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### UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ACTIVITIES

#### (a) Coordination mechanisms

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has continued its participation in the different Inter-agency mechanisms and networks set up by the United Nations (UN), as well as in meetings and events organized by UN entities that have relevance to the tourism sector. The principal objectives are to ensure that the potential of tourism is fully recognized at the international level, as a multidisciplinary sector capable to contribute to economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. Additionally, participation in the UN activities helps to reduce duplication of efforts, while ensuring optimal utilization of resources within the UN system and allows for obtaining support from other agencies in their respective fields of responsibility.

#### A. Participation in UN System Substantive Issues and Activities

A.1 UNWTO participated in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Side Event on the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change** held at the Barcelona Climate Change Talks from 3-4 November 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. The event included a Panel of representatives from the Nairobi Work Programme Partners who shared their views on how to mobilize and scale up actions to collaborate with other networks in order to advance work on adaptation within the framework of the NWP. Additionally, UNWTO is cooperating with the Adaptation, Technology and Science Programme of UNFCCC in order to explore actions on the ground in adaptation measures in the tourism sector together with Member States.

A.2 The Environmental Management Group (EMG) under the chairmanship of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** held its first meeting of the writing team of the UN report on 2010 biodiversity targets from 10-11 November 2009 in Rome, Italy. UNWTO was represented at the meeting where an agreement was reached on the annotated outline as the basis for preparation of the EMG report. The meeting also agreed on the division of responsibilities for writing tasks among the EMG members as well as a timetable for preparation of the report. The report is expected to be launched at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) high level event on 22 September 2010 and also be presented at the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) – 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. UNWTO is the leading author for the Chapter on Tourism.

A.3 Ongoing collaboration between UNWTO and the **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** continues on thematic actions related to CBD policies on tourism and biodiversity, especially the *International Guidelines for Biodiversity and Tourism Development*. This includes a report on the applicability of the CBD Guidelines resulting from the UNWTO projects in Indonesia and Thailand; the

preparation of a think-tank meeting on tourism and biodiversity; and a side event at the COP10 of the CBD.

A.4 In developing the *Green Economy Report (GER)*, UNEP convened a meeting of Chapter Coordinating Authors (CCAs), whose institutions, including UNWTO, have partnered with UNEP in mobilizing intellectual capacity around the world to contribute to the GER at the First Review Meeting for a writer's workshop – Green Economy Report held from 17-18 November 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. The objectives of this meeting were: 1) to present preliminary drafts/annotated outlines of the chapters, 2) to enable chapter coordinators to interact substantively on the structure, content and methodologies used in their respective chapters, and 3) to identify areas for cross-fertilization and ensure consistency across the entire report as we enter the drafting phase. UNWTO and UNEP co-fund and supervise the tourism chapter of the Green Economy Report.

A.5 UNWTO was represented at the **Sixth International Meeting of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development** (Marrakech Process - UNEP/UN) held in Chantilly, France from 2-3 February 2010. The meeting discussed the transition of the Task Force into a UN Type II Partnership under the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN-CSD), the partnerships' governance, selection criteria for project proposals, and the financing mechanisms for its continued operation. The partnership was launched at the CSD meeting in early May 2010.

A.6 On 2 February 2010, UNWTO signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the **Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)**. The MoC intends to enhance cooperation between these two organizations, facilitate the development of project proposals, awareness raising and sharing of information and expertise with the aim of reinforcing the role of wetlands and their biodiversity ecosystems for sustainable tourism development.

A.7 The **First Meeting of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on a Green Economy** was held from 23-24 March 2010 in Washington D.C., U.S.A. The event, organized in partnership with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was host to the participating members of the IMG specifically addressing the Green Economy. In 2009, the 15th senior officials meeting of the EMG decided to set up a new IMG on a Green Economy to assess how the United Nations system could more coherently support countries in making the transition to a "green economy" and to work on joint and consistent messaging on measures needed to support the transition. This was the first meeting of this group in which UNWTO was present.

A.8 UNWTO is collaborating with the **UNEP Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-RoE)** on the development of a "Tourism Protocol" and "Strategy for the Future Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians" on behalf of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. The collaboration includes a number of desk reviews, workshops and consultation with the member countries.

A.9 The 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of **Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TF-SITS)**, a branch of the UN Statistical Division (UNSD) held its latest meeting from 19-20 November 2009 at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Headquarters in Paris, France. UNWTO was present at this meeting where a revised draft *Manual on SITS* was approved for presentation at the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) forty-first session (February 2010). Progress was made in the analysis and design of the Compilation Guide of the future Manual.

A.10 The **United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)**, entrusted for the coordination of international statistics programmes and activities, forms an essential part of the UN Statistics Division (UNSD). UNWTO participated in the 41st Session of the UNSC, held at UN Headquarters in New York

from 23-26 February 2010. The event featured the presentation of the revised draft *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*. The Manual was successfully adopted by the Commission. The Commission also addressed the report of the UN Secretary-General which contained a proposal to organize a day of observance, the World Statistics Day, to celebrate the many achievements of official statistics around the globe. The Commission adopted 20 October 2010 as the first World Statistics Day and requested the United Nations Statistics Division and international agencies to support and promote national, regional or global events in observance of this day.

A.11 UNWTO was represented at the **Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)** which held its fifteenth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 February 2010. Special mention should be made to the discussion on the Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS) initiative on the need to establish a UN system-wide vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to track developments, and report on the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions of the crisis.

A.12 Regular coordination by UNWTO with the Technical Working Group (TWP) of the **United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)** has continued. The TWP is convened on a weekly basis to coordinate the UN programmes related to Avian and Human Influenza.

A.13 The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and UNWTO have maintained close regular contacts to monitor the reporting of communicable diseases reported under the International Health Regulations (IHR) and of importance for international travel and tourism.

A.14 UNWTO coordinates closely with the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** on travel and health issues, including all matters related to communicable diseases and the current ongoing influenza pandemic. In addition, an initial evaluation of visa and e-visa policies and the analysis of project proposals made by ICAO in this field are being conducted.

A.15 The task force on global health risks of the **Department of Public Information** of the UN (UNDPI) is closely cooperating with UNWTO on communication strategies and actions related to the ongoing influenza pandemic.

A.16 The **UN Inter-Agency meeting for Publications Officers** held annually on the occasion of the Frankfurt Book Fair in October provides the platform to allow the exchange of ongoing matters in the area of publications across all the UN Agencies. UNWTO was represented in the latest 2009 edition of the meeting in October.

A.17 Under the framework of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, UNWTO and UNESCO are seeking to explore the opportunities for cooperation in the field of biodiversity in relation to tourism in Biosphere Reserves as a means to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

## **B. Participation in UN Meetings**

B.1 A side event at UNFCCC-COP15 entitled *Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change – Perspective from the Travel & Tourism Sector* was held in the larger climate change framework event in Copenhagen, Denmark on 18 December 2009. The side event, organized jointly with the World Tourism and Travel Council (WTTC), was a further step of the UNWTO Davos Process on tourism and climate change. The steps taken so far in response to the Bali Roadmap were presented, as well as towards responsible tourism growth and development. The event brought forward innovators from the private and public sector and highlighted best practices in order to communicate to policy-makers and the rest of the industry the tourism and travel's proactive approach to carbon emissions' mitigation and

adaptation. Key representatives of governments and industry, as well as experts, illustrated the tourism sector's ongoing efforts towards environmental sustainability.

B.2 UNWTO has been a member of the **UN Inter-Agency Knowledge Sharing and Information Management** (UNKSIM) since 2004. This working group was created with a view to ensure the exchange of experiences through utilizing up-to-date information technologies, promoting best practices for the flow of information and continuously seeking new and better ways of diffusing information worldwide. UNWTO was unable to participate in the working group's last meeting in September 2009 held in the Netherlands, but it has been invited to attend the next meeting scheduled for October 2010 to be held at the UN Headquarters.

B.3 The New York-based UNWTO Representative Office has participated in a wide range of coordination meetings held at the UN headquarters in New York, including among others those of the UN Development Group (UNDG), the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development, the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development, among others.

### C. Participation in UN Administrative Issues

C.1 The Task Force on Accounting Standards formed under the **Finance and Budget Network** of UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) held its last meeting at the office of the World Food Programme, in Rome, Italy from 7-8 December 2009. UNWTO was represented at the meeting where issues concerning employee benefits, assessed contributions, related party disclosures, operational rates, progressive implementation, shared/joint premises, International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) training, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), donor reporting and transitional provisions were discussed.

C.2 The **HLCM/Finance and Budget Network** also oversees the *Working Group on Security Costs*. UNWTO attended two meetings of the working group via video conference in November 2009 and March 2010. The two main issues discussed were terms of reference and work plan of the WG and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) cost sharing formula.

C.3 UNWTO is an active member of the **UNDG Working Group on Joint Funding, Financial and Auditing issues** (WGJFFI), for which it participated in the following meetings of the: (a) *Task Team on Joint Funding* meetings in October and November 2009 and March 2010 where the main issues discussed were the UNDG-Donor relationship on Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) and EC-UN relationship on MDTFs, and (b) *Task Team on Financial Issues* which held meetings in October and November 2009. Those meetings addressed the transfer of funds at country level, transfer of funds between UN Organizations, UN participation in non-UN basket funds, harmonized budget code system and quarterly financial data reporting.

C.4 In mid-March 2010, UNWTO participated in the Inter-agency meeting regarding the financial aspects in the implementation of UN joint funds organised by UNDP where discussions addressed the UNEX financial reporting.

C.5 Finally, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director for Programme and Coordination, the Executive Director for External Relations and Partnerships and the Director of Administration have continued to participate, respectively, in the three most senior coordination mechanisms of the UN System, namely the **Chief Executive Board (CEB)**, the **High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)** and the **High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)**.