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### United Nations system activities

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 2010 **High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (HLS-ECOSOC)** held from 28 June to 2 July held in New York. The segment consisted of: the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and a Policy Dialogue session with the Trade and Financial Institutions on major issues in the world economy. The sessions successfully focused attention on the achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of MDGs 3 and 5, and served to reinforce the efforts including the resolve to strengthen implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) relating to gender equality, empowerment and role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding processes, keeping in view the upcoming tenth anniversary of adoption of the historic Security Council resolution. The exchanges of national experiences in the country review of AMRs were also noted. The DCF served to highlight the need for cooperation in the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis.

A.2 On 12 July 2010, representation by UNWTO was made at the *Dialogue with the Executive Heads of UN Funds and Programmes* held at the UN Headquarters in New York. The meeting featured a panel of Executive Heads from the four agencies that report to the council: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP). The panel discussion stressed the importance of continued coordination and support in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as additional emphasis on national ownership and leadership.

A.3 The ECOSOC panel discussion on *Humanitarian Assistance Operations in Highly Hazardous, or Insecure and Unsafe Environments* which took place at UN Headquarters in New York on 14 July, 2010 had representation from UNWTO. Key conclusions from the sessions noted that the humanitarian system must adapt to the ever-changing nature of today's world in the face of insecure and volatile conflict environments.

Instead of after-the-fact responses, agencies must foresee the need for humanitarian aid and supply it in advance to avert potential crises. This means added emphasis on prevention, preparedness, and strong partnerships with government, development, and civil society actors. Discussion also noted that the biggest challenge confronting aid workers today is constrained access and increasingly frequent and violent attacks on aid workers. Thus, dialogue with armed groups is essential in order to encourage their compliance with international humanitarian law. However, it is important to remember that negotiating access should not be confused with policy negotiations.

A.4 UNWTO took part in the **Preparatory Committee for the Mauritius + 5 High-Level Review of the General Assembly** held in May 2010 in New York. The event was observed as Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS) Day and coincided with the 18<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18) held from 3-14 May 2010. Ongoing negotiations were actively guided by the co-Facilitators (Ambassadors of Fiji and Singapore) over several rounds of informal consultations and meetings. An agreed draft of the concise political declaration, to be adopted in the GA High-Level Review in September, features a paragraph highlighting the importance and relevance of tourism for the SIDS economies and their development, recognizes the need for support also in the context of the emerging challenge of climate change, and specifically calls on the UNWTO to extend support for sustainable tourism.

A.5 UNWTO participated in the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Leaders Summit** held in June 2010. The objective of the Summit was to provide a platform for bringing together world leaders to elevate the role of responsible business in achieving more sustainable and inclusive markets while committing to build a new era of sustainability. UNWTO prepared a report entitled "Tourism and the Millennium Development Goals" \* that positions tourism in the global development agenda and underlines how sustainable tourism development can contribute to alleviating the development gap, gender inequality and environmental degradation, with a focus on the important role of the private sector to help address current challenges. As a major outcome, Global Compact participants adopted by acclamation a "New York Declaration by Business", pledging to renew their commitment to the Global Compact principles, deepen their engagement, strengthen their support for critical development goals, and increase transparency and dialogue. The Declaration further calls on governments to "cultivate enabling environments for entrepreneurship and innovation" and to set clear regulatory signals, especially on climate change.

\* [www.unwto.org/tourism&mdgsezine/](http://www.unwto.org/tourism&mdgsezine/)

A.6 As a member of the Steering Committee of the **Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism (GPST)**, UNWTO participated in its First Annual General Meeting in Paris, France on 3 August 2010. The GPST is a follow up the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism and aims at developing policies and supporting projects on sustainable tourism. Ultimately, the group will be composed of Governments and organizations committed to sustainable tourism. Among the issues discussed was the role of UNWTO in the Partnership. A General Assembly will be hosted by Costa Rica (invited by the Minister of Tourism) in November 2010.

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

B.1 The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and UNWTO continue to maintain close regular contacts and have been represented or have taken part in a number of joint activities. In June 2010, a UNWTO official was interviewed by the International Health Regulations (IHR) Review Committee, a working group led by WHO, on UNWTO's activities related to the application of the IHR and UNWTO's overall activities during the pandemic and lessons learned. UNWTO participated at the informal meeting in July 2010 on

public health emergency preparedness planning for international travel and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on partnership building for public health and international travel and transport. The focus of the meeting was to discuss measures, recommendations, guidelines and coordination systems regarding international travel and trade. UNWTO also participated in the panel discussion on International Organization and Networks during the International Health Regulations Implementation Course (IHR i-course), to showcase UNWTO's cooperation during the pandemic.

B.2 The UNWTO is an active participant in the work of the **United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)**. In April, UNWTO took part in the 2010 International Ministerial Conference on Animal and Pandemic Influenza that took place in Hanoi, Vietnam to discuss the forward strategy when it comes to the travel and tourism sector.

B.3 The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and UNWTO have an ongoing cooperation in areas of aviation and tourism. UNWTO took part, in June 2010, in the ICAO Cooperative Arrangement for the prevention of spread of communicable disease through air travel (CAPSCA) – Americas Project that took place in Dallas to support inter-agency network communication. UNWTO also participated in the ICAO 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in September at the ICAO Headquarters (Montreal, Canada).

B.4 As part of the **UN Communications Group (UNCG)** Task Force, UNWTO participated in various teleconferences organized by **UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI)** to ensure consistent information across all concerned UN agencies.

B.5 Participation by UNWTO in the Annual Meeting of the **United Nations Communication Group (UNCG)** took place in Shanghai, China in June 2010. Main issues discussed include the UN "one voice" positioning and messaging on key issues such as the UN, Climate Change and the MDGs, namely in the run up towards the MDG Summit in September 2010. The meeting also debated the new communication framework concerning the use of social media to communicate.

B.6 UNWTO is member since 2005 of the **UN Inter-Agency Travel Network (IATN)**, a technical working group composed of all chiefs of travel management within the UN system. The 2010 IATN meeting hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 21-23 September 2010, focused debates on topical issues such as the status report on the e-passport compliant UNLP project; the conversion of lump sum option formula to mileage-based entitlement; the consequences of the volcanic ash crisis and similar special circumstances; the UN's principle of most direct and economic route; and the presentation of the JIU Final Report.

B.7 Since 2004, UNWTO is member of the **UN Inter-Agency on Knowledge Sharing and Information Management (UNKSIM)**, a technical working group composed of all chief librarians and information resource managers of the UN system. The 2010 annual meeting of UNKSIM held 18-20 October at United Nations in New York focused discussions on strategic directions and best practices of the UN libraries and information services and the reinforcement of UN Inter-Agency's cooperation in this area.

B.8 From 7-9 July 2010, UNWTO was represented at the meeting of the newly formed **International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Haitian Cultural Heritage (ICC-Haiti)** hosted in Paris, France. UNWTO was invited as an observer to the Committee. Following the various discussions, a set of recommendations were formed that included an item on tourism concerning a particular the national historic park that would address "conservation plans, management plans, risk preparation plans and sustainable tourism plans for this site of the World's cultural heritage".

## C. Participation in UN Administrative Issues

C.1 The **UN System network for Legal Advisers** held their last meeting from 6-7 May 2010 in Rome, Italy. The Legal Advisers reviewed a case concerning legal action brought against another UN Agency and was judged upon by the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT). The judgement is relevant for UNWTO as it addresses the problem of responsibility of UNWTO for its associated and hosted entities. The Legal Advisors also shared their recent experiences with regards to ensuring the application of the Privileges and Immunities granted to the United Nations. Some other issues, among others, that were addressed concerned the legal implications on the use of social media tools (e.g. facebook, twitter, youtube, etc.) by the UN; issues surrounding unlimited risk of liability for infringement of contractor's intellectual property rights; and legal issues on agreements.

C.2 UNWTO participates regularly in the UN system's coordination of **Chief Executive Board's (CEB) High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)**. As part of the **CEB/HLCM Finance and Budget Network/Task Force on Accounting Standards**, UNWTO participated in a meeting through video-conference on 12 May 2010. Main issues discussed in the framework of IPSAS were feedback on various organizations' IPSAS Implementation Progress; review of the system wide project and system wide project work plan for 2010-11; organization of IPSAS training; recent developments in bilateral discussions with external auditors, management of accounting policy diversity. The UNWTO also took part in a video conference of the **CEB/HLCM Finance and Budget Network/ Working Group on Security Costs** on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. Among the main issues discussed was the review of progress and materials developed on security costs. A decision was taken to conduct a cost-specification exercise and develop methodologies for budget apportionment in liaison with the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) on Security Level Service (SLS) costs.

C.3 In the **UN Development Group (UNDG) Working Group on Joint Funding, Financial and Auditing issues (WGJFFI)**, UNWTO attended the meeting of the Task Team on Joint Funding, in April 2010 by teleconference. Highlights from discussion include UNDG-Donor relationship on Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTFs); harmonization of different instruments & standard documents and other issues of progress such as the development of guidance, European Union (EU) Commission – Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA); and the threshold limit of Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). UNWTO is currently preparing FAFA to be signed with the EC.