

CSA/34/DEC  
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**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION  
FOR SOUTH ASIA AT ITS THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING**

Maldives, 18 February 1997

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**AGENDA**

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3. Preliminary remarks by the Secretary-General
4. Presentation of the statistical monograph of the region
5. Regional and technical cooperation activities
6. South Asia Fund-in-Trust
7. UNDP presentation
8. Date and place of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Commission

**DECISIONS****CSA/DEC/1(XXXIV)****ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda item 1 (document CSA/34/Prov.Ag.)

The Commission,

Adopts the agenda of its thirty-fourth meeting as modified by including UNDP presentation and renumbering the last agenda item accordingly.

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**CSA/DEC/2(XXXIV)****COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION**

Agenda item 2

The Commission,

Having heard the communication of the Chairman,

1. Thanks him for his communication;
2. Appreciates his words of welcome and greetings extended to all Members, non-members, representatives of regional and international organizations present at the meeting and the Secretary-General and his officers;
3. Thanks him for a very comprehensive review and analysis of regional tourism in 1996 and joins him in hoping that South Asia would continue to show a positive growth both in tourist arrivals and expenditure;
4. Urges the Members to strengthen intra-regional cooperation and encourages them to stage more aggressive marketing campaigns in order to increase South Asia's market share in the world tourism;
5. Joins him in encouraging Members to build upon their own strengths as well as emulate the best qualities of neighbouring countries in order to tap the full potential of tourism development in the region; and
6. Calls upon the Members to prepare for, and invest in, an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

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**CSA/DEC/3(XXXIV)**

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Agenda item 3 (document CSA/34/1)

The Commission,

Having heard the preliminary remarks by the Secretary-General,

1. Thanks him for a very comprehensive review of world tourism in 1996;
2. Notes with satisfaction the growth achieved by the region in 1996, both in terms of international tourist arrivals and tourist receipts;
3. Congratulates him on the action taken to implement various segments of the general programme of work of the Organization in the region;
4. Recognizes the healthy financial situation and the growing strength of the Organization;
5. Appreciates his vision for the future of the Organization in his proposal for the next programme of work as well as his new three-fold approach to better serve the varied needs of the Members at central, regional and private levels; and
6. Calls upon the Members to extend their support and cooperation in full measure to the Secretary-General in order to achieve the objectives of the programme of work during the current biennium.

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**CSA/DEC/4(XXXIV)**

**PRESENTATION OF THE STATISTICAL MONOGRAPH OF THE REGION**

Agenda item 4

The Commission,

Having listened to the detailed presentation of the Statistical Monograph for South Asia,

Having considered the Statistical Monograph circulated among the participants,

1. Appreciates the submission of the Statistical Monograph which will be of immense value to the national tourism administrations in the region in their planning and marketing activities;
2. Notes the summary of the latest tourism trends worldwide and in the

region;

3. Expresses the hope that the positive trends in tourist arrivals and receipts in the region will continue during the rest of the 1990's;
4. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in conducting seminars/workshops in the region in order for Members to benefit from the WTO training manuals on tourism statistics; and
6. Calls upon the Members to supply the statistical data to the Secretariat regularly and on a time-bound basis.

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**CSA/DEC/5(XXXIV)**

**REGIONAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES**

Agenda item 5 (document CSA/34/2)

The Commission,

Having considered the working document submitted by the Secretary-General on the subject,

1. Notes the various activities carried out in the region in the last biennium and the activities being implemented during the 1996-1997 biennium;
2. Appreciates the internship scheme introduced by the Organization and calls upon the Members to take full advantage of the scheme;
3. Noting that non-availability of appropriate funding for development of tourism infrastructure and superstructure is generally a restraining factor in overall development and promotion of tourism, urges the Members to locate, in collaboration with the Secretariat, more multilateral sources of tourism financing and to further develop external linkages with related sectors; and
4. Urges the Members to incorporate the tourism sector into their national development programmes and grant it a high priority, taking advantage of the mechanisms existing for this purpose, such as WTO's technical assistance.

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**CSA/DEC/6(XXXIV)**

**SOUTH ASIA FUND IN-TRUST**  
Agenda item 6 (document CSA/34/3)

Having considered the working document submitted by the Secretary-General on the subject,

Having heard the views of the Members on the subject,

Decides that the Fund-in-Trust be discontinued after collecting arrears and contributions up to 1996 and that funds accumulated be utilized for conducting sectoral support missions within the region according to the requests received from the Members.

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**CSA/DEC/7(XXXIV)**

**UNDP PRESENTATION**  
Agenda item 7

The Commission,

Having heard the presentation made by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the socio-economic development of Maldives and the role of the tourism sector in its national economy,

1. Thanks him for his presentation;
2. Appreciates the role of UNDP in the socio-economic development of Maldives; and
3. Calls upon the Members to draw lessons from the experiences of Maldives in the development of tourism and pay due attention to the importance of tourism and its contribution to national socio-economic development.

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**CSA/DEC/8(XXXIV)**

**PLACE AND DATE OF THE  
THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

Agenda item 8

The Commission,

Having noted that its thirty-fifth meeting will be held in conjunction with the twelfth session of the General Assembly,

Accepts with gratitude the offer of India to host the thirty-sixth meeting of the Commission in its territory during the first half of 1998.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

The thirty-fourth meeting of the WTO Commission for South Asia was attended by:

1. Delegates of the following Members: Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
2. Delegates of the following Affiliate Members: East Express Co. Ltd (Iran), Indian Airlines, Indian Tourism Development Cooperation and Kerala Tourism Development Cooperation (India).
3. Delegates of the following non-member State: Bhutan.
4. Delegates of the following Regional and International Organizations: Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Indian Ocean Tourism Organization (IOTO), South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).