



2017
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
FOR DEVELOPMENT



About the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account (CSTSA)

Composition

Chair: Austria

Vice-Chair: Georgia

Members:

Austria

Brazil*

Chile

France*

Georgia

India

Mozambique

Peru

Philippines

Saudi Arabia

South Africa

Spain*

*Ex officio Member

Representative of the Associate Members: Macao, China (2017)

Representative of the Affiliate Members:

Chairman of the Affiliate Members Board (2017)

Consolidated Tourism and Investment Consultants Limited (CTICO), Jamaica

The Committee is a subsidiary advisory body of the Executive Council. As such, it contributes to the fulfilment of the Agreement signed with the United Nations whereby UNWTO became a UN specialized agency (Art. 13):

The World Tourism Organization recognizes that the United Nations is the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of tourism statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations.

The United Nations recognizes UNWTO as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.

Work in 2016-2017

In the past two years, the main activities of the Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account have been related to the launching and development of the Measuring Sustainable Tourism (MST) project. The objective is to develop an international statistical framework for measuring tourism's role in sustainable development. The resulting Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism (MST Framework) aims to extend the current statistical frameworks beyond their economic focus, to incorporate environmental and social dimensions and at relevant spatial levels: global, national and sub-national. Under the wide umbrella of the MST project, the Committee has achieved the following:

- Build worldwide engagement and agreement around the importance of advancing towards the MST Framework. The UN Statistical Commission strongly supported the development of the MST Framework as a priority to support more integrated policy in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in response to requests from Member States and various stakeholders. In addition, around 1,000 participants of the 6th International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Measuring Sustainable Tourism (21-24 June 2017, Manila, the Philippines) among which Ministers, Chief Statisticians, private sector and key decision makers from international organizations united political commitment and gathered technical expertise to call for the development and implementation of the Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism;
- Launch the Working Group of Experts on Measuring Sustainable Tourism jointly with the UN Statistics Division. This Group reports to both the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and TSA and the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The Working Group has agreed on a research agenda to structure developments towards the MST Framework, and produced several working papers expanding research on a variety of aspects of measurement challenges, including measurement at subnational level;
- Initiate 6 country pilot studies to contribute to the design and testing of the statistical framework for relevance and feasibility;
- Develop the first draft of the MST Framework presented at the 6th International Conference on Tourism Statistics;
- Develop a Technical Note on linking two UN standards: the Tourism Satellite Account and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and report to the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA);
- Interaction with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG (IAEG-SDG) for the development of the SDG indicators related to tourism. This includes contribution of a statement from the Committee and a presentation to the IAEG-SDG 5th meeting in Ottawa, Canada.

Meetings

16th meeting held on 26-27 January 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

17th meeting held on 24-25 January 2017 in Madrid, Spain.