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United Nations system activities

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has continued to forge strong links with the United Nations (UN) and other entities of the UN System through participation in the meetings of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their subsidiary commissions/bodies as well as in various inter-agency mechanisms and networks that have relevance to the tourism sector. The principal objective is to ensure that the growing potential of tourism is fully recognized at the international level, as a multidisciplinary sector, which contributes to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

A. UNGA, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies:

A.1 UNWTO actively participated in the 64th and 65th Sessions of UNGA and their substantive meetings and negotiations. The most relevant events in those sessions for UNWTO were:

- The 64th UNGA Session adopted, among the various resolutions devoted to economic cooperation and development, resolution 64/205 of 21 December 2009 on “Sustainable mountain development” which, inter-alia, welcomed the growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socio-economic benefits to local communities and as a result signifies the increasing consumer demand for it. During that session, intensive informal consultations and negotiations were also conducted to prepare and finalize an **Outcome Document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS Mauritius+5 HLR)**. UNWTO actively participated in that Review and provided inputs to facilitate negotiations among Member States (MS) represented in New York. The Outcome Document, which was actually adopted by the 65th UNGA Session through a resolution 65/2 on 25 September 2010, included an operative paragraph on tourism. That paragraph recalled that for most SIDS, tourism is an important contributor to employment, foreign exchange and economic growth, and that the Mauritius Strategy recognized the need for sustainable tourism. The resolution also addressed the adverse impacts that climate change could have on tourism. The High-level Review (HLR), therefore, called upon UNWTO, relevant UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support the development and implementation by SIDS of measures to promote sustainable tourism in such States. UNWTO is currently preparing an updated version of its 10 years overview “Making Tourism work for SIDS” for 2012;
- Apart from the Mauritius+5 HLR, two resolutions adopted entirely related to tourism were: (a) resolution 65/148 of 20 December 2010 on **Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET)**, and (b) resolution 65/173 of 20 December 2010 on **Promotion of ecotourism for poverty**

eradication and environment protection. The resolution on Global Code, inter alia, welcomed the work of UNWTO and its World Committee on Tourism Ethics in the implementation of the GCET and the growing interest among MSs, especially among the States and territories members of the UNWTO and their increasing institutional and legal commitment towards the implementation of the GCET. UNWTO was requested to take appropriate action for its follow-up and implementation and to submit a report, together with appropriate recommendations, for consideration of the 70th UNGA Session in 2015. The resolution on ecotourism, inter alia, recognized that the development of ecotourism, within the framework of sustainable tourism, can have a positive impact on income generation, job creation, education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It further underlined the importance of establishing, at the national level and in accordance with their priorities, appropriate guidelines and regulations for promoting and supporting ecotourism and minimizing its potential negative impact, and encouraged MS to promote investment in it. The resolution assigned UNWTO with the main coordinating role in the preparation of report on implementation, to be submitted for consideration of the 67th UNGA Session in 2012.

A.2 UNWTO participated in the ECOSOC **Sessions of 2010 and 2011** held, respectively, in New York and Geneva. Their High Level Segments (HLS) consisted of: the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), the Development Cooperation Forum and a Policy Dialogue session with the Trade and Financial Institutions on major issues in the world economy. The HLS discussions focused attention on the achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of MDG 3 (gender equality and empowerment of women) and 5 (maternal health), and MDG 2 (education), and served to reinforce the efforts in support of gender equality, empowerment and role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and peace building processes as well as towards achievement of universal primary education. The Ministerial Declaration (MD) adopted by ECOSOC 2010 on gender mainstreaming called upon UN system agencies to strengthen their efforts to mainstream the gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, ensure that managers provide leadership and support for gender mainstreaming, monitoring, reporting and evaluation to allow for system-wide assessment of progress made and develop unified training modules and other tools for system-wide use. The MD on education adopted by ECOSOC 2011 reaffirmed the need for Governments to take the lead in education, while emphasizing the progress that can be made through strong partnerships and expressed the need to strengthen the coordination and implementation of existing policies, programmes and follow-up mechanisms for *Education For All*. Notable aspects of UNWTO's participation in ECOSOC 2010 and 2011 include:

- Presentation by UNWTO at the Dialogue with the Executive Heads of UN Funds and Programmes, held in NY, in July 2010, which featured a panel of Executive Heads from the four main UN operational Programmes that report to ECOSOC, namely, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, and the **World Food Programme (WFP)**. The panel discussion stressed the importance of continued coordination and support in pursuit of the MDGs and emphasized national ownership and leadership;
- At the 2011 ECOSOC session, UNWTO participated in the dialogue with the Executive Heads of the world trade and financial institutions on the current world economic situation and the AMR. UNWTO also participated and contributed to a number of other important meetings relating to preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

A.3 Three of the functional commissions of ECOSOC, namely, **UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**, **UN Statistical Commission (UNSC)** and **UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD)** have direct relevance for UNWTO's work, and in which UNWTO takes active interest. UNWTO participated in the work of the 18th and 19th sessions of CSD, held in NY, respectively,

in early May 2010 and 2011. The CSD sessions, covering the 4th implementation cycle of Agenda 21 and the **Johannesburg Plan of Implementation** (JPOI) included, among their five thematic priorities, the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in which sustainable development of tourism and UNWTO's role found adequate reflection.

A.4 In the field of statistics, UNWTO participated in the 41st and 42nd Sessions of the UNSC, held in New York in February 2010 and 2011, respectively. The first event featured the presentation of the revised draft Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS), which was adopted by the Commission. It also decided to annually observe 20 October as the first **World Statistics Day** (WSD). In the 42nd session, UNWTO presented its report on tourism statistics, which provides an overview of the support to national efforts in building and strengthening statistical capacity for tourism statistics. A timetable for developing the International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008 Compilation Guide to be issued in 2012 was presented. UNWTO also participated in the **Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities** (CCSA) meeting, which held its 15th session in NY in February 2010. Mention was made on the Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS) initiative on the need to establish a UN system-wide vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to track developments, and report on the political, economic, social dimensions of the crisis. UNWTO actively participated, together with other UN system agencies and organizations and national statistical offices, in the first-ever WSD, on 20 October 2010, to raise awareness of the importance of statistics.

A.5 UNWTO participated in the 48th and 49th sessions of CSocD, held in New York, respectively, on 3-12 February 2010 and on 9-18 February 2011. The main item of interest for UNWTO was progress in the implementation of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and its Optional Protocol, which entered into force in 2008, which includes a provision relating to tourism.

A.6 Among the Regional Commissions of ECOSOC, UNWTO is developing cooperation with two of the five commissions, for instance: (a) UNWTO participated in the Regional Coordination Mechanism 2011 (RCM) of the **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean** (ECLAC), which was held in Santiago de Chile on 8 and 9 February 2011. One of the main items discussed was an inter-agency strategy for enhancing the region's participation in the preparatory process of Rio+20. In that regard, UNWTO is contributing to a joint interagency report, coordinated by ECLAC, focusing on and addressing key issues for sustainable development; and (b) UNWTO contributed to the drafting of the Tourism Chapter of the **UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (UNESCAP) *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011*. The 2011 issue of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific gives an analysis of overall development of the tourism sector in Asia-Pacific.

B. Major UN Global Conferences and Events:

B.1 Over the last two years, UNWTO joined hands with relevant UN system agencies and organizations in two major fields. First, UNWTO participated in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) Side Event on the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, held in November 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. The event shared views on how to mobilize and scale up actions to collaborate with other networks in order to advance work on adaptation within the framework of the Nairobi Work Programme Partners. At UNFCCC – Conference of the Parties 15 (COP15), a side event entitled, **Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change – Perspective from the Travel & Tourism Sector**, was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 18 December 2009. The side event, organized jointly with the World Tourism and Travel Council (WTTC), was a further step of the UNWTO Davos Process on tourism and climate change, looking at responses to the Bali Roadmap as well as towards responsible tourism growth and development. Together with the Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico, UNWTO held a side event at the COP-16 of the UNFCCC, in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010. The side event presented the initiatives undertaken so far to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote adaptation in

tourism businesses and destinations, invest in new technologies and support developing countries through financing, e.g. UNWTO-led Hotel Energy Solutions (HES) project.

B.2 Recognizing the importance of tourism as a vehicle for development for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and a need to improve their support, UNWTO initiated a number of consultations. These resulted in the initiative of the UNWTO Secretary-General to formulate a UN **Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD)**, which aims to promote tourism for development and pursuit of UN system's Delivering as One (DaO) objective in tourism. The SCTD is composed of eight other UN Partners besides UNWTO: **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, **International Trade Centre (ITC)**, **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **UNDP**, **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, **United Nations Education, Sciences and Culture Organization (UNESCO)**, **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** and **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. Two events were organized in the framework of the 4th UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-IV): a joint Special Event on "Promoting Tourism for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction" with the generous support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey and the World Export Development Forum (WEDF) focussing on Tourism led by ITC in collaboration with UNWTO, and which included a Workshop on Recovering Tourism after a Crisis. Ongoing activity of the SCTD has since seen the development of a preliminary work plan for the next year; the on-going development of an integrated Tourism Service Portfolio, an initial capacity building workshop aimed at select LDCs and a communication plan to be aligned with major conferences, e.g. Rio+20. The SCTD partnership will be particularly useful in the relevant implementation of the *Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020*, which was adopted by the 65th UNGA session through resolution 65/280 on 17 June 2011.

B.3 UNWTO has been actively contributing to the preparatory process for Rio+20 by participating in its Preparatory Committee and in the CSD, as well as in the inter-agency bodies that are working on the preparation of inputs for the Outcome Document on behalf of the UN system. These include the ECESA Plus, HLCP, UNDG and the EMG. A roadmap to Rio entitled "The Journey to Rio" has been prepared to define the various key elements of UNWTO's involvement in Rio+ 20 to be held in June 2012.

C. Cooperation with the Chief Executive Board (CEB) and its subsidiary structure:

C.1 UNWTO's participation in CEB meetings and its cooperation with and participation in the activities of CEB's subsidiary structure, namely, the **High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)**, the **High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)** and the **United Nations Development Group (UNDG)**, including their relevant Working Groups and Task Forces, remained strong. UNWTO has also been participating actively in the expanded meetings of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA plus), which discuss various normative issues of common interest. During 2009-10 as also in its Spring 2011 session, CEB's main policy and operational focus remained on efforts to support a coherent approach that enhances system-wide coordination and promotion of 'Delivering as One (DaO)' in response to intergovernmental mandates at global, regional and country levels. It had also considered UN system's response to the global economic and financial crisis, climate change, the situation in crisis and post-crisis countries, security and safety of staff, and business practices.

C.2 The Task Force on Accounting Standards formed under the **Finance and Budget Network (FBN)** of CEB, upon recommendation of HLCM, held its last meeting at the office of the WFP, in Rome in December 2009. UNWTO was represented at the meeting where issues concerning employee benefits, assessed contributions, related party disclosures, operational rates, **International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)** training, etc. were discussed. UNWTO participated by video, tele-conference or in person in various meetings held in 2010, that discussed the framework of IPSAS, various organizations' IPSAS Implementation Progress and the IPSAS released report *Intangible Assets, Financial Instruments*. For the **FBN WG on Treasury Services**, UNWTO participated in

meetings in 2010 and 2011 to review among other issues; lessons learned from banking crisis – liquidity, including a plan of action for harmonizing business practices. The **FBN** also oversees the **WG on Security Costs**, which saw UNWTO connect to two WG meetings by video at end 2009 and early 2010 to discuss terms of reference and work plan of the WG.

C.3 UNWTO took part in the **HLCM Procurement Network** (HLCM-PN) in Geneva in September 2010. The topics discussed included the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) review of Procurement in the UN system, the harmonization of contractual conditions for procurement contracts and the progress on the Vendor Eligibility project. UNWTO hosted the last session of the HLCM-PN in Madrid from 29 March to 1 April 2011. The issues discussed included exploring possibilities for collaborative procurement among UN agencies, inter alia, sharing best practices for cost-efficiency.

C.4 Participation by UNWTO at the 20th Session of the **Human Resources (HR) Network** held in Washington DC, USA from 20-22 July 2010 as was as in the CEB **HR Directors'** strategic meeting held in Amman, Jordan from 26-28 January 2011.

C.5 UNWTO participated in the **UN Inter-Agency Travel Network** (IATN), a technical working group composed of all chiefs of travel management within the UN system. The 2010 IATN meeting hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 21-23 September 2010, focused debates on topical issues such as the status report on the e-passport compliant UNLP project; the consequences of the volcanic ash crisis and similar special circumstances, among other issues.

C.6 UNWTO is an active member of the UNDG **Working Group on Joint Funding, Financial and Auditing issues** (WGJFFI) in which it either attended or participated the following meetings in this regard: (a) *Task Team on Joint Funding*: Teleconference meetings in 2009 and 2010 where the main issues discussed were the UNDG-Donor relationship on Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) and EC-UN relationship on MDTFs; and (b) *Task Team on Financial Issues*: Video- and tele-conference held in October and November 2009 respectively, where the transfer of funds at country level and UN participation in non-UN basket funds were discussed.

C.7 The **UN System network for Legal Advisers** (UNSNLA) held a meeting in early May 2010 in Rome. The Legal Advisers reviewed a case concerning legal action brought against another UN Agency and also shared their recent experiences with regards to ensuring the application of the Privileges and Immunities granted to the UN. Also addressed were concerns on the legal implications on the use of social media tools (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) by the UN and legal issues on agreements. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland hosted meeting of UNSNLA in late May 2010. The topics discussed included Privileges and Immunities, among other issues.

C.8 UNWTO participated in the 72nd Session of the **International Civil Service Commission** (ICSC), held in NY from 21 March to 1 April 2011, which considered several important issues, mostly dealing with reports of various working groups on methodologies on matters, such as, review of general service salary survey methodology. UNWTO also participated in the 33rd session of the **Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions** (AQPAQ), held in NY January 2011, which reviewed results of the cost-of-living surveys conducted at eight Headquarters duty stations, including Madrid, and submitted its recommendations to the above session of ICSC.

D. Cooperation with UN system agencies and organizations and UN system initiatives:

D.1 In cooperation with the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs** (UN-DESA), UNWTO is participating in the Project LINK, a co-operative, non-governmental, international research activity, which integrates national econometric models into a global econometric model. Cooperation with UN-DESA also includes the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) publication, which provides

an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy. WESP 2011 was the first time that UNWTO has participated and that tourism has been specifically included. An inter-agency technical meeting led by UN-DESA, on *Building employment and decent work into sustainable recovery and development – the UN contribution* held from 29 November – 1 December 2010 in Turin, Italy had representation from UNWTO to highlight its role, initiatives, and identified opportunities relating to employment and development that contribute to these objectives.

D.2 The 29th Meeting of **Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics** of International Trade in Services (TF-SITS), coordinated and serviced by the **UN Statistical Division** (UNSD) held its meeting in November 2009 at the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) HQ in Paris, France. The objective of the Task Force is to elaborate the statistical requirements of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It consists of representatives from **International Monetary Fund** (IMF), **OECD**, **Eurostat**, the UNSD, UNCTAD, WTO and UNWTO. UNWTO participated at this meeting, in which a revised draft *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS)* was approved for presentation at the 41st session UNSC (February 2010). Progress was made in the analysis and design of the Compilation Guide of the future Manual. UNWTO also took part in the TFSITS of March 2011 in Luxembourg, which was convened by the OECD.

D.3 The Environmental Management Group (EMG) under the chairmanship of the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) held its first meeting, of the writing team of the UN report on 2010 biodiversity targets held in November 2009 in Rome, Italy, in which UNWTO took part. Following numerous consultations, the report was launched at the UNGA High level event on 22 September 2010 and was presented at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010. In collaboration with the **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD), UNWTO hosted a side event at COP10 on “Tourism and Biodiversity: how to achieve common goals towards sustainability”, in which the conclusions from a High-Level Dialogue on Tourism, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, held in China in September 2010 within the framework of the World Tourism Day, were officially presented.

D.4 UNWTO and **UNEP** continue their collaboration on various substantive issues and in varying capacities. As a permanent member of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism (GPST), UNWTO participated in its 1st Annual General Meeting in Paris, France in August 2010 and the 1st Annual General Assembly of the GPST, held in Costa Rica, in January 2011. The GPST builds on the work undertaken by the Marrakech Task Force (TF) on Sustainable Tourism and aims at developing related policies and supporting projects. The Partnership is expected to facilitate collaboration and scaling up of successful sustainable tourism initiatives focusing on key areas such as; policy frameworks, climate change and biodiversity, etc. With the **UNEP Regional Office for Europe** (UNEP-RoE), vis-à-vis the Vienna (Austria) office, UNWTO is developing a “Tourism Protocol” and “Strategy for the Future Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians” on behalf of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. UNWTO and UNEP have jointly produced the tourism chapter for the *UNEP Green Economy Report*, available online since February 2011, which makes the case of how investment in sustainable tourism solutions can contribute to sustainable development and to a green economy.

D.5 At the 2011 edition of ITB Trade Fair (Berlin), the launch of the *Global Report on Women in Tourism 2010* took place. The Global Report, initiated in 2008 with the former UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), is a concrete output of the collaboration between UNWTO and **UN Women** and is the first attempt to map the participation of women in the tourism sector. Jointly, they have worked on promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in tourism and will include the Women in Tourism Empowerment Programme and the Tourism and Gender Portal.

D.6 UNWTO continued its collaboration with the **UN Industrial Development Organization** (UNIDO) in a **Global Environment Facility** (GEF) funded project on Coastal Tourism in 9 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The project's main objective is to demonstrate best practices and strategies for sustainable tourism development so as to reduce the degradation of marine and coastal environments of trans-boundary significance. Within the project, UNWTO is responsible for the components on "eco-tourism development in coastal areas", and "sustainable tourism governance and management". In the first semester of 2011, proposals for eco-tourism pilot projects were drafted in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, and Mozambique, and field research on sustainable tourism governance took place in Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania.

D.7 The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and UNWTO continue to maintain close regular contacts and have been represented or have taken part in a number of joint activities. In June 2010, a UNWTO official was interviewed by the International Health Regulations (IHR) Review Committee, a WG led by WHO, on UNWTO's activities related to the application of the IHR, among others. UNWTO participated in meetings in July 2010 on public health (PH) emergency preparedness planning, in addition to discussions on International Organization and Networks during the IHR Implementation Course (IHR i-course). In October 2010, UNWTO participated in the **WHO** Workshop on Community PH Measures Implemented during the Influenza A(H1N1) 2009 Pandemic, where its experience on response was shared. UNWTO contributed revisions to the report of UN System and Partners Consolidated Action Plan for Animal and Human Influenza (UNCAPAHI), which takes into account the development of UNWTO's programmes for this and future years. A Technical WG teleconference in June 2011 was convened by the UN System Coordination on Avian and Pandemic Influenza to review UNWTO's role in the "Towards a Safer World" initiative. It also took part in the International Ministerial Conference on Animal and Pandemic Influenza held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in April 2010 to discuss the forward strategy relating to the tourism sector. UNWTO organized a workshop held at HQ in December 2010 on Travel and Tourism and the 2009 Pandemic to collect, discuss and review experiences.

D.8 **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and UNWTO have ongoing cooperation in the areas of aviation and tourism. UNWTO took part, in June 2010, in the ICAO Cooperative Arrangement for the prevention of spread of communicable disease through air travel (CAPSCA) in Dallas. UNWTO also participated in the ICAO 37th General Assembly in September 2010 at the ICAO HQ (Montreal, Canada). UNWTO forms part of the UN ICAO-led TF on Radiation and Travel Monitoring, involved in the monitoring process of the radiation levels in Japan and travel advice, which held first talks in early April 2011. WHO Informal Consultation Meeting and Field Exercise of Public Health Emergency Planning at Air travel (Madrid, June 2011) held at the Ministry of Health of Spain, UNWTO shared the experiences and lessons learnt in emergency planning in air travel, and other areas.

D.9 **International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Haitian Cultural Heritage** (ICC-Haiti) hosted in Paris, France. UNWTO was invited as an observer to the Committee. Following the various discussions, a set of recommendations was formed that included an item on tourism.

E. Outreach:

E.1 As part of the **Information and Communications (ICT) Network**, UNWTO participated in a meeting in end-August 2010 in Rome discussing harmonization of business practices and other matters. The UN Sharepoint Meeting of June 2011 in Geneva, provided the opportunity to share best practices. Some 56 officials from 24 UN Organizations attended. The Meeting on Cybercrime and Cybersecurity in July 2011 at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Geneva, brought together UN Focal Points on Cybercrime and Cybersecurity to discuss the UN system's role on policy, operational and management dimensions regarding the two. There were some 35 UN agencies at the meeting.

E.2 As part of the **UN Communications Group (UNCG)** TF, UNWTO participated in various teleconferences organized by **UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI)** to ensure consistent information across all concerned UN agencies. Participation by UNWTO in the Annual Meeting of the **United Nations Communication Group (UNCG)** took place in Shanghai, China, in June 2010, where some main issues discussed include the UN "one voice" positioning and messaging on key issues such as Climate Change, MDGs and the use of social media to communicate. UNWTO collaborates with Health Risks TF, which helps to gain insight into public communications during an emergency situation. The group was convened in March 2011 for a tele-conference to issue joint press release on developments related to the radioactive incident in Japan. UNWTO is also a member of the UNCG TF on Rio +20, a group created to build up the communication strategy and plan towards the Rio +20.

E.3 Since 2004, UNWTO is member of the **UN Inter-Agency on Knowledge Sharing and Information Management (UNKSIM)**, a technical working group composed of all chief librarians and information resource managers of the UN system. The 2010 annual meeting of UNKSIM held in October at UN-HQ in New York focused discussions on strategic directions and best practices of the UN libraries and information services and the reinforcement of UN Inter-Agency's cooperation in this area.

E.4 UNWTO participated in the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Leaders Summit** held in June 2010, which aimed to provide a platform for bringing together world leaders to elevate the role of responsible business in achieving more sustainable and inclusive markets while committing to build a new era of sustainability. As a major outcome, GC participants adopted by acclamation a "New York Declaration by Business", pledging to renew their commitment to the GC principles, deepen their engagement and support for critical development goals. UNWTO participated at the annual **UNGC's Private Sector Focal Points** meeting in Paris at UNESCO in April 2011 where all UN Programmes and agencies were represented as well as large corporate signatories of the GC. The meeting called for outputs aimed at consolidating the UNSG communication for the next UNGA, as well as to review a new institutional framework for sustainable development to be discussed at Rio+20 (private sector track).

F. Concluding Observations

UNWTO's active engagement with the UN system has yielded significant dividends in terms of mainstreaming tourism into the international development agenda:

- At the highest political level, at its 65th session, the UN General Assembly adopted, for the first time, two resolutions entirely devoted to tourism;
- The Outcome Document of the SIDS Mauritius+5 High-level Review recognized the potential of tourism for employment, foreign exchange and economic growth in the SIDS. It further reiterated that the Mauritius Strategy recognized the need for sustainable tourism for the SIDS;
- UNWTO has been able to forge important partnerships with key UN agencies through the HLCP, UNDG, and other inter-agency platforms, creating new opportunities for joint cooperation projects and programmes, thus, opening up access to various UN system funding mechanisms;
- Under UNWTO's initiative and leadership, the Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD) was formed – an alliance of 9 UN agencies to coordinate their tourism-related activities;
- UNWTO has been successful, for the first time, in highlighting and analysing the role of tourism in development and in the emerging green economy in major UN publications, such as, the World Economic and Social Survey, the WESP and in UNEP's Green Economy Report;

- UNWTO is increasingly recognized as a key player in the UN system working towards integrating tourism into the UN development agenda at the global, regional and country level, with a commitment to 'Delivering as One (DaO)' with the rest of the system.