



General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/363*
E/1985/97*
9 August 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH/
SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fortieth session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda**
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1985
Agenda item 19
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND
CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Implementation of the Manila Declaration and the
Acapulco Document on World Tourism

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 38/146 of 19 December 1983, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the progress made in the implementation of the Manila Declaration and the Acapulco Document on World Tourism.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/40/150.

ANNEX

Report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization
on the progress made in implementing the Manila Declaration and
Acapulco Document on World Tourism

1. This report has been prepared in pursuance of resolution 38/146 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-eighth session, in which the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) was requested to present to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in implementing the Manila Declaration and Acapulco Document.
2. This, the most recent decision of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the general activities of the World Tourism Organization, should be seen within the more general context of all the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations or the Economic and Social Council, first to enable the former International Union of Official Travel Organisations (IUOTO), a non-governmental organization enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to change its status by means of an original legal process and, subsequently, to establish co-operation ties between the United Nations system and the new intergovernmental organization, WTO, to enable it to play to the full "the central and decisive role" assigned to it by the States in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2529 (XXIV) (para. 5 (a)).
3. If account had not been taken of these provisions, a/ by which the United Nations General Assembly, on the one hand, and the Economic and Social Council, on the other, acting in response to the wishes of their member States, granted this new organization a function in one of the most decisive sectors of present-day society, namely, movements of persons, travel and tourism, this report, which focuses in particular on the implementation of the Acapulco Document, which in turn deals with the application of the criteria embodied in the Manila Declaration on World Tourism, would not be readily understood.
4. Accordingly, due consideration should be given to the aforementioned provisions to shed light on the policy and strategy which the World Tourism Organization is carrying out to ensure that the field in which it is active is more clearly perceived not as merely covering travel to satisfy a legitimate desire for recreation and holidays but as encompassing all movements of persons and travel which, through their motive force, contribute to the economic development of nations.
5. It is not the intention in this report to retrace the history of the events leading up to the creation at The Hague in 1925, on the initiative of North Atlantic shipping companies, of the former non-governmental organization which, after 50 years of existence, ceased activities in 1975, bequeathing a wealth of expertise to the new intergovernmental organization, WTO. Nor will this document report in detail on the first 10 years of life of this organization. Nevertheless, it cannot remain silent on the fact that what has been termed "tourism" has so far been subject to distortion in the various interpretations applied to it.

6. As a general rule, "tourism" is perceived as travel by holiday-makers entitled in particular to the social benefit of "leave with pay". This holiday market was not truly launched until after the Second World War in the 1950s, although the measure of leave with pay had, broadly speaking, been in force since 1936.

7. Today, many activities in the holiday sector have, because of its recent creation, been judged by the same standards which have since the seventeenth century been applied to travel by the elite to leisure and health resorts.

8. In actual fact, the holiday market is a new market: it has existed in its present-day form for 35 years at most and, whereas previously it was confined to those in the top income bracket, since the introduction of leave with pay it has spread to all categories of citizen, irrespective of social or economic standing.

9. Yet, holidays are, in fact, a vested right only of employees in the industrialized countries, totalling 1,000 million people at most who benefit from high technology in all aspects of their national development - economic, social and cultural.

10. On the other side of the coin, for the 3,600 million people living in the developing countries or in the depressed areas of other countries where it has not yet been possible to develop and expand entitlement to leave with pay, the holiday market is still tenuous and insubstantial although it is open to visitors from abroad.

11. These visitors do however hail largely from the industrialized countries and, having relatively high incomes, not surprisingly demand that places of destination provide the accommodation and catering facilities and other travel services to which they are accustomed.

12. The question now is one of distinguishing between the holiday market sector and the travel sector as a whole, which is a genuine factor in the economic development of all nations.

13. So far as the holiday and leisure sector is concerned, the Manila Declaration on World Tourism firmly established the concepts from which States should take their cue in adopting the appropriate measures to ensure that employees are able to take advantage in the best possible conditions of their legitimate right to holidays, as also enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 24).

14. The Manila Declaration makes it clear that States must go beyond any concern for economic returns to ensure that employees are able to benefit from the free time granted to them by a measure which, though social, has strong economic overtones. Indeed, leave with pay is the result of the non-use of working hours which are, nevertheless, included in the costs of production and which, at the national level, help to circulate currency and create jobs and, at the international level, may foster the transfer of foreign currency.

15. The Manila Declaration on World Tourism has already been the subject of communications to the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and

32. It can only be supposed that the forcible introduction of new technology in countries unused to the environment created by mechanisms hitherto unknown to them cannot be accepted and developed without dire ideological, cultural and professional consequences which may be detrimental to a nation's overall development.
33. Consequently, beyond the innovative criteria of the Manila Declaration and the formulas for practical implementation of the Acapulco Document, and taking as a point of departure this new conception of movements of persons for leisure purposes for which States should not seek immediate profit, the new approach of States should be to stimulate and encourage by all appropriate means the driving force of movements of persons.
34. The aim is to bring about a gradual realization of national potential through travel activities and the setting up of enterprises in keeping with the distinctive features of the populations of each country, bearing in mind the elements which condition life in those countries so as to ensure that such a dynamic activity keeps pace with and develops in harmony with the other sectors of activity in the nation's economy.
35. Indeed, the development of movements of persons and travel cannot be a one-sided affair: it must be accompanied by development in other sectors of production with which there inevitably exists an interdependence.
36. By resolution 38/146, the United Nations General Assembly expressed satisfaction at the progress made in implementing the Manila Declaration on World Tourism and urged member States to give due attention to the principles of the Declaration and Acapulco Document "while formulating and implementing, as appropriate, their tourism policies, plans and programmes, in accordance with their national priorities and within the framework of the programme of work of the World Tourism Organization".
37. It is, indeed, for the States progressively to apply the new criteria resulting from the World Tourism Conference of Manila within the context of both the studies and operational activities included in the general programme of work of the World Tourism Organization.
38. As already mentioned, WTO is endeavouring to strengthen its action in the field of travel and holidays and, to this end, has broadened its horizons and expanded its aims to ensure that its work is not confined solely to holidays but embraces travel as a whole.
39. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other international or regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with tourism in general were invited to co-operate with WTO by resolutions 124 (V) and 125 (V) of its General Assembly.
40. The response so far has been highly gratifying and the Secretary-General of WTO wishes to express his satisfaction at the reception given to his proposals for

co-operation and the positive results achieved, as evidenced, for example, in a working and co-operation arrangement with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the opening of negotiations with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

41. Agreements of negotiation and co-operation or working arrangements have, moreover, been concluded with the United Nations, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the Organization of American States and the Central African Customs Economic Union.

42. As things stand at present, and as will be clear from the brief general summary contained in this report, it may be said that movements of persons taken as a whole comprise both travel motivated by obligation and holidays taken for a variety of reasons.

43. The fact that holidays and travel have been separated by the word "tourism", whereas statistics on movements of persons cover all non-migratory travel as a single entity, has somewhat distorted the appraisals and interpretations so far applied to this extensive sector of economic development which acts as a driving force either for national and international trade and commerce or for the creation of job opportunities and the interpenetration of ideas for the improvement of human relations.

44. In inheriting the expertise accumulated by the former IUOTO in its 50 years of existence, WTO has first and foremost brought continuity of approach to "tourist" movements, i.e., movements of holiday-makers, at least 80 per cent of which can be attributed to the social measure of leave with pay.

45. Subsequently, in an attempt to gauge these tourist flows in a manner that was consistent with the true import of statistics on movements of persons, WTO introduced a broader, more realistic conception that is more in keeping with its *raison d'être* and which encompasses all movements of persons for non-migratory purposes.

46. Accordingly, it was led to consider that travel in the world is today confined mainly to the industrialized countries whose nationals also travel to the developing countries, that in those countries travellers from the industrialized countries understandably demand the amenities and quality services to which they are accustomed and that, to meet these legitimate demands, the transfer of technology occurs, although such technology is not always assimilable by the developing countries for reasons that are well known.

47. Furthermore, given that 1,000 million people on this planet live in conditions that differ from those of the other 3,600 million people and a number of factors separate these two main areas, WTO realized that, through movements of persons, travel and tourism, it was possible to improve the circumstances of the developing countries provided that their true nature, customs, traditions, outlooks and the

use of their resources were respected and their development was stimulated and facilitated in the light of existing conditions which, if ignored, could only give rise to untoward or, at times, conflictual situations.

48. This approach by WTO to its work and activities is the outcome of thorough research which began in 1925 and which has witnessed all the phases of development and change in the field of travel recorded over the past 60 years.

49. Such an attitude would undoubtedly not be readily acceptable for the structures and machinery existing today in the field of movements of persons, because they are based on a now outmoded approach.

50. This is therefore a course which will demand a great deal of caution, patience, resolve and conviction if there is to be acceptance of what today might still seem a speculative vision of the future of travel.

51. The States members, associate and affiliate members of the World Tourism Organization are fully aware of this situation and are prepared to face up to it so that the true function of movements of persons, travel and tourism can be defined and recognized. Recognition on the part of political, financial, economic and social circles will enable Governments to see tourism in its true light and grant it the status and priority it deserves in State activities. The inevitable result of such action will be to strengthen the powers, authority and means of action today vested in the administrations which deal with movements of persons, travel and tourism so that, through constant international consultation, the world of travel will become a consistent motive force in the economic development of nations.

Notes

a/ See General Assembly resolutions 2529 (XXIV), 2802 (XXVI), 32/156, 32/157, 33/122, 34/134, 36/41 and 38/146, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1758 (LIV) and decision 109 (LIX). See also A/36/236 and A/38/182-E/1983/66.

b/ See General Assembly resolutions 36/41 and 38/146.
