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Agenda item 20

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diamane **Diome** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism” and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 5 October 2020, the Second Committee, taking into account the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, limitations on meetings held on United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as available technological and procedural solutions, and bearing in mind the conference room paper of the Bureau of the Second Committee on the work of the Committee during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly,¹ approved the working arrangements of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session as set out in the organization of work of the Committee.²

3. The Committee convened a virtual informal meeting on 13 October 2020 to hear an introductory statement and hold a general discussion on the item jointly with agenda item 24, “Eradication of poverty and other development issues” and its sub-items (a) to (c). The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting, as well as written statements submitted under the item, are reflected in the annex to the present document. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 5, 6, 8 and 9 October 2020.³ Action on the item was taken at the 5th meeting, on 18 November 2020.⁴

¹ Available at www.un.org/en/ga/second/75/bureau-paper.pdf.

² See [A/C.2/75/L.1](#).

³ See [A/C.2/75/SR.1](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.2](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.3](#) and [A/C.2/75/SR.4](#).

⁴ See [A/C.2/75/SR.5](#).



4. For its consideration of the item, the Second Committee had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism ([A/75/254](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.20/Rev.1](#)

5. At its 5th meeting, on 18 November 2020, the Committee had before it the revised draft resolution entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism” ([A/C.2/75/L.20/Rev.1](#)) as submitted by Guatemala and Morocco, also on behalf of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, the Niger, the Philippines, Senegal, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that, since the submission of the revised draft resolution, the following had joined as co-sponsors: Armenia, Bahrain, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Palau, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Subsequently, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan also joined as co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution.⁴

8. Also at the 5th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/75/L.20/Rev.1](#) (see para. 10).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala (also on behalf of Morocco) and the United States of America.⁴

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [56/212](#) of 21 December 2001, [60/190](#) of 22 December 2005, [65/148](#) of 20 December 2010 and [70/200](#) of 22 December 2015,

Recalling also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development¹ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),² the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,³ as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution [65/280](#) of 17 June 2011, the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution [69/15](#) of 14 November 2014, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution [69/137](#) of 12 December 2014,

Recalling further the Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 10 October 1980,⁴ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁵ Agenda 21 of 14 June 1992⁶ and the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism of 11 November 2000,⁷

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 this 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

¹ *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 1, annex.

² *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

³ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. II.

⁴ A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

⁵ *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.

⁶ *Ibid.*, resolution I, annex II.

⁷ [A/55/640](#), annex.

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,

Recognizing, inter alia, that well-designed and well-managed tourism can make a significant contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, has close linkages to other sectors and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities,

Recognizing also the important dimension and role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument towards the eradication of poverty, the protection of the environment and the improvement of the quality of life for all people, its potential to make a contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, especially of developing countries, and its emergence as a vital force for the promotion of international understanding, peace and prosperity,

Welcoming the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012⁸ and the launching of the sustainable tourism programme of the Framework, and encouraging further implementation through capacity-building projects and initiatives to support sustainable tourism,

Noting the importance of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,⁹ which outlines principles to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the various stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on the environment and on cultural heritage while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable development, poverty alleviation and gender equality, as well as understanding among nations,

Taking note of resolution 668 (XXI) adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its twenty-first session, held in Medellin, Colombia, from 12 to 17 September 2015, resolution 707 (XXII) adopted at its twenty-second session, held in Chengdu, China, from 11 to 16 September 2017, and resolutions 722 (XXIII) and 723 (XXIII) adopted at its twenty-third session, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 9 to 13 September 2019,

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,

Noting with concern the grave impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector, especially on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular in countries dependent on tourism, owing to closures and travel restrictions, recognizing that, while safety and public health in the wake of the pandemic should be prioritized, recovery of the tourism sector is urgently needed and that the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism should continue to serve as a reference, in times of crisis and recovery, for all the parties involved in the tourism value cycle to achieve

⁸ A/CONF.216/5, annex.

⁹ See E/2001/61, annex.

sustainable tourism development, 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, and to the discussions under the agenda item on ethics in that context,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰
2. *Also takes note* of the adoption, by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization at its twenty-third session, in September 2019, by its resolution 722 (XXIII), of the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, along with its Optional Protocol, and expresses its appreciation to the World Tourism Organization and its World Committee on Tourism Ethics for the work undertaken in the promotion and implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and the efforts deployed in streamlining the process of the development of the Framework Convention;
3. *Further takes note* of the United Nations policy brief entitled “COVID-19 and transforming tourism”, launched by the Secretary-General on 28 August 2020, recognizes the importance of ethical principles as laid down in the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism when applying the measures necessary for supporting a post-COVID-19 tourism recovery, and encourages tourism enterprises and trade associations around the globe to sign the Private Sector Commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;
4. *Encourages* the World Tourism Organization, through its World Committee on Tourism Ethics, to continue to promote and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and to monitor the implementation of the ethical principles related to tourism by both the public and private sectors;
5. *Welcomes* the growing interest among Member States, especially among the States and territories members of the World Tourism Organization, and their increasing institutional and legal commitment towards the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, reiterates its invitation to those Member States and other tourism stakeholders, in particular in the private sector, that have not yet done so to introduce, as appropriate, the principles of the Global Code into their relevant laws, regulations, professional practices and codes of conduct, and in this regard expresses appreciation to those Member States and industry practitioners that have already done so;
6. *Recognizes* the need to promote the development of sustainable tourism, including non-consumptive tourism and ecotourism, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, the World Ecotourism Summit, 2002, the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism¹¹ and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, so as to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultures and the environmental integrity of those communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and of the natural heritage, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and capacity-building in order to contribute to the strengthening of rural and local communities, taking into account the need to address, inter alia, the challenges of climate change, halting the loss of biodiversity, safeguarding cultural artefacts and promoting respect for living culture, heritage and traditions;
7. *Invites* the States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders to support the activities undertaken by, inter alia, the World Tourism Organization for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, including in the context of capacity-building to promote the achievement of the

¹⁰ [A/75/254](#).

¹¹ [A/57/343](#), annex.

Sustainable Development Goals, that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, including by empowering women and youth and extending the benefits of tourism to all sectors of society, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population, while minimizing its negative impact;

8. *Recalls* the related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹² that, inter alia, aim to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products as well as develop tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its eightieth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution within his report related to sustainable tourism, in consultation with the World Tourism Organization, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session the item entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism”, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

¹² Resolution [70/1](#).

Annex

General discussion

1. In accordance with its agreed organization of work ([A/C.2/75/L.1](#)), the Second Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 20 jointly with item 24, “Eradication of poverty and other development issues” and its sub-items (a) to (c), in an informal virtual meeting on 13 October 2020, during which it heard the recorded introductory statement by the Chair of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, Pascal Lamy.¹
2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Cambodia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Honduras, India, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Mozambique, the Russian Federation, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.
3. Statements delivered under the item, including written statements submitted under the item, that were provided to the Secretariat are available in the Second Committee Place of e-deleGATE and the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations* online.¹

¹ See <https://delegate.un.int/dgacm/delegate.nsf/xpPlaceC2.xsp> and <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/8a3bd3f9-2efe-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-13/statements>.