Background

- Before the IAEG-SDG’s 4th Meeting, indicator 8.9.2 was "Jobs in tourism: Number of jobs in tourism industries (as a percentage of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex)". TIER II because of existing definitions and methodological background (i.e. TSA:RMF 2008), and was well accepted by UNWTO Committee, even though collection and coverage can be improved.

- At 4th IAEG-SDG meeting indicator 8.9.2 was changed to “Proportion of jobs in sustainable industries out of total tourism jobs”.

- In Dec 2016 the UNWTO Committee Chair contacted the IAEG-SDG Co-Chairs to gain an understanding of the change:
  - The response indicated that the change was made within the IAEG-SDG itself rather than via consultation and reflected a general desire for the indicator to be more sympathetic to the generic sustainability ambitions described in the target.
  - It was accepted that this indicator did not currently exist and hence would be a Tier III indicator but suggested that tourism statistics experts might be able to establish in short-term a measurement alternative building on the policy definition of sustainable tourism.
Defining Sustainable Tourism

In 2015, UNWTO with support of UNSD launched a project towards a Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism (MST) and a multidisciplinary Working Group of Experts to lead it. Progress has been presented and supported at relevant fora: UNCEEA, UNWTO Committee, UN Statistical Commission.

*Its research and discussions found that:*
- Broad coverage is needed of economic, environmental and social factors
- Development of the framework should build on existing statistical standards
- Development of an integrated statistical framework should focus initially on linking economic (incl. employment) and environmental dimensions
- Sub-national spatial scales are fundamental
- Several indicators needed to assess sustainability instead of a single or composite indicator

*The originally proposed indicators for target 8.9 were in line with this:*
- Covered economic (Tourism GDP), social (Employment in tourism industries) and environmental (Energy use in tourism industries) dimensions
- Based on statistical standards: TSA:RMF, IRTS, SEEA-CF
- Data exists in a large number of countries
- In line with indicators currently used in policy context

Indicator 8.9.2(new) - Some Concerns

- Since tourism is defined from the demand side the rationale for focusing on “sustainable industries” is not clear.
- There is no general statistical definition of “sustainable industries” that could be applied to tourism and no intention to do so in the short-term.
- There is no statistical definition of “tourism jobs”. TSA:RMF 2008: “the measurement of employment is limited to employment in the tourism industries and the variables used to express this volume are the number of jobs and hours worked” (para 4.64).
- Conceptually, just because a “tourism job” is in a “sustainable industry” it doesn’t mean that the “tourism job” itself would be sustainable.
- The new indicator is not based in any existing or related statistical frameworks or statistical infrastructures, even though the UNWTO Committee understands that a guiding principle in designing the SDG indicator framework was precisely to have a statistically based indicator set.
Conclusions and Proposed Next Steps

- UNWTO Committee welcomes work of IAEG-SDG, looks forward to working together in further developing tourism relevant SDG indicators.
- Much work has taken place since 2015 as part of project towards a Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism (MST), led by the Working Group of Experts, and will continue now that UNSC 48th session supported it.
- A pragmatic stance should be adopted in selection of indicators. There is sufficient information and agreement to identify a limited number of relevant indicators on sustainable tourism (as proposed in late 2015 - early 2016).
- At an informal meeting with IAEG-SDG Co-Chairs in the margins of the UNSC 48th session, the open issues related to 8.9.2 and 12.b were conveyed, stressing that further consideration and refinements are needed.
- Proposed to deal with this in the framework of 2020 “comprehensive review”, and work towards this will be undertaken as part of ongoing MST project as agreed by UNSC 48th session, to ensure that monitoring of progress towards the SDGs can proceed as meaningfully and as practically as possible for the member states and UNWTO as Custodian Agency. (See Summary Statement from UNWTO Committee to IAEG-SDG 5th Meeting)

Thank you