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Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

¹ Resolution [60/1](#).



Recalling its resolutions [69/233](#) of 19 December 2014, [71/240](#) of 21 December 2016 and [73/245](#) of 20 December 2018 on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection and its resolutions [65/173](#) of 20 December 2010 and [67/223](#) of 21 December 2012 on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection, as well as its resolution [74/211](#) of 19 December 2019 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America and its resolution [74/214](#) of 19 December 2019 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia,

Recalling also its resolutions [70/193](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017”, and [70/200](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism”,

Reaffirming its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,² adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the latter of which, inter alia, highlighted the need to promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement³ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,⁵

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁶ the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁷ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁸ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁹ the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,¹⁰ the Outcome of the Conference on the

² Resolution [69/283](#), annexes I and II.

³ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁵ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁶ Resolution [55/2](#).

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁸ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution [63/239](#), annex.

World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,¹¹ the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,¹² the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,¹³ decision XII/11 of 17 October 2014 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity and tourism development,¹⁴ the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,¹⁵ the outcome document of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹⁶ and the proclamation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021–2030¹⁷ and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030,¹⁸

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Recognizing that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting local culture, improving the quality of life and the economic empowerment of women and young people and promoting rural development and better living conditions for rural populations,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Recognizing that sustainable consumption and production in tourism is aimed at increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by improving resource use and reducing ecosystem degradation and pollution along the entire tourism value chain, and that a systemic approach and cooperation among actors operating along the value chain, from tourism service providers, to adjacent communities, to tourists, can ensure the sustainability of the sector,

Recalling the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012,¹⁹ welcoming the launching of the sustainable tourism programme of the Framework, and encouraging further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Recalling also the commitment contained in the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being,

¹¹ Resolution [63/303](#), annex.

¹² Resolution [65/1](#).

¹³ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

¹⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/11.

¹⁵ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

¹⁶ Resolution [69/137](#), annex II.

¹⁷ See resolution [73/284](#).

¹⁸ See resolution [72/73](#).

¹⁹ [A/CONF.216/5](#), annex.

adopted at the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, on 2 and 3 December 2016, in which tourism is recognized as an enabling agent of change that can contribute directly to the conservation of sensitive areas and habitats through a variety of activities and by raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity,²⁰

Noting the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and sustainable development,

Welcoming the adoption of the first African Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism at the meeting of African ministers of tourism held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 November 2016 on the sidelines of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which outlines the way forward for the application of the principles of sustainability and accountability in the tourism sector in Africa,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Acknowledging that tourism is among the economic sectors hardest hit by COVID-19, stressing that the challenges require comprehensive solutions and international collaboration which contribute to strengthening policies and financial support needed to sustain the livelihoods dependent on the sector, reduce inequalities, eradicate poverty and safeguard the benefits of tourism, including coastal tourism, in order to promote a more sustainable tourism model based on social inclusion and the conservation and protection of the environment while prioritizing safety and public health and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 in sustainable development, taking note of the Secretary-General's policy brief entitled "COVID-19 and transforming tourism", the recommendations of the World Tourism Organization and the initiatives taken so far,²¹ calling for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery of the tourism sector from COVID-19 founded on building back better, and looking forward to the convening of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2021,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;²²

2. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, represents, in many countries, an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation for all, that it can have a positive impact on income generation and education, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and that it can

²⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24.

²¹ The global guidelines to restart tourism, the initiative "Supporting economies and jobs through travel and tourism", the COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Technical Assistance Package and the One Planet Vision for a Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector.

²² [A/75/267](#).

contribute directly to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to eradicate poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, in all countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Small Island developing States and middle-income countries;

5. *Also emphasizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can contribute to sustainable development, in particular to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, and can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and young people, and can create significant opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and/or the protection of natural areas by encouraging indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

7. *Notes* that the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, in his report, invites Member States, international agencies and other relevant organizations to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the tourism sector and in climate change plans and strategies, intertwining economic, social and cultural elements with climate change adaptation approaches and the preservation of relevant ecosystem services;

8. *Encourages* all stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable tourism, including women and young people, in all tourism operations, including ecotourism activities, in the light of their expertise and knowledge;

9. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines, institutions and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and supporting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and minimizing any potential negative impact;

10. *Invites* Member States to enhance institutional coherence policy that supports funding mechanisms and initiatives for poverty eradication projects, including initiatives from community-based organizations and small private sector entities;

11. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to encourage and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in sustainable tourism, including the ecotourism sector, and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

12. *Encourages* Member States to use sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to foster sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and financial inclusion and enable the formalization of the informal sector, the promotion of domestic resource mobilization and environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources and the promotion of investment and

entrepreneurship in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in accordance with their national development policies and legislation, which may include promoting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to financing through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, women and young people, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities and local communities in all areas, including rural areas;

13. *Encourages* the development of tourism infrastructure and the promotion of tourism diversification, including through public-private partnerships, as a way to foster job creation for local communities, the preservation of their way of life, culture and heritage and the promotion of the three dimensions of sustainable development, while simultaneously inviting Member States to take measures to protect the environment and the sociocultural heritage of a destination;

14. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to support the coordination of regional and/or international sustainable tourism development frameworks, as appropriate, in order to assist countries in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection;

15. *Underlines* the importance of ensuring responsible resource management, addressing the negative impacts of unbalanced tourism, respecting environmental and sociocultural capacities and conducting an environmental impact assessment that does not present additional cost commitments, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism opportunities;

16. *Stresses* the need to ensure the integration of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector, including through identifying and adopting tourism-planning approaches aimed at improving efficiency in the use of resources;

17. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to make use of the “Tourism for SDGs platform” launched during the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development as a partnership tool aimed at advancing the sustainable development of tourism and its contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Also encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to join the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in order to foster the integration of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector;

19. *Underlines* the need to foster resilient tourism development to deal with shocks, taking into account the vulnerability of the tourism sector to emergencies, and invites Member States to develop national strategies for rehabilitation aftershocks, including through private-public cooperation and the diversification of activities and products;

20. *Stresses* that the cultures, traditions and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted, as appropriate, in policy development for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and underlines the importance of promoting their participation in decisions that affect them and the need to ensure their free, prior and informed consent in the integration of their knowledge, heritage and values into sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

21. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to ensure the full empowerment of women,

including the equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

22. *Also emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help to ensure the equal participation of young people and women, persons with disabilities and older persons at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas and to promote the effective economic empowerment, including through international cooperation, of women, young people, persons with disabilities and older persons in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, mainly through decent job and income creation;

23. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular when it comes to eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

24. *Invites* Member States and relevant stakeholders to welcome the many opportunities that the new digital transformation of the tourism sector offers, and calls upon them, therefore, to foster smart solutions that integrate knowledge from traditional and non-traditional data sources, supporting related capacity-building activities and ensuring the long-term participation of local communities and the overall strengthening of a more holistic, evidence-driven approach to sustainable development in tourism;

25. *Calls upon* the entities of United Nations system to provide support to tourism stakeholders at all levels in their efforts to acquire and utilize the expertise needed for the digital transformation of their businesses and destinations and to support efforts to enhance the available data with georeferenced, spatial components for the generation of more precise and timely information for tourism;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of investment in education and training, focusing on issues specific to tourism, in order to enhance competitiveness, and encourages regional and international institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

27. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations, to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, and to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, including those for environmental protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

28. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request and as appropriate, in identifying needs as well as opportunities to improve the contribution of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to poverty eradication, including through securing wider community benefits from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, as a viable and sustainable economic development option;

29. *Encourages* the public and private sectors, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, the development of specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations, within existing mandates and resources, the public and private sectors and other relevant stakeholders to develop awareness-raising materials that target local development, the empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, local communities, youth entrepreneurship and innovation, and the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions in order to ensure the sustainability of the tourism sector and its contribution to a country's development objectives;

31. *Invites* relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request and as appropriate, technical assistance to assist in building the capacity, including for marketing and product positioning, of local communities, cooperatives and micro, small and medium-sized businesses involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

32. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have the potential to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

33. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the framework of the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories of the World Tourism Organization as a way to promote socioeconomic and environmentally sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and to support better informed sustainable tourism policies around the world, mainly through the identification and dissemination of best practices and enhanced awareness of and capacity-building for sustainability among tourism stakeholders;

34. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and the tourism sector to improve efforts to regularly measure, as appropriate, the role of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in order to allow more evidence-based decision-making, replicability and scalability at the local and national levels, especially in the context of other economic activities, and with the use of innovative technologies to address sociocultural and environmental impacts, and stresses the need for capacity-building for developing countries in this regard;

35. *Encourages* improved marketing and communication on sustainable practices for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in order to enhance decision-making by consumers regarding their needs, in line with the objective of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, and to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;

36. *Calls for* support and engagement from Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, notably the World Trade Organization, financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and all relevant stakeholders to ensure inclusive processes when devising recovery plans and policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to promote sustainable tourism as an enabler of sustainable development for local communities and to cater to the needs of populations and businesses, notably to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, for which tourism represents the main source of income, so as to diversify their skills, customer base and revenue streams, including through sufficient investments in skills development and training programmes, access to science and technology, promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, to strengthen approaches that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, all of which have the potential to drive innovation in tourism towards sustainability and, besides mitigating its climate and environmental impacts, can result in sustainable management of scarce natural resources and fragile ecosystems, and calls upon all stakeholders to take into account that the resilience of

tourism will depend on the sector's ability to balance the needs of people and the planet for prosperity;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, taking into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field, unless otherwise agreed.
