

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC &  
THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA  
AT THEIR TWENTY-NINTH JOINT MEETING**

Chittagong, Bangladesh, 17 May 2017

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UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC  
UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA  
Twenty-ninth Joint Meeting  
Chittagong, Bangladesh  
17 May, 2017

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chairman of the Joint Meeting (India)
3. Communication of the Co-Chairman of the Joint Meeting (Philippines)
4. Report of the Secretary-General
5. General Programme of Work for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 and regional activities for Asia-Pacific
6. Report of the UNWTO Committees
  - 6.1. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee
  - 6.2. Report of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability
  - 6.3. Report of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness
  - 6.4. Report of the Committee on Statistics and TSA
7. Report on the draft UNWTO Convention on the Protection of Tourists and the Rights and Obligations of Tourism Service Providers
8. Tourism and Ethics
  - 8.1. Establishment of National Tourism Ethics Committees
  - 8.2. Report of the Working Group on the UNWTO Convention on Tourism Ethics
9. UNWTO on the ground: Technical Assistance Missions
10. Report of the Working Group on the Review of the Amendment Procedure of the Statutes
11. Members' highlights on the International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017
12. Preparations for the twenty-second session of the General Assembly and World Tourism Day 2019 (South Asia)
13. Update on Affiliate Members' activities and other matters
14. Place and date of the 30th joint meeting for the two commissions

## **PREAMBLE**

1. The twenty-ninth joint meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia was held in Chittagong, Bangladesh, on 17 May 2017. It was held in conjunction with the *UNWTO Regional Forum on Crisis Communication*.

2. The meeting was chaired by **India** and co-chaired by **Philippines**. There were over one hundred participants representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, I. R. Iran, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Affiliate members from India, Japan, Macao (China), Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand were also represented. In addition to these participants, a number of industry representatives attended the event. A list of participants with the names and contact details of all attendees is annexed to this report.

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## **DECISIONS**

CAP/CSA/DEC/1 (XXIX)

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/CSA/29/Prov.Ag.)

The two commissions,

Adopt the provisional agenda of their 29<sup>th</sup> joint meeting as contained in the document CAP/CSA/29/Prov. The final agenda of the meeting is located on the previous page (i.e. page 2).

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CAP/CSA/DEC/2 (XXIX)

### **COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Agenda item 2 (document CAP/CSA/29/2)

The Commissions,

Having heard the Chairman's communication,

1. Thank her for her communication;
2. Join her to thank the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the 29<sup>th</sup> Joint meeting and for its warm reception and hospitality;
3. Concur with her observation that tourism helps to create jobs, reduce poverty, bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, empower women, local communities and the youth;
4. Share her viewpoint that in addition to financial performance, efforts should be made to explore the creation of more robust sustainability indicators that accurately measure the socio-economic and environmental benefits of tourism to local communities;

5. Note with satisfaction that in 2016 India contributed to the region's performance by receiving 8.89 million international tourists with a growth rate of 10.7%, which translated into US \$ 23.14 billion in international tourism receipts with an increase of 9.8% over the previous year;
  6. Applaud the updates on India's visa facilities efforts including the fact that India now provides Electronic Tourist Visa to nationals of 161 countries. This is available under three sub-categories namely 'e-Tourist Visa', 'e-Business Visa' and 'e-Medical Visa'; and the duration of stay in India under e-Visa has been increased from the existing 30 days to 60 days.
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CAP/CSA/DEC/3 (XXIX)

**COMMUNICATION OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSON**

Agenda item 3 (document CAP/CSA/29/3)

The Commissions,

Having heard the communication of the Co-Chairman,

1. Thank him for his communication;
  2. Agree with the point that though the countries in Asia-Pacific region are at different levels of development, the majority of nations have shown steady growth in their international tourist arrivals because of factors such as the enhancement of their visa regulations and creating visa-free areas, price competitiveness, and improvements in infrastructure;
  3. Applaud the fact that like most countries in the region, Philippines' tourism performance in 2016 was good: tourism accounted for 8.2 per cent of GDP valued at USD 24 Billion; and even though international tourist arrivals reached 6 million, domestic tourism totalling more than 68 million is the actual backbone of the country's tourism industry;
  4. Note that the UN has declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development to recognize the role of tourism in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and to mobilize concerted action among tourism stakeholders to reinforce tourism's potential as an engine for economic growth and a tool for job creation;
  5. Accept Philippines' invitation to attend the 6th UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics to be held in Manila from 21 to 24 June 2017, to commemorate the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.
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CAP/CSA/DEC/4 (XXIX)

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Agenda item 4 (document CAP/CSA/29/4)

The Commissions,

Having heard the preliminary remarks of the Secretary-General,

1. Note that demand for international tourism remained robust in 2016, and that despite challenges of global concern in geo-politics, security and health, it grew by 3.9% to reach a total of 1,235 million international tourists;
  2. Applaud the increase of 46 million more international tourists in 2016 and a growth of 3.9% more than in the previous year, which is tantamount to the seventh consecutive year of sustained growth after the 2009 global economic and financial crisis;
  3. Appreciate the fact that by region, Asia and the Pacific (+9%) led this worldwide growth, fuelled by strong demand from both intra- and interregional source markets; recording 25 million more international tourist arrivals in 2016 to reach a total of 309 million; and with the growth being experienced in all four sub-regions: (Oceania receiving 10% more arrivals, South and North Asia both recording +9% and South-East Asia +8%);
  4. Note that the Organization's management priorities for 2016-2017 include the promotion of safe and seamless travel; enhancing the role of technology in tourism; and placing sustainability at the heart of tourism development as well as promoting the contribution of tourism to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
  5. Note with satisfaction the Secretariat's outstanding progress in the promotion of **the UNWTO/WTTC Open Letter on Travel and Tourism campaign**. Since its inception in 2011, 88 Heads of State and Government have endorsed the Open Letter – an initiative which aims to promote the role of the sector at the highest political level; foster cross-cutting policy coordination on tourism issues; and raise awareness among decision-makers of pressing challenges facing the sector;
  6. Applaud the fact that **a total of 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region** has so far adhered to this initiative (by date of acceptance: Indonesia, China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Brunei, The Philippines; Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Mongolia, India, Laos, Cambodia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Japan);
  7. Note that The United Nations' 70th General Assembly has designated 2017 as the **International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development** to support a change in policies, business practices and consumer behaviour towards a more sustainable tourism sector that can contribute to the SDGs;
  8. Note with satisfaction that UNWTO has been mandated to facilitate the organization and implementation of the Year, in collaboration with governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders.;
  9. Thank the Secretary-General for his report on the financial and administrative situation of the Organization and the fact that the year 2016 closed with members' contributions balancing the Secretariat's budgeted expenditures.
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**GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2016-2017 AND 2018-2019 AND REGIONAL  
ACTIVITIES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC**

Agenda item 5 (CAP/CSA/29/5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)

**With regard to Programme of Work for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019:**

The Commissions,

1. Having heard the report of the Executive Director for Member Relations,
2. Thank him for informing them about the Organization's implementation of its General Programme of Work covering August 2016 to February 2017 and which centred on its two strategic pillars: Competitiveness and quality, and the promotion of sustainability and ethics;
3. Congratulate the Secretariat on the release of a wide-range of new publications and reports covering sustainability, tourism and culture, tourism and peace, accessible tourism, tourism development, tourism barometer, tourism trends, management of tourism destinations – all of which are in line with the 2 strategic goals of the organization which are also reflected in the topics of the events covered within the period under review;
4. Note that the programme of work for 2018-2019 is structured along the same two interdependent strategic objectives as in the previous biennia: namely (a) improving competitiveness and quality, while (b) promoting sustainability and ethics in tourism development;
5. Note with satisfaction that the results of the survey on priorities that was conducted at the end of 2016 which revealed UNWTO Members' prioritisation of the concept of "Tourism for Development" and the fact that it is in line with the theme of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017), has been instrumental in shaping the efforts of the Secretariat to structure its areas of work for 2018-2019 according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**With regard to overall regional activities:**

Having heard the report of the Director of the Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific,

1. Thank him for the various activities carried out in the region within the framework of the strategic objectives and priorities of the Organization including:
  - UNWTO/PATA Forum on Tourism Outlook which celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Guilin, China, October 2016)
  - The 11th UNWTO Executive Training Programme for Asia-Pacific held for the first time in the Pacific region ( Ports Moresby, Papua New Guinea, March 2017)

- The 4<sup>th</sup> World Tourism Conference 2016 ( Penang, Malaysia, October 2016)
  - The World Tourism Day celebrations ( Bangkok, Thailand, September 2016)
2. Appreciate the Secretariat for organising the *UNWTO Conference on “Tourism: a Catalyst for Development, Peace and Reconciliation”* (Passikudah, Sri Lanka, July 2016) to assess the close links between tourism, peace and reconciliation as interdependent components in their overall political, economic and socio-cultural dimensions; and highlighting tourism’s potential to bring peace and understanding among peoples;
  3. Applaud the release of new publications including the 2016 and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the UNWTO/GTERC Asia Tourism Trends, Overview of the Meetings Industry in Asia, and the latest issue of the UNWTO Asia-Pacific Newsletter.

**With regard to activities of the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia-Pacific (RSOAP):**

Having heard the report of the Chief of the UNWTO Regional Support Office for Asia and the Pacific (RSOAP),

1. Thank him for supporting the mission and activities of UNWTO and for all the work that has been carried out within the period under review such as:
  - The publication of *Benchmarking Methodology for the Development of Sustainable Cruise Tourism in South-East*;
  - The promotion of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development among UN organizations, national and local governments, embassies, tourism stakeholders, academia, and media in Japan;
  - Dissemination of Global Code of Ethics in Tourism via lectures and presentations;
  - Participation in key events in the region such as ASEAN Tourism Forum (Singapore), World Tourism Day celebrations (Bangkok), Japan-Pacific Islands Tourism Senior Officials Meeting (Okinawa) and the 4<sup>th</sup> World Tourism Conference (Penang, Malaysia).
2. Commend RSOAP for its promotion of UNWTO’s activities and events among Pacific Island countries.

CAP/CSA/DEC/6 (XXIX)

**REPORT OF THE UNWTO COMMITTEES**

Agenda item 6 (documents CAP/CSA/29/6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)

The Commissions,

Having listened to various reports of the representatives of the technical committees,

Thank Malaysia for the delivery of its report on the Programme and Budget Committee;

Thank Bhutan for the delivery of the report on the activities of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability;

Thank the Maldives for the delivery of its report on the activities of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness;

Thank the Philippines for the delivery of its report on the activities of the Committee on Statistics and TSA.

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CAP/CSA/DEC/7 (XXIX)

**REPORT ON THE DRAFT UNWTO CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF TOURISTS AND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS TOURISM AND ETHICS**

Agenda item 7 (document CAP/CSA/29/7)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Executive Director for Member Relations:

1. Thank him for his report;
2. Note that the General Assembly during its 21<sup>st</sup> session in Medellin, Colombia in September 2015 decided to continue with the elaboration of the text of the Convention, to present the final text of the Convention to the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly for its approval;
3. Note further that following this decision, the Secretariat launched a Public Consultation in August 2016 in order to give the opportunity to all UNWTO Member States to participate in the process of discussion of the draft Convention inviting them to send their comments and proposals to improve the content of the Convention;
4. Appreciate the fact that subsequent to the 11 meetings of the working group to hold discussions on the content of the Convention taking into account the comments received within the Public Consultation, the UNWTO Secretariat has harmonized the draft Framework Convention;
5. Note that the Secretariat will organize bilateral and multilateral meetings in order to achieve a maximum level of consensus regarding key issues of the Convention which are still being debated to be finally submitted to the General Assembly,
6. Note also that the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly will consider the possibility of granting a mandate to the UNWTO Secretariat to organize a Diplomatic Conference before the next General Assembly in 2019 for the negotiation and adoption of the Convention.
7. Thank the Secretariat for the foregoing process of the draft Convention on the Protection of Tourists.



**TOURISM AND ETHICS**

Agenda item 8 (document CAP/CSA/29/8.1,8.2)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Secretary-General,

1. Thank him for his report;
2. Note that over a period of 2 years, the World Committee on Tourism and Ethics (WCTE) discussed the need to improve the visibility and enhance the promotion of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
3. Note further that a member of WCTE proposed the creation of multi-stakeholder National Tourism Ethics Committees (NTEC), to foster the application of the Code's principles at the national level – especially when the current Global Code of Ethics for Tourism becomes an international convention;
4. Welcome the submission of the proposal for the information and consideration of the two Commissions while taking note of the structure and functioning of the two models of the national committees (Indonesia and Jordan).

**With regard to the Report of the Working Group on the UNWTO Convention on Tourism Ethics**

Having heard the representative of Indonesia:

5. Thank her for her report;
6. Note that the Secretary-General established a special Working Group to examine the conversion of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention in order to reinforce its effectiveness.
7. Take further note that the Working Group, composed of representatives of 36 States has held two meetings since it was created in 2016 to revise the draft text, now entitled **Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics**;
8. Recognise that the Framework has been built around the nine core principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
9. Appreciate that the initial draft text of the proposed Framework Convention was presented to the XXI General Assembly (Medellin, Colombia, 12-17 September 2015) and, as such, this text was used as the basis for the discussions of the Working Group;

10. Take note that the members of the Working Group agreed not to make changes to the core principles of the Code of Ethics (except for minor updating of technical terminology);
11. Learn that to ensure internal coherence, the UNWTO Secretariat has harmonized the draft Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics and the draft Convention on the Protection of Tourists and the Rights and Obligations of Tourism Service Providers, in particular with regard to the sections on the Conference of States Parties and Final Provisions;
12. Note further that the draft Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics will be presented to the 105<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council (Madrid, Spain, 10-12 May 2017) together with a set of guidelines explaining the process of examination, amendment, approval and possible adoption of the text by the forthcoming XXII UNWTO General Assembly.

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CAP/CSA/DEC/9 (XXIX)

**UNWTO ON THE GROUND: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSIONS**

Agenda item 9 (document CAP/CSA/29/9)

The Commissions,

Having heard the report of the Executive Director for Technical Cooperation and Services on the Implementation of the technical cooperation missions and projects that UNWTO has undertaken within the period under review,

1. Thank him for the wide range of technical assistance missions UNWTO has undertaken in Bhutan, China (Yunnan Province), Fiji, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines and Timor Leste;
2. Note with interest the fact that the missions and projects covered areas including tourism policy, marketing of community-based ecotourism projects, carrying capacity assessment, development of sustainable tourism policy, tourism destination marketing, capacity-building, tourism statistics and TSA and review of draft national tourism development plan.

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**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF THE AMENDMENT  
PROCEDURE OF THE STATUTES**

Agenda item 10 (document CAP/CSA/29/10)

CAP/CSA/DEC/10 (XXIX)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Executive Director for Member Relations:

1. Thank him for his report ;

2. Note that the Working Group was constituted by the Secretary-General under the responsibility of the Executive Council, upon the request of the General Assembly, through its resolution 662(XXI);
3. Note further that the Working Group is charged with reviewing the current procedure for amending the Statutes and eventually to prepare the text of an amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes in order to submit it to the General Assembly at its next session (i.e. 22nd session in Chengdu) for approval;
4. Note also that the Working Group composed of Argentina, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, India, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Slovakia and Spain proposed an amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes and submitted a draft text to the Executive Council at its 103rd session, held in Málaga, Spain in May 2016;
5. Applaud the fact that the Executive Council, through decision 13(CIII) approved to amend Article 33 of the Statutes and endorsed the proposed text, requesting the Secretary-General to submit it to the General Assembly at its 22nd session in Chengdu for approval;
6. Call upon member States to initiate all the necessary domestic procedure so that, if the amendment to Article 33 of the Statutes is adopted at the 22nd session of the General Assembly, the process of the approval of this particular amendment can be accelerated by communicating immediately to the Depositary of the Statutes their agreement with the amendment so that the necessary two-thirds approvals can be achieved in a timely manner.

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## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FOR DEVELOPMENT 2017**

Agenda item 11 (document CAP/CSA/29/11)

CAP/CSA/DEC/11 (XXIX)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Chief of Communications and the intervention of some members,

1. Thank her for the overview on the activities the Secretariat has completed so far to promote the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development including the establishment of a steering committee, awareness raising campaigns and resource mobilization efforts;
2. Note that the International Year is to be adopted and celebrated at the national level by the Member States;
3. Appreciate the two important flagship publications the Secretariat is preparing: namely, Sustainable Tourism for Development and Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals: Journey to 2030;

4. Thank Member States for supporting the celebration of the International Year at the national level and commend them for the following;

- **Bangladesh's** Department of Archaeology used sustainable tourism development as the main theme for its celebration of Wild Heritage Day;
- **Bhutan** is developing homestays around remote areas and is also opening national parks to create nature-based tourism with the involvement of the local communities in order to spread the benefits of tourism. It is also committed to being carbon neutral and to maintaining 60% of its forest reserves untouched;
- **Iran** is setting rules for hotels to maintain sustainable tourism standards and has decorated its national aircrafts with the logo of the International Year;
- **Japan** and **Fiji** have embossed the logo of the International Year on their tourism officials' business cards;
- **Lao PDR** has organized consultation workshops on greening Lao tourism and to develop national destination tourism standards;
- **Indonesia** will organize a Sustainable Tourism Award ceremony in September and an International Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development in October;
- **Sri Lanka** has launched a project called Sustainable Sri Lanka along the lines of renewable energy. It has also initiated a new tourism strategic plan based on the principles of sustainability but focusing mainly on community development and conservation;
- **Vietnam** will host an APEC high-level dialogue on sustainable tourism in June. It is using UNWTO's International Year video clip to promote this ministerial event;
- **Papua New Guinea** will celebrate the sustainable tourism week from 25-29 September. This is aimed at the advocacy, awareness-raising, knowledge creation and development, as well as sharing case studies on sustainable tourism and development. They also intend to review their national development plan to include sustainable tourism development;
- **The Philippines** has started an advocacy programme on the International Year across various sectors. They are formulating an action plan on the projects to be developed on sustainability;
- **China** is finalizing the process to open one sustainable tourism observatory in Guangdong which will increase its observatories to 9 in total.

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**PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY AND WORLD TOURISM DAY 2019 (SOUTH ASIA)**

Agenda item 12 (document CAP/CSA/29/12)

CAP/CSA/DEC/12 (XXIX)

The Commissions,

Having heard the presentation of the Executive Director for Technical Cooperation and Services,

1. Thank him for the background information on the Secretariat's preparations for the forthcoming 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Chengdu (Sichuan Province of China);

2. Note with satisfaction that the Chinese authorities have taken all the necessary measures to host the General Assembly in optimum conditions at the InterContinental Century City Hotel, ([www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com)) in order to provide the UNWTO members with the services and facilities required according to the Statutes, rules and practices of the Organization;

And having heard the brief report of the Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific on World Tourism Day 2019,

3. Note with interest that 3 countries (Iran, Bangladesh and India) presented their candidatures as host of the 2019 World Tourism Day;
4. Applaud Iran and Bangladesh for withdrawing their candidatures on learning from the Secretariat that India was the first to present its expression of interest;
5. Agree however with the request of Iran and Bangladesh to UNWTO to organise 2 important UNWTO events in their respective countries in 2019;
6. Congratulate India on being selected as the host of World Tourism Day 2018 or 2019.

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## **UPDATE ON AFFILIATE MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES AND OTHER MATTERS**

Agenda item 13 ((document CAP/CSA/29/13)

CAP/CSA/DEC/13 (XXIX)

### **Update on Affiliate Members' activities**

The Commissions,

Having listened to the Executive Director for Members Relations,

1. Thank him for the overview of the latest activities carried out by the Affiliate Members since their last report was presented at the 104th session of the UNWTO Executive Council in October 2016 in Luxor, Egypt;
2. Note with interest that 16 more applications for membership are pending approval by the Executive Council at its 106<sup>th</sup> meeting in Chengdu;
3. Note that out of the current 504 members, 61 of them are from the Asia-Pacific region;
4. Commend the Secretariat for re-energizing the role of the Affiliate Members in the activities of the Organization which is reflected in the various projects and events carried out and planned for this year such as:
  - 13<sup>th</sup> UNWTO Awards on Excellence and Innovation in Tourism

- 3<sup>rd</sup> UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism
  - UNWTO and Madison MK Global Report on Visitor Experience Management;
  - UNWTO and JTТА, Gurunavi Inc. joint research report on Gastronomy tourism in Japan
  - UNWTO and OSTELEA Global Report on Sports Tourism
  - Knowledge Network Issue Paper Series: Talent Development and Tourism Competitiveness, in collaboration with CENFOTUR; and
  - Knowledge Network Issue Paper Series: Innovation in Tourism Experiences in City Tourism, in collaboration with the University of Deusto, Spain.
5. Applaud Affiliate Members' contribution to the promotion of the International Year through the forthcoming "UNWTO Global Conference on Building Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism for Development" to be held in Jamaica next November;
  6. Thank IFT (Macao Institute of Tourism) for the training programme planned for 18 officials from Myanmar and 2 from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as well as its invitation to the members to request similar tourism training courses;
  7. Note KTO's request to UNWTO to introduce the Republic of Korea as an important source market for sustainable tourism, ecotourism and green tourism;
  8. Note **Discovery MICE's** suggestion to UNWTO to organize Affiliate Members' meetings at a regional level and point out that Japan is already doing so at a national level;
  9. Note **JATA's** invitation to the delegates to attend *Tourism EXPO Japan* scheduled to be held in Tokyo from in September in collaboration with UNWTO, PATA, the Japanese government and international tourism organizations.

### **Other matters**

The Commissions,

Having listened to the brief interventions of several members on the foregoing and the Secretariat's responses,

1. Express through **the Maldives** their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Secretary-General for his great contribution to international tourism during his tenure; thank him also for being instrumental in placing tourism high in the global agenda through the UNWTO/WTTC Open Letter on Travel and Tourism campaign; and for his leadership role in guiding the development of tourism around the world.
2. Note the Secretary-General's recommendation to members to include regional integration into the formulation of project proposals as they receive better funding attention;
3. Note **Bangladesh's** proposal to work with the Philippines and other member States on the development of TSA;

4. Note Sri Lanka's suggestion that there is the need for a study on international benchmark to provide guidelines and criteria for the standardisation of hotel classification and the accommodation establishment in general;
  5. Note Malaysia's invitation to members to attend the 6th Global Summit on Urban Tourism (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 4-6 December 2017);
  6. Note Thailand's invitation to members to attend the World Gastronomy Forum which it will be hosting in 2018;
  7. Note Laos's invitation to members to take part in its *2018 Visit Laos Year*.
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**PLACE AND DATE OF THE  
THIRTIETH JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS**

Agenda item 14 (document CAP/CSA/29/14)

CAP/CSA/DEC/14 (XXIX)

The Commissions,

Having listened to the Secretariat's brief introduction to this item and to Fiji's short intervention of reconfirmation of interest,

Accept with gratitude Fiji's offer to host the 30<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the two commissions on its territory during the first half of 2018.

## ANNEX

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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