



Joint Tourism Special Event at the 4th United Nations Conference
on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV)

**“PROMOTING TOURISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
& POVERTY REDUCTION”**

Tuesday, 10 May 2011
| Room Camlica, Istanbul Convention Centre |
Istanbul – Turkey

TECHNICAL NOTE

I. Background

The Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (UN-LDC IV) will be held from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul to consequently form the foundation for UN's involvement in technical assistance and development related issues for LDCs over the next decade.

The main goal of the Conference will be to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the decade 2001-2010 and stress the urgent need to adopt a new, well-focused programme of action with concrete and measurable goals, targets and commitments.

The objective of the UN system-wide preparations is to organize the Conference in such a way that it will attain practical and operational outcomes that will effectively contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and targets pertaining to the LDCs, including those of the Millennium Declaration.

Tourism and the LDCs

Tourism has been identified as a priority development sector in the majority of LDCs. Due to its capacity for creation of employment, poverty reduction, human development and environmental sustainability, tourism can benefit these countries in a number of ways offering an opportunity for all-inclusive growth. Worldwide, tourism revenues represent a significant share of national incomes, encompassing a 6% to 7% of the world's employment, and US\$ 1.1 trillion a year in export earnings. Development opportunities through tourism are on the rise in LDCs and represent an important factor for the overall national growth. In spite of its proven contribution to global economic growth and development, the sector still lacks political and economic recognition and support.

United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development



United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD)

In response to the Recommendations resulting from the LDC IV High-Level Preparatory Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Tourism¹, coordinated by UNCTAD (Caen, France), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) with five other UN entities – International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre (ITC), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Trade Organization (WTO) – has created the UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD). SCTD aims at advancing the role of tourism for development by providing integrated technical assistance to LDCs through existing and forthcoming financial mechanisms, building on the strengths and experiences of each agency. Aware of the importance of tourism in LDCs, the agencies of the UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD) will provide integrated support to LDCs in the area of tourism for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

With the objective of engaging in an efficient manner towards a new decade of international support for sustainable tourism development for LDCs (2011-2020), the SCTD is organizing a Tourism Special Event at LDC-IV Conference to share strategic insights on major challenges and devise the way forward for tourism in LDCs.

II. Objectives of the Joint Tourism Special Event

The event will set the scene for a new framework for development through tourism to support Least Developed Countries, providing the opportunity to LDCs, UN agencies and key players of donor countries and other institutions to initiate an open dialogue for a more effective assistance. A concrete deliverable will be presented in the format of a consolidated technical Portfolio of Services “Tourism for Development” aimed in particular at assisting LDCs, as well as other countries, to develop a tourism sector committed to national growth and local benefits that generates income and decent employment for communities while preserving the environment and culture of the destination. The Tourism Special Event will be structured in the form of short forwarding-thinking presentations by the UN agencies followed by an interactive roundtable discussion to address tourism’s potential for development in LDCs and the range of technical assistance services, incorporated in the Portfolio, that follow these main themes:

- (i) Building good governance and sustainability in tourism development;
- (ii) Promoting domestic and foreign investment for sustainable tourism development;
- (iii) Fostering poverty reduction through linkages between the tourism sector and local suppliers of goods and services; and
- (iv) Supporting human resource development through improved education, training and decent work, including related capacity building, in the tourism sector.

Existing financial mechanisms for LDCs, like the EIF (Enhanced Integrated Framework), will be presented within the Portfolio. EIF is an Aid-for-Trade partnership in action for the LDCs. It is a multi-donor programme, which supports LDCs to be more active players in the global trading system by helping them tackle obstacles to trade development, for example, vis-à-vis tourism.

III. When & Where?

Date/Time: 10 of May 2011, 13:00 – 15:00h

Location: Istanbul Conference Centre | 4th UN LDC-IV Conference | Istanbul, Turkey

¹ Proposals stemming from the Caen meeting (UNCTAD: 12-14 October 2010, Caen, France):
http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/aldc20103_en.pdf