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Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which encourages regional cooperation to advance the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions [72/214](#) of 20 December 2017 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America and [73/245](#) of 20 December 2018 on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection, and other related resolutions,

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 10 October 1980,¹ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21,² the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism of 11 November 2000³ and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁴

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

¹ A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

² *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, annexes I and II.

³ [A/55/640](#), annex.

⁴ *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, and resolution 2, annex.



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,

Recognizing the important dimension and role of sustainable tourism as a positive instrument for the improvement of the quality of life for all people and its contribution to sustainable development, especially in developing countries, and to the eradication of poverty and the protection of the environment,

Recognizing also that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all and increasing incomes for the population, and noting in particular that tourism accounts for more than 10 per cent of global gross domestic product, the industry represents more than 6 per cent of service exports and more than 4 per cent of investments are directed at tourism development,

Welcoming the efforts of the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the achievements of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development and the objectives of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, launched in 2011 as a permanent successor to the International Task Force,

Welcoming also the ongoing efforts of the Central Asian countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level,

Recognizing the importance of various international events held in Central Asia and other forums in further promoting the tourism industry in the region,

Noting that the countries of Central Asia are moving towards the integration of capital in the tourism sector, which is being implemented at different rates,

Emphasizing that the passage of the Great Silk Road through Central Asia and the efforts of the Central Asian countries to promote tourism on world markets are awakening the interest of foreign tourists for the region,

1. *Notes* the significant practical contribution of the Central Asian States to strengthening regional stability and sustainable development, as well as their efforts in this regard;

2. *Expresses its support* for the ongoing regional efforts and initiatives aimed at strengthening economic cooperation in Central Asia;

3. *Invites* Member States, other stakeholders and the World Tourism Organization to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central Asian countries for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region, and to this end:

(a) To continue to support the Central Asian countries in their efforts to develop responsible and sustainable tourism in the region, in particular in the context of capacity-building to achieve the internationally agreed development goals,

including the Sustainable Development Goals,⁵ by providing access to tourism-related benefits to all sectors of society, in particular the most vulnerable groups;

(b) To provide assistance in expanding cooperation in the area of tourism with the countries of Central Asia based on the strengthening of international treaties;

(c) To formulate, on the basis of collaboration, the main directions of a unified comprehensive policy for the sustainable development of tourism in the Central Asian region, taking into account the specifics and the level of economic development of each country of the region;

(d) To support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building efforts that protect the environment, respect natural, historical and cultural heritage and increase tourist flow, and to promote the development of sustainable tourism and strategies that attract foreign tourists to Central Asia;

(e) To join efforts to study methods for assessing the sensitivity of tourist flows to economic crises and terrorist threats, introducing the practice of creating and implementing software developments to radically improve modern areas of the tourism industry;

(f) To unite the efforts of the Central Asian countries on the widespread introduction of active types of tourism, such as mountaineering, mountain skiing, sport fishing and car and bicycle travel;

(g) To inform Member States on the sustainable development of pilgrimage tourism in Central Asia and its potential, and, using the United Nations as a platform, to officially invite the relevant Member States to visit the holy places of Central Asia and take part in religious events;

4. *Notes* the progress made by the Central Asian countries in the implementation of existing programmes aimed at creating and promoting sustainable tourism throughout the region, and in this regard welcomes their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to support the major events in the sustainable tourism areas of Central Asia, which may serve to further the development of sustainable tourism in the region;

6. *Encourages* the Central Asian countries to support sustainable tourism through policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect their natural and cultural heritage, including their ecosystems and biodiversity, and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments;

7. *Also encourages* the Central Asian countries to share their experiences on sustainable tourism aimed at contributing to poverty alleviation for the benefit of all countries.

⁵ See resolution [70/1](#).