capacities and weight limit
 - ii. transitioning to more environmentally sustainable aeronautical technologies, for example ecological cleaning, washing, and maintenance of aircraft;
 - c) Offering government subsidies to firms and individuals who make significant progress on technologies and systems such as but not limited to:
 - i. Alternative more efficient aircraft fuels including and especially biofuels,
 - ii. Lighter materials for aircraft,
 - d) Offering government subsidies to airlines and airports who implement measures such as but not limited to:
 - i. Transitioning single-use waste to be biodegradable and certified as such by UNEP with the help of Greenpeace and Forest Stewardship Council,
 - ii. Recycling and composting passenger waste through government certified waste facilities as well as minimizing food waste through reduced portion sizes and anti-waste advertising;
8. Calls upon all member states to promote ecotourism by means such as but not reduced to:
 - a) fostering the creation and management of infrastructure and transportation means promoting a green form of tourism by actions such as but not limited to:
 - i. monitoring the construction and upkeep of hotels near environmentally fragile sites
 - ii. incentivising the use of public transportation through lower ticket prices
 - iii. operating green buses in sensitive sites
 - b) advertising ecotourism as an efficient alternative to reducing the carbon footprint of each and every tourist by:
 - i. creating media campaigns about the benefits of ecotourism
 - ii. ensuring that each citizen is aware of the definition of ecotourism through educational means
 - iii. advertising for other unfamiliar places rather than the most frequented tourism hotspots to avoid mass tourism;
9. Requests countries to encourage the implementation by their domestic Ministries of Culture (or any other similar structure) in collaboration with UNESCO, of tourist awareness programs, that would provide information about their domestic culture, politics, and economy to the tourists so that they may contribute to them through respect and understanding, by means such as but not reduced to:
 - a) highlighting the important historical places, landscapes, monuments, and environmentally protected areas
 - b) setting up points of information to inform about the flora and fauna unique to a place
 - c) creating awareness of the country's political and economic situations through creation of an education for tourists program which introduces the tourists to the economic, social, historical, cultural and political aspects of the country, access to a country profile (e.g. CIA World Factbook), and social media campaigns
 - d) introducing guidebooks on airplane flights for the specific destination the tourist is flying to;
10. Encourages all countries to give better representation to the promotion of sustainable tourism within their political institutions, by means such as but not limited to:

- a) creating a Ministry of Tourism or a similar structure
- b) taking into consideration experts' advice in the process of law-making;

11. Calls upon all member states to take into consideration the International Monetary Fund's proposals, such as but not limited to:

- a) the Economic Surveillance policy, in order to identify stability and growth risks as well as assessing which structural policies to use in order to provide sustainable growth and reducing mass tourism
- b) the International Monetary Fund's Lending policy, which provides loans to its members that could help them achieve all projects proposed by this resolution and all other initiatives promoting sustainable tourism.