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World Tourism Day: themes and host countries for 2016 and 2017 to be proposed to the General Assembly

I. World Tourism Day

A. Designation of the host countries for World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017

1. 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.

2. The following countries were designated as hosts to the official celebrations of World Tourism Day (WTD) between 2006 and 2015: 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) and WTD 2015 – Burkina Faso (Africa).

3. The subsequent official celebrations thus correspond, respectively, to East Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East. In this regard, the Regional Commissions for East Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East, meeting, respectively, on 3-5 June 2015 and 5 May 2015 will designate the proposed host countries of World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017.

4. The decision of the Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific will be communicated to the 101st session of the Executive Council. As of 30 March 2015, the Secretariat has been informed by Thailand of its intention of hosting World Tourism Day 2016.

5. The decision of the Regional Commission for the Middle East will be communicated verbally to the 100th session of the Executive Council.

B. Proposed themes for 2016 and 2017

6. The General Assembly at its Beijing session (2003) decided that UNWTO, as a specialized United Nations agency, should in the future take into account, as far as possible, when choosing the World Tourism Day themes, those adopted for the international years and days declared by the UN.



7. Considering that the UN themes for 2016 (Pulses and Camelids) are not relevant in the context of World Tourism Day, the following themes are proposed:

- 2016: "Tourism for All - promoting universal accessibility"
- 2017: "Tourism - driving peace and development" in line with the ongoing proposal to have 2017 declared as the International Year of Tourism for Peace and Development

II. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council

8. The Executive Council is invited to approve for submission to the 21st session of the General Assembly the proposed themes for World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017.