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**PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM'S COORDINATION
MECHANISMS**

Note by the Secretary-General

In this document, the Secretary-General reports to the Executive Council on the participation of the UNWTO in the principal coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system as well as on joint activities with United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and funds and on the acceptance of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.

PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM'S COORDINATION MECHANISMS

1. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) further enhanced its participation in the different Inter-agency mechanisms and networks set up by the United Nations, as well as in meetings and events organized by UN entities. The objective is to ensure that the potential of tourism is fully recognized at the international level as a multidisciplinary sector capable to strengthen its contribution to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Participation in UN activities also helps to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure optimal utilization of resources within the UN system.

I. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level segment

2. The High-level segment of ECOSOC took place in New York from 20 June to 3 July 2008. UNWTO was represented on this occasion by the Special Representative of UNWTO to the United Nations, by his Deputy and by the Director of Administration. Among the items of particular interest included in the programme were keynote addresses on the theme "achieving sustainable development", and which included a proposal entitled "Towards a Global Deal on Climate Change" as well as a "Development Cooperation Forum" framed to present a new vision for development cooperation in the 21st Century.

Third meeting of the UN International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions

3. The third meeting of the International Task Team on HIV-related travel restrictions, held at UNWTO Headquarters from 24 to 26 June 2008, assessed the overall situation of discrimination still affecting persons living with HIV on their travel to, and stays in, a considerable number of countries.

4. The final report of the work of the Task Team, including a mapping document of countries applying travel restrictions or other discriminatory visa policies along with a series of specific recommendations, will be submitted to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board later this year.

Task Force on Accounting Standards

5. The Director of Administration attended this meeting held at New York on 30 June and 1 July 2008. The work of the Task Force focused on the implementation of the system-wide international public sector accounting standards (IPSAS) project which is expected to be complete by 2010. It is recalled that the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Auditors have recommended that UNWTO adopt these new financial reporting principles.

Meeting of the CEB Finance and Budget Network

6. This meeting of the Finance and Budget Network, which is a subsidiary body of the United Nations System High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), took place at New York on 2 and 3 July 2008. UNWTO was represented by the Director of Administration. Among the items on the agenda were: cost recovery policies, harmonization of financial regulations and rules, harmonization of donor reporting and action to address the effect of dollar weakness on UN pensions.

Human Resources Network (HR Network) of the United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB)

7. The HR Network brings together senior human resource managers of the UN Common System with a view to provide strategic advice to its Chief Executives on human resource management developments, ensuring best practices across the system, and to prepare on behalf of the CEB, input and exchange with the International Civil Service Commission responsible for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations Common System of organizations.

8. As a member of the Human Resources Network (HR Network) of the United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB), UNWTO Chief of Human Resources participated in the HR Network's summer session held in New York from 8 to 10 July 2008. The HR Network meets twice a year, usually in conjunction with meetings of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), and reports to the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM). At its sessions, the HR Network addresses issues relating to human resource management developments, conditions of service and best practices across the Common System.

Briefing session of new UN Resident Coordinators

9. The New York-based UNWTO Representative to the United Nations will participate, in September, in a briefing session of 19 new UN Resident Coordinators who recently took up their positions in the following countries: Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Congo, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Swaziland and Syrian Arab Republic. During the briefing, the UNWTO representative informed about the role played by UNWTO in support of tourism development and encouraged the newly appointed UN Resident Coordinators to consider and give support to tourism in the development assistance activities of the UN in the countries under their responsibility.

10. In this regard, it is recommended that Tourism Ministers or Heads of National Tourism Administrations approach these UN representatives to welcome them into their country and gain further support to tourism from the UN system.

II. Acceptance of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies

11. Pursuant to decision CE/DEC/9(LXXXIII), the Secretary-General has notified the United Nations Secretary-General of the acceptance of the annex to the abovementioned Convention.

12. As soon as this step is completed, the United Nations Secretary-General will circulate to the Members of the United Nations and to the Members of the specialized agencies a certified copy of this annex.