



## Executive Council

Ninety-ninth session  
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Provisional agenda item 8

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Madrid, 19 August 2014  
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### **Proposal of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan: “Prevention of Promotion of Conflict Zones as Tourism Destinations and Using Tourism for Illegal Purposes”**

1. At the request of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in accordance with Rule 4(2)(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, the Secretary-General submits to the ninety-ninth session of the Executive Council the above-proposed agenda item and the attached text received from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan on 14 August 2014.
2. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests the Executive Council to take the following actions:
  - (a) To ask the Secretary-General to include the draft resolution proposed by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the agenda of the twenty-first session of the UNWTO General Assembly to be held in Colombia in 2015, based on Rule 5(1)(i) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly; and
  - (b) To discuss the draft resolution proposed by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and submit the proposal to the General Assembly, based on Rule 2(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, on accepting the resolution during the twenty-first session of the UNWTO General Assembly to be held in Colombia in 2015.



Draft as of 12 August 2014

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions A/RES/406(XIII) of 1 October 1999 and A/RES/438(XIV) of 29 September 2001,

Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 56/212 of 21 December 2001, 60/190 of 22 December 2005 and 65/148 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming that UNWTO and its Member States are guided in their activities by the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles of international law,

Reaffirming also the fundamental aim of UNWTO to promote and develop tourism with a view to contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling the commitment of the Member States to respect, observe and disseminate the principles, values, standards and policies of UNWTO,

Acknowledging that tourism is one of the fastest growing economic sectors and that it can make significant contribution to sustainable development as emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Noting the important linkage between sustainable tourism and the safeguarding of the natural and cultural heritage and welcoming in this regard the Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and UNESCO, signed in 2013, in which both Organizations pledged to join efforts to address these issues,

Reaffirming the importance of promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace<sup>1</sup> and underscoring the role of tourism as a vehicle for inter-cultural dialogue and cross-cultural understanding as mentioned in the International Cultural Tourism Charter adopted by ICOMOS at the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1999,

Emphasizing, in particular, tourism’s role in fostering international cooperation and, in this regard, recalling that tourism activities should be conducted in full respect for the laws, practices and customs of the host countries as stipulated in the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism<sup>2</sup> and in conformity with the norms and principles of international law,

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<sup>1</sup>A/RES/65/138.

<sup>2</sup>A/RES/406(XII).

Emphasizing also the need to minimize the potentially negative impact that tourism may have on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe as emphasized in the Private Sector Commitment to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, formulated by UNWTO in 2011 and,

Reaffirming in this regard the obligation of the Member States to respect and observe the principles contained in the Code of Ethics,

Underlining that armed conflicts have destructive effects on tourism and that peace and security are essential preconditions for travel and tourism as stipulated in the Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 10 October 1980<sup>3</sup> and the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism of 11 November 2000,<sup>4</sup> and in this regard, underscores the urgency of resolution of the existing armed conflicts worldwide in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and norms and principles of international law that will contribute to revival of peaceful destinations,

Expressing deep concern with the instances of promotion of hazardous destinations, including conflict zones and organisation of tours to the territories that are not under government control due to the ongoing conflict and military occupation, which violate international humanitarian law, national laws of the affected countries and endanger safety, security and health of the tourists,

Recalling, in this regard, Article 8 of the Code of Ethics, in accordance with which, tourists and visitors should benefit from the liberty to move within their countries and from one State to another in compliance with international law and national legislation,

Reminding the Governments of their obligation to inform their nationals of the difficult circumstances that they may encounter during their travel abroad to specific destinations due to ongoing crisis or conflict and, in this regard, recalling the Declaration on the Facilitation of Tourist Travel,<sup>5</sup> in accordance with which Member States should take measures to restrict tourist travel, if this is indispensable to maintain security, safety, health and public order,

Noting with alarm that promoting conflict zones and territories that are uncontrolled by legitimate governments as tourist destinations creates breeding ground for exploiting tourism by the armed separatists, organized crime networks, terrorists and other illegal armed groups for malicious purposes, including money laundering, human trafficking, the counterfeiting, that generate illicit financial and material resources and help sustain armed conflicts,

Recognizing the devastating impact of such conflicts accompanied by illegal economic activities, including tourism on the peace and security and noting the negative impact of these conflicts on regional stability and, in this regard, recalling the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Expressing deep concern with politicization of tourism and using it as a means to propagate separatist regimes and misappropriation and misrepresentation of the cultural and natural heritage at international tourism fairs and other tourist events for political ends that contravenes to the fundamental aims of tourism as defined by the Statute of the UNWTO and

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<sup>3</sup> A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

<sup>4</sup> A/55/640, annex.

<sup>5</sup> A/RES/578(XVIII).

the Code of Ethics, and runs contrary to the efforts of the international community to protect and preserve cultural heritage and cultural property,<sup>6</sup>

1. Calls upon the World Committee on Tourism Ethics and its permanent secretariat to continue to promote and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
2. Calls also upon all tourism stakeholders, both Members States, Affiliate Members and non-Members of UNWTO to implement of the Code of Ethics and model their conduct on the principles embodied in the Code, towards the realization of responsible tourism;
3. Urges tourism companies, travel agencies and tour operators to take decisive measures so that their facilities and networks are not used for negative purposes, including for human trafficking, child sex trade, illegal economic activities such as money laundering, misappropriation and misrepresentation of the cultural and natural heritage, promotion of illegal entities created on the territories of Member States as a result of the use of force and promotion of tourism to such territories, encourages the Member States to take effective measures to this end;
4. Urges tourism and travel exhibitions/fairs organizers to avoid and prevent participations and promotion of illegal entities in their organized events, and encourages the Member States, non-Member States and Affiliate Members of UNWTO to take appropriate measures to this end.
5. Invites the Member States and the Affiliate Members to submit the cases of potential abuse of tourism and/or the matters concerning the general application of ethical principles in tourism to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics in conformity with the Procedures for Consultation and Conciliation for the Settlement of Disputes concerning the Application of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism as well as the Guidelines for the Consideration of Disputes;<sup>7</sup>
6. Reaffirms the obligation of Member States to faithfully observe the generally accepted norms and principles of international law by taking bold actions that would prevent any tourist stakeholder, operating on their territories, to engage in activities that violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other Member State;
7. Reaffirms the full validity of the guiding principles for official travel advisories<sup>8</sup> and further encourages tourism companies, travel agencies, tour operators and their umbrella organizations to widely disseminate accurate, up-to-date and honest information among potential tourists of the characteristics of the countries they wish to visit, including about the health and security risks associated with the given destination as well as of the actions that are considered criminal by laws of the country visited;

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<sup>6</sup> 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

<sup>7</sup> A/RES/506(XVI).

<sup>8</sup> A/RES/508(XVI).

8. Encourages the Member States and the Affiliate Members to hold specific events on tourism ethics, as recommended by the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, with the view to discuss practical measures to address the issues mentioned in this resolution and requests the Committee to adopt specific measures with a view to guiding tourism to avoid abuse of tourism;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute any notification received from concerned Member-State regarding the situation in its conflict-affected territories among all Member-States, which should accordingly give guidance to their tourist companies and other stakeholders.
10. Requests the UNWTO officials, including any member of UNWTO Secretariat, any independent expert associated with UNWTO based on temporary or permanent contract to abstain from visiting any such territory of illegal entity, from organizing and participating in the events with participation of representatives of such illegal entities, from endorsing and implementing any project that could be accepted as the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its concerned Member State.
11. Invites the Member States to disseminate this resolution among all tourism and other related stakeholders in their respective territories using all possible means of communication.
12. Requests the Secretary-General to present a report, at its next session, that will contain recommendations on preventing exploitation of tourism for negative purposes;
13. Decides to remain seized of the matter.