



## General Assembly

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### Approval or adoption of the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics

#### I. Introduction

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1. In conformity with the General Assembly resolution 668(XXI), the Secretary-General established a special Working Group that, in cooperation with the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, has examined in depth the procedures and implications of adopting a draft UNWTO Convention on Tourism Ethics based on the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.
2. In line with the wish expressed by the General Assembly in the same resolution, the revised text of the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics is hereby being presented to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session for consideration and eventual approval or adoption.
3. Given that this would be the first International Convention to be adopted under the aegis of UNWTO, the Secretariat has prepared Special Guidelines for this purpose. These were endorsed by the Executive Council at its 105th session ([CE/DEC/7\(CV\)](#)).
4. Likewise, at its 105th session, the Executive Council recommended the General Assembly to consider the adoption of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics while recalling that, in the case of adoption, Members remain free to approve, accede, accept or ratify the Convention ([CE/DEC/7\(CV\)](#)).
5. It should also be noted that the Executive Council, in the same decision, endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group on the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics to avoid making any change to the text of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism which is included in Articles 4 to 12 of the draft text of the Convention.

#### II. Content of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics

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6. The Working Group, composed of representatives of 36 States, has held three meetings since it was created at the beginning of 2016. During these meetings, the draft text, now entitled **Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics**, was thoroughly reviewed article by article.
7. The Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics has been built around the nine core principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. In order to frame these principles in the classical structure of an international treaty, several provisions have been adapted.

- (a) The Preamble of the text is inspired by that of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,



although updated to the current international context and purpose of the proposed Convention.

(b) Part I of the Convention includes the General Provisions which contextualize the text by outlining the key terminology, the aim and scope of the provisions of the Convention as well as the means of implementation.

(c) Part II is dedicated to the Ethical Principles in Tourism which constitute the backbone of the Convention.

(d) Part III on the World Committee on Tourism Ethics refers to the mandate, composition and functioning of this subsidiary organ of the UNWTO General Assembly in the context of the Convention.

(e) The two final sections of the Convention contain standard provisions of international treaties, namely Part IV addresses the Conference of States Parties and Part V features the Final Provisions regulating procedures for signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession.

(f) The Optional Protocol annexed to the Convention is a separate instrument that States Parties to the Convention can decide to ratify or not; it consists of a voluntary conciliation mechanism concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention.

### **III. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly**

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8. The General Assembly is invited:

(a) To take account of the discussions of the ad hoc Committee specifically designated for the purpose of finalizing the text of the Convention during the meetings in parallel with the Plenary Sessions of the General Assembly; and

(b) To consider the final text of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics as submitted by the ad hoc Committee for eventual approval or adoption.

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**Annex: Draft Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics**

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\*Version 13 May 2017

**Draft Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics**

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

*Desiring to develop tourism with a view to contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,*

*Considering that tourism has the potential to contribute directly or indirectly to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular with regard to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, sustainable consumption and production and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources,*

*Firmly believing that, through the direct, spontaneous and non-mediatized contacts it engenders between men and women of different cultures and lifestyles, tourism represents a vital force for peace and a factor of friendship and understanding among the peoples of the world,*

*In keeping with the rationale of reconciling environmental protection, economic development and the fight against poverty in a sustainable manner, as formulated by the United Nations in 1992 at the “Earth Summit” of Rio de Janeiro, expressed in Agenda 21, adopted on that occasion, and reiterated by the “Earth Summits” of Johannesburg in 2002 and Rio in 2012 (Rio + 20),*

*Taking into account the swift and continued growth, both past and foreseeable, of the tourism activity, whether for leisure, business, culture, religious or health purposes and other special interest tourism products and segments, and its powerful effects, both positive and negative, on the environment, the economy and the society of both generating and receiving countries, on local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as on international relations and exchanges,*

*Aiming to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism in the framework of the right of all persons to use their free time for leisure pursuits or travel with respect for the choices of society of all peoples,*

*Firmly convinced that, provided a number of principles and a certain number of rules are observed, responsible and sustainable tourism is by no means incompatible with the growing liberalization of the conditions governing the provision of goods and services and under whose aegis the enterprises of this sector operate and that it is possible to reconcile, in this context environment and economic development, openness to international trade and protection of social and cultural identities,*

*Considering that, with such an approach, all the stakeholders in tourism development – national, regional and local administrations, enterprises, business associations, workers in the sector, non-governmental organizations and bodies of all kinds related to the tourism sector, as well as host communities, the media and the tourists themselves, including excursionists – have different albeit interdependent responsibilities in the individual and societal development of tourism and that the formulation of their individual rights and duties will contribute to meeting this aim,*

*Emphasizing that, also in the field of tourism, both the State and the enterprises share the responsibility of advancing the protection and respect of human rights in the business context as laid down by the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights unanimously adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011.*

*Recalling resolution A/RES/406(XIII) of 1999 adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (hereinafter referred to as “UNWTO”) in which it solemnly adopted the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,*

*Recalling resolution A/RES/668(XXI) of 2015 whereby the General Assembly of the UNWTO expressed its wish to convert the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism into a legally binding treaty in order to reinforce its effectiveness at the international and national level,*

*Considering that the World Committee on Tourism Ethics (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) established in 2001 under resolution A/RES/438(XIV) is a subsidiary organ of the UNWTO General Assembly,*

*Convinced that this Framework Convention (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) will enhance the advancement of a more sustainable and ethical tourism as stated in the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,*

*Aiming to supplement the present Framework Convention with an Optional Protocol, which is a separate and independent legal instrument, providing a process for the settlement of disputes that can guide and strengthen the implementation of the ethical principles by all stakeholders concerned,*

*Inspired by the resolutions and decisions related to the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly and the Executive Council,*

*Reaffirming that, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNWTO, as well as its Member States, is guided in its activities by the Charter of the United Nations, relevant United Nations resolutions and the generally accepted norms and principles of international law,*

*Have agreed as follows:*

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1**

#### ***Definitions***<sup>1</sup>

For the purposes of this Convention and unless otherwise provided in particular provisions, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) *ethical principles in tourism* means the Principles set out in this Convention in Articles 4 to 12 below.
- (b) *tourism* refers to the activities of visitors, whether tourists or excursionists.
- (c) *tourist* means a person taking a trip which includes an overnight stay to a main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions from the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics. United Nations, 2008.

- purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited.
- (d) *excursionist* means a person taking a trip which does not include an overnight stay to a main destination outside of his/her usual environment. For the purpose of this Convention any reference to tourists constitutes at the same time a reference to excursionists.
- (e) *stakeholders in tourism development* includes:<sup>2</sup>
- (i) national governments;
  - (ii) local governments with specific competence in tourism matters;
  - (iii) tourism establishments and tourism enterprises, including their associations;
  - (iv) institutions engaged in financing tourism projects;
  - (v) tourism employees and professionals;
  - (vi) trade unions of tourism employees;
  - (vii) tourists and excursionists;
  - (viii) local populations and host communities at tourism destinations through their representatives; and
  - (ix) other juridical and natural persons having stakes in tourism development including non-governmental organizations specializing in tourism and directly involved in tourism projects and the supply of tourism services.
- (f) *Tourism resources* means:
- (i) natural resources, and
  - (ii) cultural heritage assets (both tangible and intangible)
- that have the potential to attract tourists.*

## **Article 2**

### ***Aim and scope***

(1) The present Convention aims to promote responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism through the implementation of the ethical principles in tourism.

(2) The present Convention refers to all stakeholders in tourism development within the meaning of Article 1(e) in the observance of the ethical principles in tourism.

## **Article 3**

### ***Means of implementation***

(1) States Parties shall promote responsible and sustainable tourism by formulating policies and adopting laws and regulations that are consistent with the ethical principles in tourism set out in the Convention.

(2) States Parties shall respect and promote the ethical principles in tourism, especially through encouraging tourism enterprises and bodies to reflect these principles in their contractual instruments and make specific reference to them in their codes of conduct or professional rules.

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<sup>2</sup> Based on resolution A/RES/469(XV), Beijing, China, 2003, by which the UNWTO General Assembly adopts the Supplement to the draft Protocol of Implementation relative to the application and interpretation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

(3) States Parties shall periodically submit a report to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics concerning the adoption and effective implementation of policies, national laws and regulations that are consistent with the ethical principles in tourism.

(4) States Parties, which are also parties to the Optional Protocol to the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, shall promote among tourism enterprises and bodies the conciliation mechanism provided for in the Optional Protocol.

## **ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN TOURISM**

### **Article 4**

#### ***Tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies***

(1) The understanding and promotion of the ethical values common to humanity, with an attitude of tolerance and respect for the diversity of religious, philosophical and moral beliefs, are both the foundation and the consequence of responsible tourism; stakeholders in tourism development and tourists themselves should observe the social and cultural traditions and practices of all peoples, including those of minorities and indigenous peoples and recognize their worth.

(2) Tourism activities should be conducted in harmony with the attributes and traditions of the host regions and countries and in respect for their laws, practices and customs.

(3) The host communities, on the one hand, and local professionals, on the other, should acquaint themselves with and respect the tourists who visit them and find out about their lifestyles, tastes and expectations; the education and training imparted to professionals contribute to a hospitable welcome.

(4) It is the task of the public authorities to provide protection for tourists and their belongings; they must pay particular attention to the safety of foreign tourists owing to the particular vulnerability they may have; they should facilitate the introduction of specific means of information, prevention, security, insurance and assistance consistent with their needs; any attacks, assaults, kidnappings or threats against tourists or workers in the tourism industries, as well as the wilful destruction of tourism facilities or of elements of cultural or natural heritage should be severely condemned and punished in accordance with their respective national laws.

(5) When travelling, tourists should not commit any criminal act or any act considered criminal by the laws of the country visited and abstain from any conduct felt to be offensive or injurious by the local populations, or likely to damage the local environment; they should refrain from all trafficking in illicit drugs, arms, antiques, protected species and products and substances that are dangerous or prohibited by national regulations.

(6) Tourists have the responsibility to acquaint themselves, even before their departure, with the characteristics of the countries they are preparing to visit; they must be aware of the health and security risks inherent in any travel outside their usual environment and behave in such a way as to minimize those risks.

## Article 5

### ***Tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfilment***

(1) Tourism, the activity most frequently associated with rest and relaxation, sport and access to culture and nature, should be planned and practised as a privileged means of individual and collective fulfilment; when practised with a sufficiently open mind, it is an irreplaceable factor of self-education, mutual tolerance and for learning about the legitimate differences between peoples and cultures and their diversity.

(2) Tourism activities should respect the equality of men and women; they should promote human rights and, more particularly, the individual rights of the most vulnerable groups, notably children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

(3) The exploitation of human beings in any form, particularly sexual, especially when applied to children, conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism and is the negation of tourism; as such, in accordance with international law, it should be energetically combated with the cooperation of all the States concerned and penalized without concession by the national legislation of both the countries visited and the countries of the perpetrators of these acts, even when they are carried out abroad.

(4) Travel for purposes of religion, health, education and cultural or linguistic exchanges are particularly beneficial and deserve encouragement.

(5) The introduction into curricula of education about the value of tourism exchanges, their economic, social and cultural benefits, and also their risks, should be encouraged.

## Article 6

### ***Tourism, a factor of sustainable development***

(1) All the stakeholders in tourism development should safeguard the natural environment with a view to achieving sound, continuous and sustainable economic growth geared to satisfying equitably the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

(2) All forms of tourism development that are conducive to saving rare and precious natural resources, in particular water and energy, as well as avoiding so far as possible waste production, should be given priority and encouraged by national, regional and local public authorities.

(3) The staggering in time and space of tourist flows, particularly those resulting from paid leave and school holidays, and a more even distribution of holidays should be sought so as to reduce the pressure of tourism activity on the environment and enhance its beneficial impact on the tourism industries and the local economy.

(4) Tourism infrastructure should be designed and tourism activities programmed in such a way as to protect the natural heritage composed of ecosystems and biodiversity and to preserve endangered species of wildlife; the stakeholders in tourism development, and especially professionals, should agree to the imposition of limitations or constraints on their activities when these are exercised in particularly sensitive areas: desert, polar or high mountain regions, coastal areas, tropical forests or wetlands, propitious to the creation of nature reserves or protected areas.

(5) Nature tourism and ecotourism are recognized as being particularly conducive to enriching and enhancing the standing of tourism, provided they respect the natural heritage and local populations and are in keeping with the carrying capacity of the sites.

### **Article 7**

#### ***Tourism, a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and a contributor to its enhancement***

(1) Tourism resources belong to the common heritage of mankind; the communities in whose territories they are situated have particular rights and obligations to them.

(2) Tourism policies and activities should be conducted with respect for the artistic, archaeological and cultural heritage, which they should protect and pass on to future generations; particular care should be devoted to preserving and upgrading monuments, shrines and museums as well as archaeological and historic sites which must be widely open to tourism visits; encouragement should be given to public access to privately-owned cultural property and monuments, with respect for the rights of their owners, as well as to religious buildings, without prejudice to normal needs of worship.

(3) Financial resources derived from visits to cultural sites and monuments should, at least in part, be used for the upkeep, safeguard, development and embellishment of this heritage.

(4) Tourism activity should be planned in such a way as to allow traditional cultural products, crafts and folklore to survive and flourish, rather than causing them to degenerate and become standardized.

### **Article 8**

#### ***Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities***

(1) Local populations should be associated with tourism activities and share equitably in the economic, social and cultural benefits they generate, and particularly in the direct and indirect creation of jobs resulting from them.

(2) Tourism policies should be applied in such a way as to help to raise the standard of living of the populations of the regions visited and meet their needs; the planning and architectural approach to and operation of tourism resorts and accommodation should aim to integrate them, to the extent possible, in the local economic and social fabric; where skills are equal, priority should be given to local manpower.

(3) Special attention should be paid to the specific problems of coastal areas and island territories and to vulnerable rural or mountain regions, for which tourism often represents a rare opportunity for development in the face of the decline of traditional economic activities.

(4) Tourism professionals, particularly investors, governed by the regulations laid down by the public authorities, should carry out studies of the impact of their development projects on the environment and natural surroundings; they should also deliver, with the greatest transparency and objectivity, information on their future programmes and their foreseeable repercussions and foster dialogue on their contents with the populations concerned.

## Article 9

### ***Obligations of stakeholders in tourism development***

(1) Tourism professionals have an obligation to provide tourists with objective and honest information on their places of destination and on the conditions of travel, hospitality and stays; they should ensure that the contractual clauses proposed to their customers are readily understandable as to the nature, price and quality of the services they commit themselves to providing and the financial compensation payable by them in the event of a unilateral breach of contract on their part.

(2) Tourism professionals, insofar as it depends on them, should show concern, in cooperation with the public authorities, for the security and safety, accident prevention, health protection and food safety of those who seek their services; likewise, they should ensure the existence of suitable systems of insurance and assistance; they should accept the reporting obligations prescribed by national regulations and pay fair compensation in the event of failure to observe their contractual obligations.

(3) Tourism professionals, so far as this depends on them, should contribute to the cultural and spiritual fulfilment of tourists and allow them, during their trip, to practise their religions.

(4) The public authorities of the generating States and the host countries, in cooperation with the professionals concerned and their associations, should ensure that the necessary mechanisms are in place for the repatriation of tourists in the event of the bankruptcy of the enterprise that organized their trip.

(5) Governments have the right – and the duty – especially in a crisis, to inform their nationals of the difficult circumstances, or even the dangers they may encounter during their travels abroad; it is their responsibility however to issue such information without prejudicing in an unjustified or exaggerated manner the tourism sector of the host countries and the interests of their own operators; the contents of travel advisories should therefore be discussed beforehand with the authorities of the host countries and the professionals concerned; recommendations formulated should be strictly proportionate to the gravity of the situations encountered and confined to the geographical areas where the insecurity has arisen; such advisories should be qualified or cancelled as soon as a return to normality permits.

(6) The press, and particularly the specialized travel press and the other media, including modern means of electronic communication, should issue honest and balanced information on events and situations that could influence the flow of tourists; they should also provide accurate and reliable information to the consumers of tourism services; the new communication and electronic commerce technologies should also be developed and used for this purpose; as is the case for the media, they should not in any way promote sex tourism.

## Article 10

### ***Right to tourism***

(1) The prospect of direct and personal access to the discovery and enjoyment of the planet's resources constitutes a right equally open to all the world's inhabitants; the increasingly extensive participation in domestic and international tourism should be regarded as one of the best possible expressions of the sustained growth of free time, and obstacles should not be placed in its way.

(2) The universal right to tourism must be regarded as the corollary of the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay, guaranteed by Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7.d of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

(3) Social tourism, and in particular associative tourism, which facilitates widespread access to leisure, travel and holidays, should be developed with the support of the public authorities.

(4) Family, youth, student and senior tourism and tourism for persons with disabilities, should be encouraged and facilitated.

## **Article 11**

### ***Liberty of tourist movements***

(1) Tourists should benefit, in compliance with international law and national legislation, from the liberty to move within their countries and from one State to another, in accordance with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; they should have access to places of transit and stay and to tourism and cultural sites without being subject to excessive formalities or discrimination.

(2) Tourists should have access to all available forms of communication, internal or external; they should benefit from prompt and easy access to local administrative, legal and health services; they should be free to contact the consular representatives of their countries of origin in compliance with the international conventions in force.

(3) Tourists should benefit from the same rights as the citizens of the country visited concerning the confidentiality of the personal data and information concerning them, especially when these are stored electronically.

(4) Administrative procedures relating to border crossings whether they fall within the competence of States or result from international agreements, such as visas or health and customs formalities, should be adapted, so far as possible, so as to facilitate to the maximum freedom of travel and widespread access to international tourism; agreements between groups of countries to harmonize and simplify these procedures should be encouraged; specific taxes and levies penalizing the tourism sector and undermining its competitiveness should be gradually phased out or corrected.

(5) So far as the economic situation of the countries from which they come permits, tourists should have access to allowances of convertible currencies needed for their travels.

## **Article 12**

### ***Rights of the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industries***

(1) The fundamental rights of workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industries and related activities should be guaranteed under the supervision of the national and local administrations, both of their States of origin and of the host countries with particular care, given the specific constraints linked in particular to the seasonality of their activity, the global dimension of their industries and the flexibility often required of them by the nature of their work.

(2) Employees and self-employed workers in the tourism industries and related activities should be able to access appropriate initial and continuous training; they should be given adequate

social protection; job insecurity should be limited so far as possible; and a specific status, with particular regard to their social welfare, should be offered to seasonal workers in the sector.

(3) Any natural or legal person, provided he, she or it has the necessary abilities and skills, should be entitled to develop a professional activity in the field of tourism under existing national laws; entrepreneurs and investors - especially in the area of small and medium-sized enterprises - should be entitled to free access to the tourism sector with a minimum of legal or administrative restrictions.

(4) Exchanges of experience offered to executives and workers, from different countries, contribute to fostering the development of the world tourism sector; these movements should be facilitated so far as possible in compliance with the applicable national laws and international conventions.

(5) As an irreplaceable factor of solidarity in the development and dynamic growth of international exchanges, multinational enterprises of the tourism industries should not exploit the dominant positions they sometimes occupy; they should avoid becoming the vehicles of cultural and social models artificially imposed on the host communities; in exchange for their freedom to invest and trade which should be fully recognized, they should involve themselves in local development, avoiding, by the excessive repatriation of their profits or their induced imports, a reduction of their contribution to the economies in which they are established.

(6) Partnership and the establishment of balanced relations between enterprises of generating and receiving countries contribute to the sustainable development of tourism and an equitable distribution of the benefits of its growth.

## **WORLD COMMITTEE ON TOURISM ETHICS**

### **Article 13**

#### ***Mandate***

(1) The World Committee on Tourism Ethics is a subsidiary organ of the UNWTO General Assembly, and notwithstanding the functions performed in relation to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, it shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and carrying out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Conference of States Parties.

(2) The Committee shall fix the modalities for the submission and examination of the reports of the States Parties.

(3) The Committee shall adopt a biennial report on the implementation and interpretation of the Convention that will be transmitted by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO to the General Assembly of the UNWTO and to the Conference of States Parties to the present Convention.

(4) The Committee may also act, where applicable, as a conciliation mechanism to the States Parties and other stakeholders in tourism development in accordance with the Optional Protocol annexed to the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics.

## **Article 14**

### ***Composition***

(1) The General Assembly of the UNWTO, in cooperation with the Conference of States Parties, shall determine the composition of the Committee as well as the modalities for the nomination and appointment of its Members with a view to achieving their independence and impartiality.

(2) The General Assembly of the UNWTO, in cooperation with the Conference of States Parties, shall elect the members of the Committee with due regard being paid to gender balance and equitable regional and sectorial representation.

## **Article 15**

### ***Functioning***

(1) The Secretary-General of the UNWTO shall place at the Committee's disposal the personnel and financial resources necessary for the performance of its functions. The expenses necessary to the functioning of the Committee will be entered in the budget of the Organization with the approval of the General Assembly.

(2) The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure. The text of the rules of procedure shall be transmitted to the Conference of States Parties and to the General Assembly of the UNWTO for their information.

## **CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**

## **Article 16**

### ***Composition and responsibilities***

(1) The Conference of States Parties shall be the plenary body of this Convention composed of representatives of all States Parties.

(2) The Conference of State Parties shall meet in ordinary sessions every two years in conjunction with the General Assembly of the UNWTO. It may meet in extraordinary session if it so decides or if the Secretary-General of the UNWTO receives a request to that effect from at least one-third of the States Parties.

(3) The presence of a majority of States Parties shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at meetings of the Conference of States Parties.

(4) The Conference of States Parties shall adopt its own rules of procedure and amendments thereto.

(5) The Conference of States Parties shall perform, *inter alia*, the following functions:

(a) *considering and adopting amendments to this Convention and to the Optional Protocol to the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics where applicable;*

(b) *adopting plans and programmes for the implementation of this Convention; and taking any other measures it may consider necessary to further the objectives of this Convention;*

(c) *approving the operational guidelines for the implementation and application of the provisions of the Convention prepared upon its request by the World Committee on Tourism Ethics.*

(6) The Conference of the States Parties may invite observers to its meetings. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure of the Conference of States Parties.

(7) The Conference of the States Parties may establish a fund, if necessary, to cover any expenses for the implementation of the Convention that are not met by UNWTO and determine the contribution to be made by each of the States Parties to the present Convention.

## **Article 17**

### **Secretariat**

The Secretariat of the UNWTO shall provide administrative support to the Conference of States Parties, as necessary.

## **FINAL PROVISIONS**

## **Article 18**

### ***Signature***

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all Member States of the UNWTO and all Member States of the United Nations at the twenty-second session of the General Assembly of the UNWTO, and thereafter at the Headquarters of the UNWTO in Madrid until [date].

## **Article 19**

### ***Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession***

(1) The present Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by States. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the UNWTO.

(2) No reservations may be made with respect to any of the provisions of this Convention.

## **Article 20**

### ***Entry into forc ***

(1) The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

(2) For each State Party ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following deposit by such State Party of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

## **Article 21**

### ***Amendment of the Convention***

(1) Any State Party may propose amendments to the present Convention.

(2) The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO to all States Parties at least ninety days before the opening of the session of the Conference of States Parties.

(3) Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of States Parties present and voting and shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO to the States Parties for ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

(4) Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the amendments shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the UNWTO.

(5) Amendments adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 shall enter into force for those States Parties having ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to such amendments on the thirtieth day following the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO of the instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of at least five of the States Parties to this Convention. Thereafter the amendments shall enter into force for any other State Party on the thirtieth day after the date on which that State Party deposits its instrument.

(6) After entry into force of an amendment to this Convention, any new State Party to the Convention shall become a State Party to the Convention as amended.

## **Article 22**

### ***Denunciation***

(1) The present Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but any State Party may denounce it at any time by written notification. The instrument of denunciation shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the UNWTO. After one year from the date of deposit of the instrument of denunciation, the Convention shall no longer be in force for the denouncing State Party, but shall remain in force for the other States Parties.

(2) The denunciation shall not affect the possible remaining financial obligation of the denouncing State Party, any requests for information or assistance made, or procedure for the peaceful settlement of disputes commenced during the time the Convention is in force for the denouncing State Party.

## **Article 23**

### ***Dispute settlement***

Any dispute that may arise between States Parties as to the application or interpretation of this

Convention shall be resolved through diplomatic channels or, failing which, by any other means of peaceful settlement decided upon by the States Parties involved, including, where applicable, the conciliation mechanism provided for in the Optional Protocol.

#### **Article 24**

##### ***Authentic texts***

The Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of this Convention shall be regarded as equally authentic.

#### **Article 25**

##### **Depositary**

- (1) The Secretary-General of the UNWTO shall be the depositary of this Convention.
- (2) The Secretary-General of the UNWTO shall transmit certified copies to each of the signatory States Parties.
- (3) The Secretary-General of the UNWTO shall notify the States Parties of the signatures, of the deposits of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession, amendments and denunciation.

#### **Article 26**

##### **Registration**

In conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, this Convention shall be registered with the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Secretary-General of the UNWTO.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Convention.

DONE at VENUE, on DATE

## OPTIONAL PROTOCOL

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

*Having concluded the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) as a fundamental frame of reference for the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism,*

*Recognizing that disputes in the tourism sector may sometimes seriously disrupt the positive impacts of the sector towards a harmonious socio-cultural and economic development and the advancement of peace and prosperity,*

*Aiming to supplement the Convention with a separate and independent legal instrument providing a process for the settlement of disputes that can guide and strengthen the implementation of the ethical principles by all stakeholders concerned,*

*Encouraging all parties to try to resolve all disputes in a peaceful manner before resorting to litigation,*

Have agreed as follows:

1. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) shall act as an independent and voluntary conciliation mechanism for any dispute that may arise among States Parties to the present Protocol, or stakeholders in tourism development within the limits set out in paragraph 2 below, concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention.
2. Any dispute between two or several States Parties to the present Protocol, or a State Party and one or more stakeholders may be referred to the Committee.
3. In so far as the Parties agree to submit the dispute to the Committee, they shall present written statements, accompanied by all documents and other evidence as deemed necessary to the Chairperson of the Committee who shall appoint a sub-committee of three members responsible for examining the dispute and for formulating recommendations suitable to form the basis of a settlement.
4. In order to adopt relevant recommendations, the sub-committee may ask the Parties for additional information and, if deemed useful, may hear them at their request; the necessary expenses incurred by the conciliation procedure shall be borne by the Parties in dispute. The failure of one of the Parties to appear even though it has been given a reasonable opportunity to participate shall not prevent the sub-committee from adopting its recommendations.
5. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in dispute, the Committee shall announce recommendations of the sub-committee within three months from the date on which the dispute was referred to it. The Parties in dispute shall inform the Chairperson of the Committee of any settlement reached on the basis of the recommendations and of any action taken to implement such settlement.
6. If within a period of two months after notification of the recommendations the Parties in dispute have failed to agree on the terms of a final settlement, the Parties may separately or jointly refer the dispute to a plenary session of the Committee.
7. The plenary session of the Committee shall adopt a decision that shall be notified to the Parties in dispute and, if the Parties in dispute agree so, made public. If the Parties in dispute agree with the

decision, they will be requested to apply it at the earliest possible opportunity and they shall provide information in due course to the Chairperson of the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement the abovementioned decision.

8. A State Party may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or any subsequent date, declare that it agrees with respect to any other State Party assuming the same obligation, to consider binding the decision of the Committee in any dispute covered by this Protocol on which no settlement has been reached in accordance with paragraph 4.

9. Tourism establishments and tourism enterprises, as well as their associations, may include in their contractual documents a provision making the decisions of the Committee binding in their relations with their contracting parties.

10. Except in cases where new elements have been submitted to it, the Committee shall not consider matters it has already dealt with (*non bis in idem*) and will inform the Parties in dispute accordingly.

11. The present Protocol is open to the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the States Parties to the Convention. The rules concerning the amendment and denunciation of the Convention shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Protocol. The provisions included in Article 19(2) of the Convention shall not apply to this Protocol. The Protocol shall form an Annex to the Convention for the States having ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to it.

12. Denunciation of the Convention shall involve the immediate denunciation of this Protocol. The denunciation shall take effect one year after the receipt of the instrument of denunciation. However, States Parties denouncing the Protocol shall remain bound by its provisions in respect of any dispute which may have been referred to the Committee before the end of the one-year period provided for above.

13. The Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

14. For each State Party ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Protocol after the deposit of the second instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the deposit by such State Party of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed the present Protocol.

DONE at VENUE, on DATE

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**ADOPTION OF**

**THE UNWTO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOURISM ETHICS**

**AND SUBSEQUENT STEPS FOR ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE<sup>3</sup>**

**I. Introduction**

The present Note has been prepared by the Office of the Legal Counsel of UNWTO to help member States understand the procedure following the possible adoption of the draft UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics by the General Assembly and the process by which member States may become legally bound to the Convention.

**II. Adoption of the Convention**

The draft text of the Convention on Tourism Ethics will be submitted to the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of UNWTO General Assembly for discussion, consideration and eventual adoption. The process of finalization and possible adoption of the text of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics is described in the “Special Guidelines prepared by UNWTO Secretariat for the adoption of draft UNWTO Conventions” (annexed to the present document), endorsed by the Executive Council at its last session in Madrid, Spain (decision 7(CV)), which will be submitted at the beginning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly for approval.

As duly explained in Section 3 of the above mentioned Guidelines, an Ad Hoc Committee composed of member States will be established by the General Assembly to prepare the final text of the Convention in the five official languages of UNWTO.<sup>4</sup> Once the Ad Hoc Committee finalizes the text, the Convention will be submitted as a whole in the five official languages to the General Assembly for adoption.

Under international law, the adoption of a Convention is the formal act by which the form and content of a proposed treaty text are established<sup>5</sup>. The Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics is being negotiated within the framework of the UNWTO. Accordingly, it will be adopted by a resolution of its representative organ<sup>6</sup>, the UNWTO General Assembly. The General Assembly, at its plenary session, will adopt the text of the Convention by consensus, or by two-thirds vote, if a Full member so requires.<sup>7</sup>

Should the text submitted for final adoption by the plenary of the General Assembly, only be available in English, only this version will be considered by the General Assembly for approval. If approved, the

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<sup>3</sup> This note has been prepared by the Office of the Legal Counsel of UNWTO with the available information, particularly with regard to the practice of the United Nations, to guide representatives of States in the adoption of the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics and its subsequent steps. It does not claim to be exhaustive and does not represent an official interpretation of the practice of the United Nations.

<sup>4</sup> Please note that for language versions to be considered as authentic, they need to be adopted at the same time by the same organ.

<sup>5</sup> Glossary. UN Treaty Collection.

<sup>6</sup> Glossary. UN Treaty Collection.

<sup>7</sup> Special Guidelines prepared by UNWTO Secretariat for the adoption of draft UNWTO Conventions”, Section 3.(5). Based on Article 9.2 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969., which provides: “The adoption of the text or a treaty at an international conference takes place by the vote of two thirds of the States present and voting, unless by the same majority they shall decide to apply a different rule”.

English version will be subsequently submitted to a Plenipotentiary Conference, for adoption in the five official languages.

❖ **Who can participate in the adoption of the Convention at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly?**

In accordance with Article 7 of the Vienna Convention of the Law of the Treaties of 1986<sup>8</sup>, the following persons are entitled to participate in the adoption of the text of a treaty:

- (a) Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs;
- (b) representatives accredited by States to an international conference, for the purpose of adopting the text of a treaty between States and international organizations;
- (c) representatives accredited by States to an international organization or one of its organs, for the purpose of adopting the text of a treaty in that organization or organ;
- (d) heads of permanent missions to an international organization, for the purpose of adopting the text of a treaty between the accrediting States and that organization.

Thus, delegations of Member States holding credentials to participate in the deliberations of and to vote in the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of UNWTO General Assembly, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, and Heads of the permanent missions to UNWTO are entitled to adopt the text of the Convention on Tourism Ethics by virtue of their functions and without having to produce full powers specifically for this purpose.

A model of credentials for the General Assembly can be found on the information note for the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly in: [http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a22\\_00\\_information\\_note1\\_rev\\_en.pdf](http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a22_00_information_note1_rev_en.pdf)

In this regard, please also note that individuals wishing to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee in representation of their country, will be required to present valid credentials, either by being included in the credentials of their country to the General Assembly or by presenting a document signed by the competent authority of their country designating them as their country's representatives in the Ad Hoc Committee.

❖ **What are the obligations for Member States upon adoption of the Convention by the General Assembly?**

The eventual adoption of the text by the General Assembly will not imply in any way an immediate obligation for the member States to comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The adoption of the Convention will only imply that the text has been authenticated, meaning that the text of the Convention is established as authentic and definitive and that member States cannot unilaterally change its provisions.

Accordingly, if a final text is adopted by the General Assembly, it will be up for any member State, if it so wishes and in accordance with its own constitutional provisions and practice, to undertake the

<sup>8</sup> Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations, 1986.

subsequent legal steps to express its consent to be bound by the Convention.

### III. Signature of the Convention

Once adopted by the General Assembly and authenticated in the five official languages of the Organization, the Secretariat will prepare the texts as adopted by the Assembly. Subsequently, the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics will be open for signature by States for a period of one year at UNWTO Headquarters, in accordance with Article 18 of the draft Framework Convention. Signature is usually (but not necessarily) the first step for a State to become party to a treaty.

Signature does not establish the consent to be bound by a treaty. It merely indicates the State's political intention to examine the treaty domestically and to take steps to express its consent to be bound by the treaty at a later date.

The UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics provides for signature, subject to ratification, acceptance or approval – also called “simple signature”. In such a case, signature does not impose on States binding obligations under the treaty.

The Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics specifies in its article 18 the place and the period of time where signatures are to be affixed, as follows:

- (1) *The present Convention shall be open for signature by all Member States of the UNWTO and all Member States of the United Nations at the twenty-second session of the General Assembly of the UNWTO, and thereafter at the Headquarters of the UNWTO in Madrid until [1 year].*

In case it is not possible for the Secretariat to prepare the text of the Convention for signature in Chengdu due to time constraints, the Secretariat would propose the following wording for current article 18 of the draft Convention:

- (1) *The present Convention shall be open for signature by all Member States of the UNWTO and all Member States of the United Nations at the Headquarters of the UNWTO in Madrid from 16 October 2017 to 15 October 2018.*

Once the time limit of one year has elapsed, it will be no longer possible to sign the Convention. Should this be the case, States do not lose the right to become party to the Convention and may still express their consent to be bound by the Framework Convention at a later stage, using the procedure detailed in section IV(ii) of this report.

#### ❖ Who can sign the Convention?

Particular attention shall be drawn to the authorities entitled to sign to the Convention on behalf of the State. Unlike adoption, only Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs – also called “qualified authorities”<sup>9</sup> - may, by virtue of their functions, sign a treaty on behalf of the State without an instrument of full powers. Any person other than these qualified authorities must be in possession of a valid instrument of full powers to sign a treaty on behalf of the State.

**"Full powers"** means a document emanating from the competent authority of a State designating a

<sup>9</sup> The actual title of these qualified authorities may differ according to States' legislation or constitutions.

person or persons to represent the state for signing a given treaty, expressing the consent of a state to be bound by a treaty, or for accomplishing any other act with respect to that treaty.

In the present case, full powers will give the authority to a specified representative to sign the Framework Convention on behalf of the State. It should be stressed that Ministries of Tourism, heads of diplomatic missions and representatives accredited by States to UNWTO or representatives with valid credentials to participate in the 22nd session of UNWTO General Assembly may also need a valid instrument of full powers to sign the Convention.

There is no specific form for an instrument of full powers, but it has to include the following content:

1. Signature by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or a person acting, ad interim, in one of the above positions;
2. Title of the treaty;
3. Express authorization to sign the treaty or undertake the treaty action concerned;
4. Full name and title of the person duly authorized to sign;
5. Date and place of signature of the instrument of full powers; and
6. Official seal. This is optional and cannot replace the signature of one of the three authorities of State.

A model instrument of full powers will be facilitated to all interested States once the Convention is open for signature.

#### ❖ **What are the obligations of States upon signature?**

A State does not take on any positive legal obligations under the treaty upon signature.

Signature does not create a binding obligation for the signatory State but does indicate its political willingness to continue the treaty-making process and to express its consent to be bound by the treaty at a later date through the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Nonetheless, signature creates an obligation for a signatory State to refrain in good faith from acts that would defeat the object and the purpose of the treaty, until such State makes its intention clear not to become party to the treaty<sup>10</sup>.

#### **IV. Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of the Convention**

In order to become a party to a treaty, a State must express its consent to be bound by the treaty through the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Accordingly, the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics provides in its article 19 that:

*(1) The present Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by States. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the UNWTO.*

The deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General of UNWTO binds the State concerned internationally.

<sup>10</sup> Article 18 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties, 1969

While having the same legal effect (expressing the consent to be bound by a treaty), in practice, these instruments differ in their procedure.

#### **IV. (i) Ratification , acceptance or approval<sup>11</sup>**

Ratification, acceptance or approval are preceded by signature. Most multilateral treaties, including the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, expressly provide for signature subject to ratification, acceptance and approval.

Unlike signature, there is no time limit within which a State is requested to ratify, accept or approve a treaty which has been signed.

Ratification, acceptance or approval normally follows the signature of the treaty, although the two acts can take place together.

##### **❖ Who can deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval?**

Only Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs – the so-called “qualified authorities” - may sign an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval on behalf of the State without an instrument of full powers. All other individuals must be in possession of a valid instrument of full powers issued for that purpose by the above-mentioned authorities.

There is no mandated form for the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, but it must include the following elements:

1. Title, date and place of conclusion of the treaty concerned;
2. Full name and title of the person signing the instrument, i.e., the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or any other person acting in such a position for the time being or with full powers;
3. An unambiguous expression of the intent of the Government, on behalf of the State, to consider itself bound by the treaty and to undertake faithfully to observe and implement its provisions;
4. Date and place where the instrument was issued; and
5. Signature of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs (the official seal only is not adequate) or any other person acting in such a position for the time being or with full powers.

A model instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval will be facilitated to all interested States once the Convention is open to signature and ratification.

##### **❖ What are the obligations for States upon ratification, acceptance or approval?:**

Ratification, acceptance or approval of a treaty expresses States' consent to be bound by that treaty at the international level. It indicates to the international community a State's definitive commitment to undertake the rights and obligations under the treaty.

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<sup>11</sup> Article 14 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties, 1969

Please note that ratification, acceptance and approval of a treaty have the same legal effects. Each State uses a different terminology depending on its national legislation. For the purpose of this note, please note that ratification, acceptance and approval are used interchangeably to denote a States' consent to be bound by that treaty.

Once a State has expressed its consent to be bound through the deposit of an instrument of ratification, its international responsibility is engaged. This does not necessarily imply the submission of the State to the treaty's obligations because the treaty only acquires binding force when it enters into force (see below in section V of this document).

As mentioned above, ratification preceded by signature allows States time to seek the required approval for the treaty at the national level and to enact the necessary legislation to give effect to that treaty.

In this respect, it should be pointed out that **ratification at the international level**, which expresses State's consent to be bound by treaty internationally, differs from **ratification at national level**, which a State may be required to undertake in accordance with its constitutional provisions prior to undertaking the legal obligations at the international level. Ratification at national level refers to the act of the competent body, usually the national parliament, which approves the treaty and authorizes the competent body to perform international ratification. Thus, the effective date of ratification is the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification with the depositary and not the date of the national decision to ratify the Convention.

Please note that at the time of ratification of the Convention, States can also, if they wish to do so, ratify the Optional Protocol. Please note that the Optional Protocol is an independent legal instrument, whose ratification is not mandatory. It supplements the Convention with a procedure to resolve disputes arising out of the application and interpretation of the Convention in a peaceful manner before resorting to litigation.

For more information on the internal procedures for the ratification of the Convention and for the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, or approval, States should consult their internal legal services, as the applicable legislation and practice may vary from a country to another. **IV. (ii) Accession<sup>12</sup>**

*Per contra*, accession is not preceded by signature and requires only one step, namely the deposit of an instrument of accession. It has the same legal effect as ratification, acceptance and approval.

It is generally used by States wishing to express their consent to be bound when, for various reasons, they are unable to sign the treaty within the time limit allowed for signature (one year in this case from the moment of adoption) or when domestic conditions prevent them from signing the Treaty.

Unlike signature, there is no time limit for accession.

The Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics permits accession without explicitly specifying when the action may be undertaken. In this respect, the text of the Convention shall be interpreted in the sense that accession is permitted from the day after the closure for signature, that is, one year after the date of adoption of the Convention.

<sup>12</sup> Article 15 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969

❖ **Who can deposit an instrument of accession?**

For the deposit of an instrument of accession the same rules of ratification, acceptance and approval apply, as duly described above.

❖ **What are the obligations of States upon accession:?**

Accession has the same legal effect as ratification, acceptance and approval: that is expressing the consent to be bound by the treaty at the international level, therefore, the same obligations as described above for ratification, acceptance and approval apply.

Once a State has expressed its consent to be bound through the deposit of an instrument of accession, its international responsibility is engaged. This means that, upon entry into force of the treaty for a State, that State becomes legally bound under the treaty.

## **V. Entry into force of the Convention**

As a last step for a multilateral treaty to become binding under international law, it is necessary that the conditions for its entry into force are fulfilled. In accordance with article 24 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the provisions of the treaty usually determine the date on which the treaty enters into force.

The UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics provides, in its article 21(1), that entry into force will occur 30 days after the deposit of the 10<sup>th</sup> instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General of UNWTO, as follows:

*(1) The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.*

In addition, article 23 of the Convention provides that “*the Convention shall remain into force indefinitely*”. It should be noted that once a treaty has entered into force, the treaty does not terminate by reason only of the fact that the number of parties falls below the number necessary for its entry into force.<sup>13</sup>

With regards to the Optional Protocol, the number of ratifications necessary for its entry into force has been established in 2 (see article 13 of the Optional Protocol).

❖ **What are the obligations for States having ratified the Convention upon its entry into force?:**

Entry into force – also called “definitive entry into force”- is the moment in which the treaty becomes legally binding under international law for the parties having expressed their consent to be legally bound to it.

Entry into force with regard to a State is the moment in which the treaty becomes legally binding for the State concerned. Once in force, the State has to comply with the provisions of the treaty. This leads us to distinguish between two possible scenarios.

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<sup>13</sup> Article 55 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969.

- On the one hand, the Framework Convention will become automatically effective and legally binding upon its entry into force, that is on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, for those States which have already expressed their consent to be bound by it;
- On the other hand, once in force, the Framework Convention will not be applicable to States which, although entitled to become parties, have not yet expressed their consent to be bound through the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. In such a case, States have the possibility of expressing consent to be bound subsequently to the entry into force of the treaty, as explained below.

When a State gives its consent to be bound after the Framework Convention has entered into force, the treaty will enter into force for that State thirty days after the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

In this respect, article 21(2) of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics provides the following:

*(2) For each State Party ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following deposit by such State Party of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.*

## ANNEX I – CONCLUSION OF THE DRAFT UNWTO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOURISM ETHICS

