



## Executive Council

101st session

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

#### I. World Tourism Day

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##### 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 correspond, respectively, to East Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East.

4. The Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific in its 27th Meeting decided to propose the candidacy of Thailand to host World Tourism Day 2016.

5. The decision of the Regional Commission for the Middle East on the host country for World Tourism Day 2017 will be communicated verbally to the 101st 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 were approved by the 100th session of Executive Council:

- 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

8. Following the 100th session of the Executive Council, the Secretariat was informed that the proposal for the International Year was to be adjusted to ‘International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development’. In this regard, the 101st session of the Executive Council is requested to approve an adjustment to the theme of World Tourism Day 2017 as follows:

- 2017: “Sustainable Tourism – a tool for development” in line with the proposal to the UN General Assembly to have 2017 designated as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development”.

## **II. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council**

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9. The Executive Council is invited:

(a) To approve for submission to the 21st session of the General Assembly the following as themes for World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017;

- 2016: “Tourism for All - promoting universal accessibility”;
- 2017: “Sustainable Tourism – a tool for development”; and

(b) To approve for submission to the 21st session of the General Assembly the following countries as official hosts of World Tourism Day 2016 and 2017:

- 2016: Thailand (East Asia and the Pacific)
- 2017: ..... (Middle East)