



Transforming Tourism

Tourism in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

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Bread for the World**

State of the world today*:

- increasing disparities in regard to opportunities, wealth and power
- more frequent natural disasters
- climate change threatening the survival of many societies

Vision of the world tomorrow (2030)*:

- all people have access to water, food, quality education and health care.
- human rights and rule of law
- natural resources are used responsibly, sustainable consumption and production patterns etc.



TRANSFORMING
OUR WORLD

* UN (2015): Transforming Our World – the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development



BERLIN DECLARATION ON “TRANSFORMING TOURISM”

PREAMBLE

We, over 30 participants from civil society from 19 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, representatives of non-governmental organizations, people's movements and academia joined together from the 3rd to the 6th of March 2017 because we are committed to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of a just, inclusive and equal world. As tourism experts and practitioners, we are concerned that the current dominant tourism model is not able to support the necessary transformation of our world envisaged by the 2030 Agenda. On the contrary, in too many cases it is exploiting people, harming communities, violating human rights and degrading the environment.

Transforming our world is not possible without transforming tourism. With this declaration we want not only to encourage further reflection and debate, but demand concrete activities and imperative actions.

1. REFLECTION ON THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1 The specific inclusion of tourism in the 2030 Agenda is an acknowledgement of the global significance of the sector; but at the same time creates an obligation to transform the current consumptive business model, which is incompatible with sustainable development.

1.2 While the rhetoric of transformation in the 2030 Agenda is strong, we are concerned that implementation through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals may not be ambitious enough. Some goals and indicators for progress remain vague or inadequate; others, including the tourism-related indicators, are unduly focussed on a poorly regulated and contradictory growth paradigm.

1.3 The 2030 Agenda is more than the sum of its 17 goals. Cherry-picking goals and easy-to achieve indicators hampers the change needed. The complexity and interdependency of the 2030 Agenda reminds us to be ambitious, honest, clear, creative and transformative. As a cross-cutting industry, tourism has tremendous effects on the daily life of local people, communities and workers, as well as impacting their environment and culture, and thus has enormous responsibility.

1.4 Sustainable tourism is mentioned in the 2030 Agenda four times; however, the term is strongly contested by civil society organisations for its lack of a people-centred approach. Only tourism that contributes to the improvement of the well-being of local people, dignity of workers, environmental integrity as well as the elimination of exploitation, inequalities and poverty, is a meaningful option for sustainable development.



“The transformation of our world is not possible without the transformation of tourism.”

”The specific inclusion of tourism in the 2030 Agenda is an acknowledgement of the global significance of the sector; but at the same time creates an obligation to transform the current consumptive business model, which is incompatible with sustainable development.”

- Human rights and self-determination of communities must be at the core of every tourism development. This includes the **right to meaningful participation** and consultation including **free, prior and informed consent** on whether, to what extent and in what form tourism takes place.
- If tourism is developed, it needs to seek a widespread and **fair** distribution of economic and social benefits throughout the recipient communities, including **improving local prosperity, quality of life and social equity**.
- Tourism should be a positive and beneficial experience for travellers and hosts alike in order to act as a force for **mutual understanding, empathy and respect**.

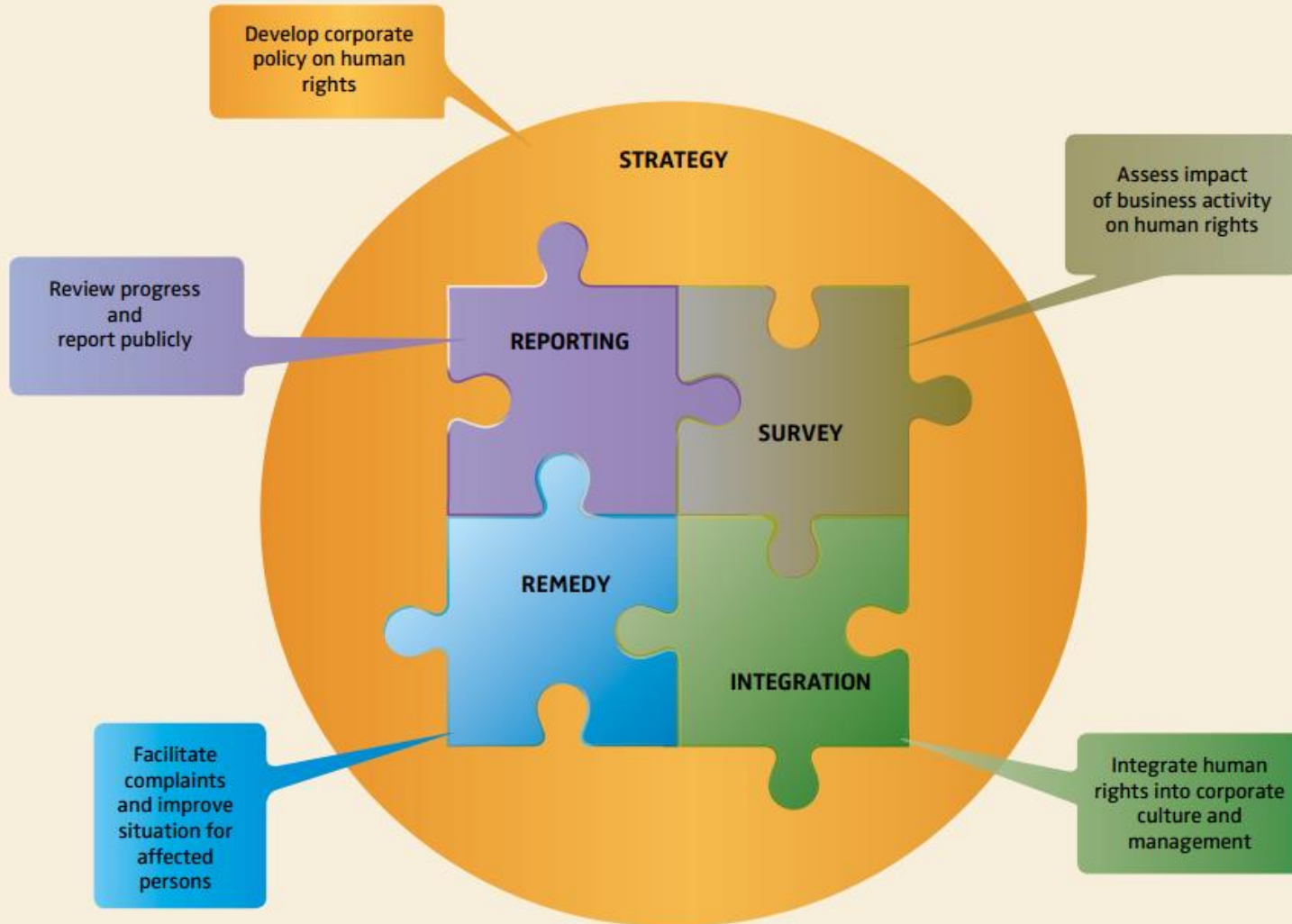
- We demand that **local, national and international governments**
 - ensure participation by civil society and tourism-affected communities at all levels of planning, decision making, business, destination management, and in monitoring processes. Local communities must benefit from tourism income.
 - review urgently and time-bound the complaint and management structures at UNWTO level and to develop mechanisms for meaningful participation.
- We expect the **tourism industry** to:
 - align management processes with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
 - enable regular dialogue and exchange with civil society and local communities guaranteeing their access to land and resources.
 - consult stakeholders along the supply chain, including workers and guarantee labour rights, including freedom of association.

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

“Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework

State duty to protect	Corporate responsibility to respect	Access to Remedy
States' international human rights law obligations require that they respect, protect and fulfil human rights. This includes the duty to protect against human rights abuse by third parties through appropriate strategies, regulation and jurisdiction.	Businesses have the responsibility to respect all human rights. Hence, they must act with due diligence and avoid infringing on the rights of others.	Victims of business-related human rights abuse need better access to judicial and non-judicial means that allow them access to effective remedy, such as compensation or punitive sanctions.

Example: Human Rights Management Framework



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- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights have a special relevance for the tourism sector with its international structure, because it provides an internationally agreed framework.
- Local population as right holders.
- The number of human rights impact assessments is still below 10 worldwide!
- Only few countries developed National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights.
- Voluntary nature of many NAPs is criticized by NGOs as well as by frontrunners from the business sector.

Example: Complaint Mechanisms

- Individuals and groups that are potentially affected by human rights abuses (right holder)
 - are familiar with the grievance office,
 - trust it,
 - can easily use it,
 - have access to information and consultancy in using the grievance office and
 - are protected against negative consequences.
- Procedures and deadlines in the handling of complaints are transparent, appropriate and conceivable.

In Reality:

- No grievance mechanism for affected people is publicly described in tourism.
- Customer complaint / feedback mechanisms exist
- §10 of the Global Code of Ethics has to be reviewed in the light of the UN Guiding principles on business and human rights, to meet the expectations defined internationally.