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**Closing of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for
Development 2017**
Geneva, 19 December 2017

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- **Protocols and acknowledgements**
 - Secretary General Rifai
 - Director General Moller
 - State Secretary Ineichen-Fleisch

- **The International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development has been the opportunity for everyone in Travel & Tourism to tell our story**
 - Driver of economic growth
 - Creator of jobs
 - Contributor to peaceful societies
 - Enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals to protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all

- **Sustainability is one of our top three strategic priorities**
 - WTTC has made sustainability the centrepiece of our activity in 2017
 - Global Summit in Bangkok - theme of “Transforming Our World”
 - Successful Tourism for Tomorrow Awards to reward the very best in sustainable tourism
 - Launch of guidance on Sustainability Reporting
 - Launch of ‘Managing Overcrowding in tourist destinations’ report in Madrid last week

- **As we plan for 2018, sustainability remains the bedrock of our activity**

- Continuing to drive the conversation on planning for and managing tourism growth
- A sector-wide response to climate change
- How T&T can play a role in reducing illegal trade in wildlife
- Inclusive job creation

- **This is the legacy of the International Year at WTTC. And the legacy of Dr Rifai – a true friend of WTTC and global ambassador for Travel & Tourism**
 - Warm words and personal reflections about Dr Rifai

- **We look forward to working with Secretary General Elect Pololikashvili to maintain the working relationship between our two organisations and to promote the legacy of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development**