

OUTCOME

The discussion is expected to set a series of recommendations on policies and innovative measures that developed and developing countries alike need to implement to develop a competitive and sustainable tourism sector making it a major contributor to national and global strategies aimed towards an inclusive and sustainable growth.

It will also debate how UNWTO and the other UN organizations constituting the Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD) can assist developed and developing countries in this endeavor.

In Collaboration with United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development



How to get to Rio Centro?



Image source: Google

VENUE T-4 (RIOCENTRO, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL)

CONTACTS

For more information about this Side Event, please contact:

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION at icr@unwto.org

Register Here

<http://icr.unwto.org/en/webform/registrationsinscricao>



AGENDA

Tourism for a sustainable future

Wednesday, 20 June 2012, 11:00 – 12:30 h – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Organizers:



Background

Twenty years after the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the international community is gathering again in Rio to renew its political commitment to sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges. Two themes will be at the heart of discussions: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Tourism has been identified within the UN Green Economy Initiative as one of the ten sectors which can lead in the transformation to this new social, economic and environmental model. Joint UNEP and UNWTO research shows that investing in environmentally-friendly tourism can drive economic growth, lead to poverty reduction and job creation, while improving resource efficiency and minimizing environmental degradation.

Over the past two decades international tourist arrivals have more than doubled, from 433 million in 1991 to 980 million in 2011. By the end of 2012, one seventh of the world's population will have crossed international borders as tourists while by 2030 this number is forecast to go up to 1.8 billion.

These are welcome news given the economic growth and development opportunities generated by the tourism sector. Tourism represents today directly 5% of the GDP and over 1.1 trillion USD in exports around the globe. More importantly, tourism employs 1 in 12 people worldwide and creates opportunities for decent jobs, particularly for women and youth.

Tourism has become over the past decade a key instrument for eradicating poverty, responding to climate change, building environmental sustainability and contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Representing around 45% of the exports of services for least developed countries, tourism benefits not only developed countries and long established tourism destinations, but also least developed and developing countries, providing them often one of the most competitive paths to access the global economy. It has thus been identified by most LDCs and SIDS as a powerful engine for poverty reduction and development.

Tourism – a cross-sectorial activity with linkages to the three pillars of sustainability – can thus make a significant contribution to the debate and objectives of the Rio +20 Conference.

Objectives

This event, organised by UNWTO and the Ministry of Tourism of Brazil in cooperation with the UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD), will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the main challenges tourism faces and the direction it should be heading in order to grow sustainably and contribute effectively to the global development imperatives. The discussions will look at how tourism, clearly inter-linked to the seven issues to be reviewed at the Rio+20 Conference – jobs, energy, cities, food, water, oceans and disasters – can be an instrument to drive positive change, both for developing and developed countries.

In this framework, participants will debate the importance of including tourism in the global development agenda for the next programming decade and beyond given its strong potential to contribute positively to the transformation towards a greener global economy.

11:00 – 11:10

WELCOME REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Gastão Dias Vieira, Minister, Ministry of Tourism of Brazil

11:10 – 11:15

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

11:15 – 12:00

DEBATE SESSION WITH PANELISTS

Moderator: Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General, UNWTO

H.E. Mr. Allan Flores, Minister of Tourism of Costa Rica

H.E. Mr. Jean Max Rakotomamonjy, Minister of Tourism of Madagascar

Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Ms. Dho Young-Shim, Member of the UN MDG Advocacy Group of eminent personalities, Chair of the ST-EP Foundation

Mr. Francesco Frangialli, President of the ST-EP Foundation; former UNWTO Secretary-General

Mr. Jorge Mezher, Subsecretary, Secretariat of Tourism of Mexico

Dr. Shahrazad Roohi, Environmental Advisor, the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Cultural Authority, United Arab Emirates

12:00 – 12:15

Interactive Q&A with the Audience

12:15 – 12:30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mr. Maurice Strong, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations; former Secretary General of the Earth Summit 1992

Presentation of the book **Green Growth and Travelism**

Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General, UNWTO

Mr. Geoffrey Lipman, Chair, Green Earth Travel