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Agenda item 20

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Guatemala and Morocco: draft resolution

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [56/212](#) of 21 December 2001, [60/190](#) of 22 December 2005, [65/148](#) of 20 December 2010 and [70/200](#) of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement,¹ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,² the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,³ the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁴ and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,⁵

Recalling the Manila Declaration on World Tourism,⁶ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁷ Agenda 21,⁸ the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism,⁹ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development¹⁰ and

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

³ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* ([A/CONF.219/7](#)), chap. II.

⁴ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

⁵ Resolution [69/137](#), annex II.

⁶ [A/36/236](#), annex, appendix I.

⁷ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁸ *Ibid.*, resolution I, annex II.

⁹ [A/55/640](#), annex.

¹⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.



the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),¹¹

Recognizing, inter alia, that well-designed and well-managed tourism can make a significant contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions, has close linkages to other sectors and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities,

Recognizing also the important dimension and role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life for all people, its potential to make a contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially of developing countries, and its emergence as a vital force for the promotion of international understanding, peace and prosperity,

Recalling the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012¹² and the launching of the sustainable tourism programme of the framework, and encouraging further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Noting the importance of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,¹³ which outlines principles to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the various stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on the environment and on cultural heritage while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable development, poverty alleviation and gender equality, as well as understanding among nations,

Taking note of resolution 668 (XXI) adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its twenty-first session, held in Medellín, Colombia, from 12 to 17 September 2015, resolution 707 (XXII) adopted at its twenty-second session, held in Chengdu, China, from 11 to 16 September 2017, and resolutions 722 (XXIII) and 723 (XXIII) adopted at its twenty-third session, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 9 to 13 September 2019,

Noting with concern the grave impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the tourism sector, and recognizing that, while safety and public health in the wake of the pandemic should be prioritized, recovery of the tourism sector is urgently needed and that the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism should continue to serve as a reference, in times of crisis and recovery, for all the parties involved in the tourism value cycle to achieve sustainable tourism development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁴
2. *Welcomes* the adoption, by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its twenty-third session, in September 2019, by its resolution 722 (XXIII), of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, along with its Optional Protocol;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the World Tourism Organization and its World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the work undertaken in the promotion and implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and its efforts deployed in streamlining the process of the development of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics;

¹¹ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

¹² [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.

¹³ See [E/2001/61](#), annex.

¹⁴ [A/75/254](#).

4. *Welcomes* the United Nations policy brief entitled “COVID-19 and transforming tourism”, launched by the Secretary-General on 28 August 2020;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of abiding by ethical principles when applying the measures necessary for supporting a post-COVID-19 tourism recovery, in line, in particular, with those contained in the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, 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, and encourages tourism enterprises and trade associations around the globe to sign the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;

6. *Looks forward* to the convening of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2021, and to the discussions under the agenda item on ethics in that context;

7. *Encourages* the World Tourism Organization, through its World Committee on Tourism Ethics, to continue to promote and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and to monitor the implementation of the ethical principles related to tourism by both the public and private sectors;

8. *Welcomes* the growing interest among Member States, especially among the States and territories members of the World Tourism Organization, and their increasing institutional and legal commitment towards the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, reiterates its invitation to those Member States and other tourism stakeholders, in particular in the private sector, that have not yet done so to introduce, as appropriate, the principles of the Global Code into their relevant laws, regulations, professional practices and codes of conduct, and in this regard expresses appreciation to those Member States and industry practitioners that have already done so;

9. *Recognizes* the need to promote the development of sustainable tourism, taking into account the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, so as to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultures and the environmental integrity of those communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and of the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change, halting the loss of biodiversity, safeguarding cultural artefacts and promoting respect for living culture, heritage and traditions;

10. *Invites* the States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders to support the activities undertaken by, inter alia, the World Tourism Organization for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, including in the context of capacity-building to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, including by empowering women and youth and extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population, while minimizing its negative impact;

11. *Recalls* the related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁵ that, inter alia, aim to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products as well as develop tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism;

¹⁵ Resolution 70/1.

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, within his report related to sustainable tourism, including on the role played by the Global Code of Ethics and the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development and the recovery of the tourism sector in the post-COVID-19 era, in consultation with the World Tourism Organization, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism”, unless otherwise agreed after the entry into force of the Framework Convention.
