



CAP/CSA/29/12b_World Tourism Day_2019

**UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA
Twenty-ninth Joint Meeting
Chittagong, Bangladesh
17 May 2017**

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WORLD TOURISMDAY 2019
(SOUTH ASIA)**

World Tourism Day 2019 (South Asia)

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General submits to the Joint Meeting of the two Commissions for Asia and the Pacific some background information on World Tourism Day celebrations. As the official celebration of World Tourism Day 2019 will take place in South Asia, it is incumbent on the Commission for South Asia to select one of its members to be recommended to the Executive Council.

World Tourism Day Celebrations

Introduction

Ever since its inception, World Tourism Day (WTD) is celebrated on 27 September to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

As the official day set aside in the United Nations Calendar the celebration seeks to highlight tourism's potential to contribute to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing some of the most pressing challenges society is faced with today.

WTD is celebrated by events around the themes selected by the UNWTO General Assembly, on the recommendation of the UNWTO Executive Council. Each year, the official WTD celebrations are hosted by a UNWTO Member State on the basis of geographic rotation.

Designation of the host countries for World Tourism Day 2018 and 2019

By resolution 470(XV), the General Assembly designated Malaysia and Qatar as host countries of World Tourism Day in 2004 and 2005. By the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Executive Council and decided that the following geographic order would apply to World Tourism Day celebrations beginning in 2006: Europe; South Asia; Americas; Africa, East Asia and the Pacific and Middle East.

The following countries were designated as hosts of the official celebrations of World Tourism Day between 2006 and 2017: WTD 2006 – Portugal (Europe); WTD 2007 - Sri Lanka (South Asia); WTD 2008 – Peru (Americas); WTD 2009 – Ghana (Africa); WTD 2010 – China (East Asia and the Pacific); WTD 2011 – Egypt (Middle East); WTD 2012 – Spain (Europe), WTD 2013 – Maldives (South Asia); WTD 2014 – Mexico (Americas); WTD 2015 – Burkina Faso (Africa); WTD 2016 – Thailand (East Asia and the Pacific) and WTD 2017 – Qatar (Middle East).

In this regard, and in accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, **World Tourism Day 2018 will be celebrated in Europe and World Tourism Day 2019 in South Asia.**

Host countries for official celebrations of WTD 2018 and 2019

Considering that both Regional Commissions for Europe and Asia-Pacific will hold their meetings after the 105th Executive Council, the host countries for WTD 2018 and 2019 to be selected by these two Commissions will be proposed to the Executive Council at its 106th session which will take place within the framework of the 22nd General Assembly next September. The Council will in

turn make a recommendation of the countries proposed by the regional commissions to the 22nd General Assembly for its consideration and approval.

Proposed themes for World Tourism Day 2018 and 2019

As per the themes of the celebration, the Secretariat proposed the 105th Executive Council to present to the 22nd General Assembly the following themes to celebrate World Tourism Day in 2018 and 2019: ***Tourism and the digital transformation (2018) and Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all (2019).***

The celebration of **World Tourism Day** is an excellent occasion to raise awareness of key issues affecting the tourism sector.

The 2016 World Tourism Day celebrations on the theme 'Tourism for All: Promoting Universal Accessibility' was held successfully in Bangkok, Thailand. The 2017 celebrations will take place in Qatar under the theme 'Sustainable Tourism – a tool for development'.

Action to be taken by the Commission for South Asia

1. The Commission for South Asia is requested to select a country from among its members to host World Tourism Day 2019;
2. Countries that are interested in hosting the World Tourism Day 2019 are kindly requested to send their expression of interest in writing to the UNWTO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. (csa-cap@unwto.org);
3. If there is more than one candidate, members of the Commission will have to select one of the candidates through voting during the 29th CAP-CSA Meeting in Chittagong under agenda item 12b.