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Report of the Secretary-General

Part I: Current situation and activities

(g) UNWTO in the United Nations system

I. Introduction

1. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has continued forging strong links with the United Nations (UN) and other UN system entities of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and their subsidiary commissions/bodies' meetings, and in various inter-agency mechanisms and networks with tourism sector relevance. The aim is to ensure that tourism's growing potential is fully recognized at the international level as a multidisciplinary sector, contributing to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

A. Participating in UN system substantive issues and activities

2. In the UNGA-established Open Working Group (OWG) on sustainable development goals (SDGs) led by Member States, in follow-up to the Rio+20 Outcome to develop a set of SDGs, UNWTO has been a strong and active supporter. The active role played by UNWTO, including by organizing at the 8th OWG session in NY a successful side event on "How tourism can contribute to the sustainable development agenda", has enabled sustainable tourism to be recognized as an identified area of work for promoting SDGs. The OWG undertook an extensive stocktaking exercise over the past year, at the end of which its Co-Chairs produced a paper outlining key issues under 19 Focus Areas relating to the SDGs. Tourism is prominently included in one of the focus areas on sustainable consumption and production. In the next phase of its work, the OWG is expected to develop proposals for SDG, including goals and targets covering the Focus Areas.

3. The UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on 'Sustainable Tourism: Ecotourism, Poverty Reduction and Environmental Protection' at UN Headquarters in New York, US, 29-30 October 2013, in cooperation with the Government of Morocco, the UNWTO and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting contributed towards joint advocacy efforts in positioning the tourism sector in the Global Development Agenda looking at the two paragraphs on sustainable tourism in the Rio+20 Outcome document "The Future We Want" (2012), as well as the 10YFP on sustainable consumption and production. The EGM committed to pursue its work in promoting the importance of tourism for SIDS in 2014, as well as its integration in the post-2015



Agenda and the forthcoming SDGs. The EGM recommended as well for UNWTO to take the lead with Member States to secure the year 2017, as the International Year on Sustainable Tourism and Peace.

4. UNWTO was present at the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the SIDS Conference (and many inter-agency and informal meetings prior to that), which was held on 24-26 February 2014. The session was well attended with Heads of State of Government and Ministers of several SIDS participating. Following the PrepCom, a 'Zero Draft' of the Outcome Document prepared by the Co-Chairs was circulated, on 14 March 2014. The draft document, which will provide the basis for further work and negotiations by the PrepCom, contains several key elements relating to tourism and acknowledges the role of UNWTO.

5. From 11-13 September 2013, UNWTO, jointly with the French Government, organized a Conference on Sustainable Development of Tourism in Islands, in Reunion Island. The detailed 14-point recommendations drawn from the Conference were transmitted by UNWTO to the UN Secretariat as the contribution of the tourism sector to the debate on the sustainable development of islands, in view of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to be held in Samoa in September 2014.

6. UNWTO was represented at the 7th UN-CARICOM General Meeting, which took place in New York, on 22 and 23 July 2013. The biennial meeting, which included more than 15 UN agencies, funds and programmes, was coordinated by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and focused on strengthening cooperation between the UN System and CARICOM in several identified areas, including support for integration of CARICOM, sustainable development and climate change, security challenges, agricultural development and food and nutrition security, as well as post-2015 agenda.

7. At the invitation of the Counter Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council (CTC/UNSC), UNWTO made a presentation on "Tourism Security" before the Committee in a closed meeting, held on 18 July 2013. This was the first time ever that the subject was considered by a UNSC Committee. Only two organizations, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and UNWTO were invited to make presentation on the subject. In view of its global mandate as the UN specialized agency in the field of tourism, UNWTO was invited to be an active partner and, indeed, to play a leading role in future follow-up and implementation of any joint work programme with possible funding support from interested donors. The Committee further agreed that the outcome of its review should be taken to the broader UN membership through organizing a public briefing at the UN. In follow-up action, the UNWTO Secretary-General, on the sidelines of the CEB meeting held in New York in November 2013, held a meeting with the Chairman of UNSC/CTC as well as the Executive Director of CTC (ED/CTC) and, separately, with the Director of CTITF (UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force). Additionally, in February 2014, together with CTC Executive Directorate, UNWTO organized and hosted in Madrid a working-level meeting of several relevant agencies and organizations, which included the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and OAS/CICTE.

8. The High-Level Segment (HLS) of ECOSOC held from 1-4 July 2013, in Geneva, saw the participation of UNWTO. The HLS, inter-alia, addressed a broad range of issues at the heart of the UN Development Agenda, which included a High-Level Policy Dialogue with the international trade and finance institutions (the World Bank-WB, International Monetary Fund-IMF, World Trade Organization-WTO, UN Conference on Trade and Development-UNCTAD) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs-DESA focused on the slow global economic recovery, high unemployment in many countries. It also held the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) under the theme, 'Science, technology and innovation (STI), and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the

MDGs" as well as a thematic debate on "The contribution of ECOSOC to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda".

9. The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development held on 18 July 2013 in Hong Kong included representation by UNWTO. The Forum was held under the auspices of the International Organization for South-South Cooperation, and in cooperation with UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Asia-Pacific Steering Committee on South-South Cooperation and the Government of Hong Kong, under the theme "ICT, Innovation, Culture and Sustainable Development". The UNWTO representative highlighted the significance of tourism as an engine of growth, job creation and poverty reduction in developing countries and as a major driver of the world economy.

10. The 68th UNGA Session, including its High-Level Segment, had the participation of UNWTO. The UNGA formally opened on 17 September under the theme, "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage." Both in the GA Plenary and its Second Committee, the main thrust of debates focused on challenges of sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and post-2015 scenario.

(a) For UNWTO, the most important and relevant was the unanimous adoption, on 20 December 2013, of resolution 68/207 entitled, "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America". Negotiations on the draft resolution were coordinated by Panama, on behalf of the seven Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) members, and 51 Member States from all regions finally sponsored it. The resolution, inter alia, welcomed the adoption of the principles of sustainable tourism by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, conceptualized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council through its Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria to serve as the framework for tourism development.

(b) Another consensus resolution entitled, "Sustainable mountain development", inter alia, welcomed the growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socioeconomic benefits to local communities, and the fact that consumer demand was increasingly moving towards responsible and sustainable tourism. A third consensus resolution entitled "Culture and sustainable development" included a reference to "cultural tourism".

11. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) held its 22nd session in Ankara, Turkey from 3-6 September 2013 and included representation by UNWTO. The CCSA meeting addressed coordination matters, sharing information on ongoing processes regarding the post-2015 development agenda which are relevant for the statistical community; and debating the term 'data revolution' (or 'big data') which has become one of the key themes in the debate among statisticians regarding the post-2015 development agenda. At its 23rd session (UN Headquarters, New York, 2 March 2014), CCSA participants discussed the launching of a survey amongst international organizations on how the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities are being implemented and their degree of compliance, as well as informing about the state of play of the "post-2015 UN goals".

12. UNWTO participates actively in the Interagency Task Force on Trade Statistics (ITFTS), which held its meetings in Paris, France, in October 2013 and March 2014. The main issues addressed were the update of status of the data collection in services by UN Statistical Division (UNSD), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), IMF, and WTO and possible uses of harmonized Trade in Services data across international organizations' databases; and give input to the compilation guidance process of UNSD. A discussion and feedback session regarding tourism was held,

providing text and clarification where necessary to sure there is a close alignment of the UN compilers guide with the Tourism statistics compilation guide.

13. Together with UNSD, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), UNWTO jointly organized a seminar on international trade and tourism statistics (Jakarta, Indonesia, 7-10 October 2013). UNWTO expressed its commitment to developing tourism measurement for furthering knowledge of the sector; dedication to monitoring progress towards better statistics with a view of promoting results-focused management for policy objectives; and would continue to support statistical strengthening in countries through capacity building, and to compile and disseminate tourism statistics of countries all over the world.

14. As a member of the Working Group on Tourism Statistics of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), UNWTO was present in its meeting of 24-25 October 2013 in Luxembourg. UNWTO participated to ensure awareness of ongoing issues around data collection and compilation on European level, including the issues around data production, transmission, validation and dissemination between EU countries and Eurostat; current themes around "Access to micro-data"; and the state-of-affairs regarding Tourism Satellite Accounts, etc.

15. At the 45th session of the UNSC held at UN Headquarters in New York from 4-7 March 2014, UNWTO was represented. The Commission is the apex entity in the international statistical system and where international statistical standards are considered and approved. UNWTO and UNSD launched a Compilation Guide for Tourism Statistics. The Compilation Guide provides practical guidance for using sources and methods to compile statistics on tourism and is an indispensable companion guide to the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS2008). The IRTS2008 Compilation Guide was adopted at this meeting. As a member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) ad hoc Working Group on Air and Maritime Transportation (WG-AMT), UNWTO provided on 13 September 2013, feedback on media release templates for application by the Members of the ad hoc WG-AMT, as necessary, during a radiation emergency. UNWTO recommended the use of georeferenced travel and event advice to improve reporting, but also to limit the adverse impact.

16. The Inter-Agency Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (IAG) held briefings on 24 September 2013 in which UNWTO contributed in the preparation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. Other entities who have also contributed to the work, in addition to UNWTO, include more than 24 UN agencies, funds and programmes, including as well the CEB Secretariat.

17. As a member of the WG-AMT, established during the nuclear reactor damage in Fukushima, Japan, to address any issues of specific interest to the transport sector, UNWTO participated on 20 November 2013 at the International Convention Exercise (ConvEx-3) simulation exercise on activation of nuclear security which simulated the response to severe radiological emergencies triggered by nuclear security events. UNWTO was invited to participate in the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, held in New York, from 17-19 July 2013, and to join as panellist in three of its special events that took take place on the sidelines of the Conference, which were as follows: Interactive dialogue with the UN Member States; DESA Forum on the post-2015 development framework and disability; accessible tourism and transportation issues in context of sustainable and equitable development for all. The outcome of the Conference, including those of the panel discussions, later served as contributions/inputs to the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development, held on 23 September 2013.

18. UNODC and UNESCO have joined forces with UNWTO to promote a global campaign urging travellers to support the fight against a number of forms of trafficking. The Campaign was launched at

the Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) in Berlin (5 March 2014). More information is available in the report on the implementation of the general programme of work for 2014-2015 (CE/98/3(l)(e)).

19. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism's (GPST) 4th Annual Partners' Meeting and Symposium as well as the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) of the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) were held in Agadir, Morocco from 24 to 26 February 2014. The events were hosted by the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Morocco and supported by the Government of France, UNEP and UNWTO. The Annual Conference of Partners featured SIDS; integrated sustainable tourism policy making; private sector stakeholder engagement; a review of activities undertaken by the Coordinating Office in 2013, a presentation of the 2014-2015 Programme of Work and a discussion on ideas for the proposed sustainable tourism programme of the 10YFP. The EGM was an opportunity, inter alia, to share information on the 10YFP process and discuss milestones; present an overview of the results of a global survey, research and consultations on sustainable tourism to develop the proposal for the Sustainable Tourism programme of the 10YFP.

20. Celebrated every year on 24 October, the United Nations Day highlights the work and objectives of the UN and its specialized agencies all over the world. UNWTO, the only UN agency with its headquarters in Spain, took an active role in the 2013 celebrations of the UN Day in Spain. UNWTO participated at official celebrations hosted in the Madrid Town Hall and chaired by the Mayor of Madrid and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain. On the occasion, an outdoors campaign was coordinated with Madrid Tourism to promote UN Day as well as the presence of UNWTO in Spain.

B. Participating in UN meetings

21. UNWTO took part in the Fourth Global CAPSCA coordination meeting which took place from 18 to 21 June 2013 in Bern, Switzerland. UNWTO presented its approach on ensuring resilient tourism development at the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) coordination meeting, organized by ICAO, in coordination with WHO.

22. UNWTO participated in the UN Expert Group meeting on the draft Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS) 2010 Compilers Guide held in Geneva, Switzerland on 25-27 June 2013. The Manual (MSITS 2010), adopted by the UNSC, was taken up by Task Force on SITS to provide appropriate compilation guidance. In response, the Task Force started the development of a Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 (CG MSITS 2010). This process has been supported by the UN Expert Group on the drafting the Compilers Guide.

23. UNWTO took part in the annual High-Level meeting of the Groups of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, held in New York, on 27 September 2013. The meeting emphasized that peaceful relations among states and peoples were necessary for achieving UN targets such as the MDGs. Without the Global Harmony aspired to in the UN Charter, development and prosperity could not be sustained; and progress could not be realized amidst conflict and instability.

24. UNWTO participated at the triennial Global Compact Leaders Summit, held in New York, on the sidelines of the High Level Segment of the 68th UNGA session, on 19-20 September 2013, with the ambitious aim of creating the "architecture for business engagement in support of the post-2015 agenda of the United Nations," as said by its Executive Director. At the Summit, UN Secretary-General launched a special Global Compact report entitled, "Building the post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture". It also saw the launching of three new issues platform – on Education, Business for Peace, and Sustainable Agriculture.

25. At the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the ILO held Geneva, Switzerland, 4-8 October 2013, UNWTO and tourism statistics in particular discussed green jobs, decent jobs,; informal employment and informal sector, MDG indicators and the post-2015 development agenda.

26. The Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations (JIU) carried out a Management and Administrative Review of the UNWTO in the last quarter of 2013 as a follow-up to that performed in 2008 (see JIU/REP/2009/1). UNWTO Headquarters and several delegations from Member States were visited by the JIU inspection team. The outcome of this review is reported to the Executive Council through a separate document.

C. CEB and its subsidiary structure working groups

27. Regular participation in the coordination mechanism established by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), supported by its three subsidiary pillars: the High Level Committee on Programme (HLCP), the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and United Nations Development Group (UNDG), all working closely with a number of major networks and working groups.

28. In the margins of the 2nd Regular Session of the CEB in November 2013, both heads of Agencies of UNWTO and UNESCO signed a renewed cooperation agreement that reaffirms how tourism can play a significant role in the preservation, conservation and promotion of cultural and natural assets.

29. UNWTO participated in the 26th HLCM meeting held in October 2013 and March 2014. Among other topics of interest, the Organization is following very closely the development of UNDP's Resident Coordinator system and its implications for participating agencies, enhancements of physical security and cyber security within the UN, and review of the staff compensation package including discussions to raise the mandatory age of retirement of staff to 65.

30. The 27th session of the Human Resources Network (HRN) held in London from 16 to 20 July 2013 included the participation of UNWTO. Of particular interest in the HRN agenda were the discussions on moving from performance evaluation to performance management, on the revised mandatory age of separation from 62 to 65 for new entrants, and on the issues under review by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). On the mandatory age of separation, the UNWTO representative informed the HRN that UNWTO Executive Council had approved the mandatory age of retirement at 65 for staff joining the Organization as from 1 January 2014.

31. The Finance and Budget Network (FBN) had a meeting, 24-25 June 2013, WFP, Rome, Italy. The main issues discussed included: common definition of operating costs and a common and standardized system of cost control; proposal of a reference Risk Management, Oversight & Accountability model for common positioning by the UN System with Governing Bodies, etc. In addition, a video-conference meeting, 12 December 2013 discussed: risk management, oversight and accountability.

32. UNWTO attended that meeting of the Task Force on Accounting Standards which last met on 30 September - 2 October 2013, Geneva, Switzerland. Some issues discussed were the implementation progress, accounting policy diversity, IPSAS Board activities, review of system-wide IPSAS project, etc. No official meetings held for this period but recurrent communication maintained, reply of surveys, etc.

33. The annual meeting of the Legal Advisers Network of the UN system hosted by the UN in New York, USA in May 2013 was attended by UNWTO. The main topics discussed included privileges and immunities, legal implications of the use of cloud computing services, the applicability of UN Security Council sanctions by UN agencies, the legal issues in the establishment of public-private partnerships

and the protection of the top-level domain names of International Organizations by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

34. The 21st Meeting of the CEB Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Network / International Computing Centre (ICC) Management Committee was hosted by UNWTO in Madrid, on 14–16 October 2013 and as well at the UN Valencia support base on 17 October. The main subjects of discussion of the ICT Network strategic plan were on initiatives to improve and strengthen ICT infrastructure safety and information security, including a system-wide incident response capacity, to encourage and promote cloud computing services, and to review ERP initiatives, among others.

35. UNWTO participated in the 2013 ICT network symposium on security organized by ITU and sponsored by the World Bank, in Washington, D.C., USA on 30 September – 1 October 2013. The Symposium aimed to identify areas of common interest and develop a roadmap for collaboration. Discussions focused on improving inter-agency collaboration, including an inter-agency incident/emergency response capacity and the use of cloud computing in the UN System.

36. The 4th ICT Network Virtual Session met on 30 January. During this web session the Network agreed to provide input into the UN system Data Visualization platform initiative of the HLCM Strategic Plan Results Matrix and to review the overhaul of open issues.

II. Actions to be taken by the Executive Council

37. The Executive Council is requested:

- (a) To take note of the Secretariat's ongoing participation in substantive issues of the UN system and to support the continuation of such participation and involvement in those issues as well as in the CEB and its subsidiary networks;
- (b) To take note of the unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly in adopting the resolution entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America" (A/RES/68/207) and to further support the work of UNWTO in this area;
- (c) To support the Secretariat in continuing its discussions with relevant stakeholders on tourism security issues related to the UN Security Council;
- (d) To recognize and continue supporting the Secretariat in mainstreaming tourism and building upon the "The Future We Want" document, particularly through key initiatives such as the 10-YFP and ongoing discussions with Member States and stakeholders in developing the programme on sustainable tourism;
- (e) To acknowledge and further support the recommendation for UNWTO to lead, with strong support of Member States, the possible launching of an International Year on Sustainable Tourism and Peace in 2017, stemming from the Organization's participation in an Expert Group Meeting in New York;
- (f) To encourage the Secretariat to continue its active participation in the Open Working Group discussions leading to the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda; and

(g) To encourage the Secretariat in engaging actively in the preparations and processes which will contribute to the Third UN Conference on Small Island and Developing States scheduled for 2014 in Samoa.