



CAP/CSA/29/6.2_Committee_Tourism & Sust.

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

Item 6.2 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT OF THE UNWTO COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND SUSTAINABILITY

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General submits to the Joint Meeting of the two Commissions for Asia and the Pacific a report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability

Report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability

1. The sixth meeting of the Committee was held via teleconference on 1 March 2016 with the participation of representatives from Bhutan, China, Colombia, Lithuania and Oman, and the representative of the Affiliate Members, the International Youth and Hostel Federation. During the meeting, the Secretariat provided the members with an overview on the previous and future activities of the Committee.
2. In this regard, reference was made to the report on the *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection*, being prepared by UNWTO in 2016, in response to the UN resolution 69/233 on the same issue, for which the CTS Members were consulted and validated the work prepared by the Secretariat. It was pointed out that the CTS Members would also be involved in the preparation of the 2017 report on the implementation of UN resolution 70/196, entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America".
3. An update on the Rules for the Operation and Management of the UNWTO International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO), submitted to the last session of UNWTO GA, was provided. It was mentioned that since 2004, a total of ten UNWTO Observatories had been established: eight in China, one in Greece and one in Mexico. The observatories in process of incorporation were: the Observatory of Sustainable Tourism and Climate Change, in la Ceiba, Honduras; Iguassu Tri-National Tourism Observatory and Observatories in Brazil and in the Danube region¹. Furthermore, many expressions of interests had been received (eleven), which showed the need for further guidance on monitoring and measuring different issue areas covering all pillars of sustainability.
4. Regarding the Sustainable Tourism Programme (STP) of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP STP), it was highlighted that the programme was promoting the development of two lines of projects contributing to the achievement of the overall objectives of the 10YFP STP. The intended two lines of projects were Flagship projects and Catalytic projects. The call for project proposals to the 10YFP Trust Fund was issued last year; it received over 300 proposals out of which 120 were eligible. They were being evaluated and the final result was going to be communicated in due course.
5. The Secretariat informed the CTS Members that, in the absence of an Elected Chair, the Vice-Chair would function as an Acting Chair during the mandate.
6. The seventh meeting of the CTS took place on 24 June 2016 with the participation of representatives from China, Colombia and Morocco, and the representative of the Affiliate Members, International Youth and Hostel Federation. A representative of Chile joined as Observer.
7. At the meeting, the Secretariat reported on the INSTO Open Consultation Meeting on Advancing the Measurement of Sustainable Tourism Development, which took place on 7-8 June 2016 and informed the Members on the issues discussed and experiences presented. It was said that UNWTO welcomed more than 70 experts at its Headquarters

¹ To date, there are sixteen observatories under operation: eight in China, one in Greece, one in Mexico, one in Brazil, three in Indonesia, one in Croatia and one in South Florida.

- in Madrid, to discuss and share experiences related to the measurement and monitoring of the impact that tourism has on destinations. Special focus was put on the relevance and the opportunities available from non-traditional data sources, including social media analysis, geospatial data mapping, big and live data collection and usage, as well as the analysis of credit card spending patterns and the flow of visitors based on mobile device information.
8. It was highlighted that the consultation took place in the context of recent achievements that underline and strengthen the role and responsibilities of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument for development such as the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the upcoming International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017. The two day meeting included presentations and discussions covering, among others, the processes of measuring sustainable tourism at the local level, common challenges and needs and the chances deriving from different data sources.
 9. It was mentioned that, due to the fact that many of the CTS Members participate in major tourism international fairs, the Secretariat was proposing to organize the next CTS meeting in-person and in conjunction with one international event.
 10. The Committee members, being informed of Chile's wish to participate in the technical committee as observer, welcomed the representative of Chile.
 11. The Public Meeting of the CTS on the Occasion of the Official Opening of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development took place in Madrid on 18 January 2017 in the framework of FITUR. It counted with the participation of representatives from China, Colombia (the Acting Chair, represented by the Vice Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia), Lithuania, Morocco (the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism) and the representative of the Affiliate Members, International Youth and Hostel Federation as well as with distinguished invited experts, which included the Vice Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru; the Undersecretary for Policy and Tourism Planning of the Mexico's Federal Secretariat of Tourism (SECTUR) and representatives from Sun Yat-sen University in China and the State Company for Tourism Technology and Innovation Management (SEGITTUR) of Spain.
 12. The role of the CTS as a consultation mechanism of UNWTO was recalled, underlining the special format of its eighth meeting which had been extended to the public on the occasion of the official opening of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.
 13. At the meeting it was stressed that sustainability is a process of continuous improvement which is vital to our sector long-term success and for fulfilling its role as an agent of change.
 14. Participants learnt about the important work of the INSTO observatories and how they are positioning themselves as boosters of sustainability at destinations and as a functioning model for ensuring that tourism meet its full potential as a contributor to sustainable development.

15. The meeting stressed the vital importance of regular and timely measurement of tourism performance and of data monitoring and analysis as the foundation for policy development and implementation as well as the development of a holistic approach tackling the three dimensions of sustainability, particularly the socio-cultural dimension.

An update on the ongoing research on the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCP) into national tourism planning was presented. It was also highlighted the importance of data collection and of working closely with key stakeholders to help solve the local and global sustainability challenges relevant to the tourism sector.