



2017  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
FOR DEVELOPMENT



Summary Statement  
from the  
**World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO)  
Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account<sup>1</sup>**

The UNWTO Committee welcomes the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) and the outcomes of the Forty-eighth session of the UN Statistical Commission which stress that the indicator framework is work in progress.

As mentioned during Austria's intervention at the Forty-eighth session of UN Statistical Commission under item 3a of the Agenda and in its capacity of Chair of the UNWTO Committee, further consideration and refinement are necessary in relation to indicators 8.9.2 *Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs* and 12.b.1 *Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools*.

Concerns of the Committee relate mainly to the lack of existing definitions of "sustainable industries" (8.9.2) and "sustainable tourism strategies/policies/action plans" (12.b). Both indicators are, due to no established methodology and standards, Tier III indicators.

The UNWTO Committee has discussed the matter of the tourism related SDG indicators at length since 2015<sup>2</sup>. The Committee had proposed to the IAEG-SDG for Target 8.9 three indicators to cover the three dimensions of sustainable tourism: economic (8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP), social (8.9.2 Jobs in the tourism industries) and environmental (8.9.3 Energy use by the tourism industries). This acknowledges the outcome of discussions within the Committee to date that it will be very difficult, certainly impossible in the short term, to capture in one indicator the three dimensions of sustainable tourism.

The Committee therefore does not consider it appropriate to propose any "refinements" to 8.9.2 at this point, unless the IAEG-SDG can accept returning to the initial indicator of "jobs in the tourism industries" and complementing this with "8.9.3 energy use by the tourism industries", in addition to the existing "8.9.1 Tourism Direct GDP".

The Committee therefore proposes to deal with revisions to the indicators in the framework of the 2020 "comprehensive review" in order to ensure that monitoring of the progress towards the SDGs related to tourism can proceed as meaningfully and as practically as possible for Member States and for UNWTO as custodian agency. Work on the further development of tourism indicators for the SDGs is taking place as part of the ongoing work towards a Statistical Framework for Measuring Sustainable Tourism which was supported by the UN Statistical Commission in its Forty-eighth session and which is being led by the Working Group of Experts on Measuring Sustainable Tourism<sup>3</sup>.

The UNWTO Committee thanks the IAEG-SDG and looks forward to working together. In this sense, the members of the IAEG-SDG are warmly invited to participate in the [International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Measuring Sustainable Tourism](#) to be held on 21-24 June in Manila, The Philippines, where one of the sessions will be dedicated to Tourism Indicators for Monitoring the SDGs. ▀

---

<sup>1</sup> UNWTO is the UN Specialized Agency for tourism. The Terms of Reference of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and TSA are available at <http://statistics.unwto.org/content/committee-statistics-and-tourism-satellite-account>. The members of the Committee elected by UNWTO's Regional Commissions are: Austria, Brazil, Chile, France, Georgia, India, Mozambique, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Spain. Argentina, Canada, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Macao-China, Morocco, Oman, Sweden are also represented, as well as international and supranational organizations, representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector and subnational administrations.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/docpdf/unwtosdgindicators02032016.pdf> (2 March 2016) and [http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/iaeg-sdg\\_tour\\_indicators.pdf](http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/iaeg-sdg_tour_indicators.pdf) (January 2017).

<sup>3</sup> See: [http://statistics.unwto.org/wg\\_meeting](http://statistics.unwto.org/wg_meeting)