

UNWTO COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifty-first meeting

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

6 JUNE 2011

REPORT

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UNWTO COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifty-first meeting

Introduction

1. The opening ceremony of the fifty-first meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Africa (CAF), which was held on 6 June 2011 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, was presided by His Excellency Mr. Luc Adolphe Tiao, Prime Minister and Head of Government of Burkina Faso. The meeting, which was attended by more than 200 delegates from the twenty-nine countries of the region, was followed by a regional seminar on "How Sustainable Tourism can benefit from and contribute to an emerging Green Economy in Africa" held on 7 June 2011.

2. Representing the Mayor of Ouagadougou, Mr. Jean Christophe Ilboudo, welcomed the participants, wished them all a pleasant stay in Ouagadougou, and invited them to explore the city and enjoy the local hospitality. Mr. Ilboudo shared with the participants the tourism features of Ouagadougou, highlighting its internationally known cultural festivals.

3. Speaking in his capacity as the Chairman of the UNWTO Commission for Africa, H.E. El Hadj Baba Hamadou, Minister of Tourism of Cameroon, started by thanking His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso, and the people of Burkina Faso for the warm welcome received. The Chairman emphasized the importance of tourism in Africa; recognized the great work done by South Africa in promoting Africa as a tourism destination through the 2010 FIFA World Cup it organized successfully; and called the members to make tourism an effective tool to fight against poverty and promote development in Africa.

4. Addressing the participants, Mr. Soumaïla Cissé, President of the UEMOA Commission, highlighted the importance of tourism for all the UEMOA member states, and said that one of the main objectives of his organization was to promote a regional, integrated and competitive tourism market. Mr. Cissé also reiterated the importance of the cooperation agreement between UNWTO and UEMOA for the benefit of the region.

5. In his speech, Mr. Taleb Rifai, UNWTO Secretary-General, expressed his satisfaction for the importance that the Government of Burkina Faso placed in the tourism, as a sector to diversify the national economy. He thanked H.E. Baba Hama, Minister of Culture and Tourism in Burkina Faso, and recalled the key role the country plays as Vice-Chair of the UNWTO Commission for Africa, and Member of the Executive Council.

6. Mr. Rifai emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for the development of tourism; shared with the participants some of the results of tourism in the year 2010, and stressed the need to understand tourism as a key sector for socio-economic development in Africa and worldwide.

7. In his official opening speech, H.E. Baba Hama, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Burkina Faso, and CAF Vice-Chair, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Prime Minister and on his behalf. The Minister spoke about the tourism potential of Burkina Faso, and reassured the importance that the Government accords to the sector. He went on by stressing the close cooperation between UNWTO and Burkina Faso, and also emphasized the fundamental role of regional cooperation in the sector.

Decisions taken by the Commission

CAF/DEC/1(LI)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1
(Document CAF/51/prov./Rev1)

8. The Members of the Commission approved the proposed agenda.

AGENDA

1. *Adoption of the Agenda*
2. *Communication of the Chairman of the Commission*
3. *Preliminary Remarks of the Secretary-General*
4. *Tourism performance worldwide and in Africa in 2010 and Perspectives for 2011*
5. *UNWTO General Programme of Work*
 - 5.1 *Progress Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work for the period 2010-2011*
 - (a) *Global Perspectives*
 - (b) *Regional Activities*
 - 5.2 *Report on the results of the survey on priority areas of the general programme of work for 2012-2013*
6. *Presentation of global and regional initiatives*
 - 6.1 *Report of INVESTOUR 2010 and preparation of the third Edition in 2012*
 - 6.2 *UNWTO Technical Portfolio*
7. *Progress report on the application of the Global Code of Ethics and nomination of candidates for the World Committee on Tourism Ethics*
8. *Preparations for the 19th Session of the General Assembly*
9. *Places and dates of the fifty-second and fifty-third meetings of the UNWTO Commission for Africa*

