DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AT ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Manama, Bahrain, 28 April 2013

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## 1. Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
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   - (a) *International tourism in 2013 – The global and regional prospects*
   - (b) *Mainstreaming tourism in the global agenda*
   - (c) *Implementation of the general programme of work for the period 2012-2013*
   - (d) *New publications*
   - (e) *Update on the draft UNWTO convention on the protection of tourists and tourism service providers*
   - (f) *Progress report on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*
   - (g) *Report on the survey on the priority areas of the programme of work for 2014-2015*
4. Promoting tourism investments in the region: Project proposal
5. Round table discussion on visa facilitation in the region
6. Celebration of World Tourism Day 2013: *Tourism and water, protecting our common future*
7. Preparations for the 20th session of the General Assembly (Victoria Falls, Zambia/Zimbabwe, 24-29 August 2013)
8. Place and date of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Commission
2. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

CME/DEC/1(XXXVII)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(document CME/37/Prov.Ag.)

The Commission,

Adopts the agenda of its thirty-seventh meeting, as contained in page 2 of this compendium.

CME/DEC/2(XXXVII)

Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 2

The Commission,

Having heard the communication of its Chairman, as presented by Mr. Bahaa Mayah, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Iraq, on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, H. E. Dr. Liwaa Abdelsaheb Smaysim,

1. Shares his assessment of the current situation and challenges of tourism in the region, in the light of the political environment, as well as of the opportunity afforded by the present meeting to discuss ways and means of mitigating the impact of the above-mentioned environment on Tourism in the region;

2. Welcomes the priority given in the agenda of the meeting to discussing opportunities and challenges of visa facilitation, particularly for intraregional travel, as well as the promotion of tourism investments in the region, and

3. Thanks him warmly for his communication.
CME/DEC/3(XXXVII)

Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda item 3
(documents CME/37/3(a), CME/37/3(b), CME/37/3(c), CME/37/3(d), CME/37/3(e), CME/37/3(f) and CME/37/3(g))

The Commission,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on:

(a) International tourism in 2013 – The global and regional prospects
(b) Mainstreaming tourism in the global agenda
(c) Implementation of the general programme of work for the period 2012-2013
(d) New publications
(e) Update on the draft UNWTO convention on the protection of tourists and tourism service providers
(f) Implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism
(g) Results of the survey on the priority areas of the programme of work for 2014-2015

Having heard the oral presentations made by the Secretary-General and his collaborators of the different sections of this report,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for his complete overview of recent developments and future prospects of world tourism and Takes note of the main challenges currently facing the development of international tourism, globally and in the Middle East;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the progress made in mainstreaming tourism in the international and national agendas and Invites its Members who have not yet done so, to make full use of the Global Leaders for Tourism initiative;

3. Notes with satisfaction that travel facilitation, taxation and connectivity have been identified as key policy issues for the year 2013 and Invites its Members to take part in the various activities organized by UNWTO on these issues, particularly those included in the Regional Programme for the Middle East;

4. Commends the Secretary-General for the considerable amount of work accomplished in implementation of the Organization’s programme of work;

5. Expresses its appreciation of the significant number and variety of new publications released and Encourages its Members to make full use of the E-Library;

6. Takes note with interest of the results achieved by the UNWTO Working Group on the Protection of Tourists/Consumers and Travel Organizers; Expresses its appreciation of this important initiative and Invites its Members to forward their observations and comments on the draft Convention to the Secretariat, as soon as possible;

7. Takes note of the activities carried out by the Secretariat towards the dissemination, communication and implementation of the Global Code of Ethics, Welcomes the growing number of entities adhering to the Code’s commitments, Notes with interest the measures taken to reform the activities and composition of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics and Invites
its Members that are interested in joining the said Committee to submit their applications to the secretariat, as soon as possible;

8. Notes with interest the results of the survey on priority areas of the programme of work for 2014-2015; Concurs with the areas of interest identified in the survey for the Middle East region and Entrusts its representatives on the Programme Committee and the Executive Council with ensuring that these priority areas are adequately reflected in the Organization’s General Programme of Work for the forthcoming biennium.

CME/DEC/4(XXXVII)

Promoting tourism investments in the region: Project proposal

Agenda item 4
(document CME/37/4(a))

The Commission,

Having considered the preliminary proposal prepared by the Secretariat for the promotion of Tourism investments in the Middle East – North Africa region,

Having heard the presentation of this proposal made orally by the Regional Director for the Middle East,

1. Approves the objectives, scope and timeframe proposed by the Secretariat for the implementation of this project;

2. Invites its Members to nominate, as soon as possible, National Focal Points to ensure the necessary liaison with the project’s management, and

3. Decides to hold, in November 2013, a preparatory capacity building workshop that would focus on improving the preparation and presentation of Tourism investment portfolios, providing guidance on approaches to and relations management with potential investors, establishing a mechanism to monitor and assess Tourism investment promotion activities, as well as on developing a comprehensive work plan and resource allocation strategy for the project.

CME/DEC/5(XXXVII)

Round table discussion on visa facilitation in the region

Agenda item 5
(document CME/37/5)

The Commission,

Having discussed opportunities and challenges that visa facilitation can yield for economic growth and job creation through Tourism development in the region,
Having considered possible improvements in the delivery of information on entry formalities and visa requirements and procedures, in the facilitation of current visa application processes, in the differentiation of treatment according to type of visitors, in the institution of eVisa programmes, as well as in the establishment of regional agreements allowing the free movements of travellers within groups of countries,

1. Requests the Secretariat to disseminate existing policies and best practices in the abovementioned areas, and

2. Invites its Members to draw on UNWTO’s database on visa procedures and on the Organization’s advisory services and technical assistance in visa facilitation.

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CME/DEC/6(XXXVII)

Celebration of World Tourism Day 2013: Tourism and water - protecting our common future

Agenda item 6
(document CME/37/6)

The Commission,

Having considered the information provided by the Secretariat on the celebration of World Tourism Day 2013 on the theme Tourism and water - protecting our common future,

1. Takes note of the key messages designed to raise awareness of tourism’s role in water access and the sector’s contribution to a more sustainable water future, in the broader context of the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, and

2. Encourages its Members to participate actively in this important awareness raising activity.

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CME/DEC/7(XXXVII)

Preparations for the 20th session of the General Assembly
(Victoria Falls, Zambia/Zimbabwe, 24-29 August 2013)

Agenda item 7
(document CME/37/7)

The Commission,

Having considered the report on the preparations for the twentieth session of the General Assembly and having noted the additional information provided orally by the delegate of Zimbabwe

1. Thanks the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe for the arrangements made to jointly host this World Tourism Summit, and
2. **Invites** its Members to make appropriate arrangements for their participation in this important event.

CME/DEC/8(XXXVII)

**Place and date of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Commission**

**Agenda item 8**

The Commission,

Recalls that its thirty-eighth meeting will be held on Sunday 25 August 2013 (10.30 - 12 noon), at Victoria Falls, in Zambia.
3. LIST OF PARTICIPANT

Chairman / الرئيس
Mr. Bahaa MAYAH
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
IRAQ / العراق

I. UNWTO FULL MEMBERS - MIDDLE EAST COMMISSION/
الدول كاملة العضوية في منظمة السياحة العالمية - لجنة الشرق الأوسط

BAHRAIN / البحرين

H.E. Shaikha Main Bint Mohamed Al Khalifa
Minister of Culture

Shaikh Khalid bin Homood Al Khalifa
Acting Undersecretary
Ministry of Culture

Dr. Heba Aziz
Minister Advisor
Ministry of Culture

Mr. Hesham Al Saken
Director Marketing
Ministry of Culture

Mr. Rashad Faraj
Consultant
Ministry of Culture

EGYPT / جمهورية مصر العربية

HE. Mr. Hisham Zaazou
Minister of Tourism

Mr. Nagui Abdullah Aly Alshaer
Director of the Feasibility Studies
Department Tourism Development Authority (TDA)

Ambassador Nasser Hamdi
Chairman
Egyptian Tourist Authority (ETA)

Ms. Shireen Ali
Technical Member in the Cabinet of the Minister
Ministry of Tourism
Ms. Wessam Hamid  
Undersecretary for Public and International Relations  
Ministry of Tourism  

wessam.elkheir@gmail.com

IRAQ / العراق

Mr. Bahaa MAYAH  
Deputy Minister  
Senior Advisor to the Minister  
Ministry of tourism

bmayah@yahoo.com

Mr. Mahmoud Mousa  
General Manager of Group Tourist  
Ministry of tourism

mahmud.musa@yahoo.com

Mr. Ali Yaseen Abdulredha  
Director International Relations  
Ministry of tourism

tourism伊拉q@yahoo.com

Ms. Fatima Shiyा Nafij  
Official  
Ministry of tourism

tourism伊拉q@yahoo.com

Mr. Hakim Alshamari  
Media Director  
Ministry of tourism

tourism伊拉q@yahoo.com

Mr. Ikhlas Gassem Al Maliki  
3rd secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

jew76el@yahoo.com

JORDAN / الأردن

Mr. Ibrahim Osta  
Chief of Party  
USAID Jordan Tourism Development Project

iosta@siyaha.org

Ms. Maysa Shahateet  
Component Leader  
USAID Jordan Tourism Development Project

mshahateet@siyaha.org

Mr. Emad Hijazeen  
Deputy Chief Commissioner  
Petra Development Tourism Region Authority

mshahateet@siyaha.org

Ms. Sandra Hiari  
Head of Planning and Design Department  
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

sandra.h@mota.gov.jo

Mr. Sharhabeel Madi  
Commissioner for Tourism and investment  
The Aqaba Special Economic Zone

hkhayyat@siyaha.org
Mr. Jihad Haroun  
Archaeologist  
Department of Antiquities  

Mr. Ma’ned Al Zawaidah  
Tourism Manager  
Wadi Rum Protected Areas  

Ms. Sharifa Nofa Bint Nasser  
Managing Director  
Jordan National Museum  

KUWAIT / الكويت  

Ms. Samira Al Gharib  
Assistant Under-secretary for Tourism  
Tourism sector  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  

Mrs. Huda Al-Anizi  
Director of Research and Tourist Information  
Tourism sector  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  

LIBIA / ليبيا  

H.E. Mrs. Ikram Bash Iman  
Minister of Tourism  

Mr. Mohamed Ali Fakroon  
Head of International Cooperation Affairs  
Ministry of Tourism  

Mr. Abdul Atty AlSharif  
Minister’s Office  
Ministry of Tourism  

Mr. Nizar Shankeer  
Minister’s Office  
Ministry of Tourism  

QATAR / قطر  

H.E. Mr. Essa Mohammed Al Mohannadi  
Chairman  
Qatar Tourism Authority  

Mr. Mohammed Al Hafnawi  
Legal Consultant  
Qatar Tourism Authority
Mr. Hassan Al Ibrahim
Strategy Consultant
Qatar Tourism Authority
halibrahim@qatartourism.gov.qa

Dr. Abdullah Al-Jurifani
Media and Public Relations Consultant
Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities
jurifania@scta.gov.sa

Dr. Abdul-Aziz S. Al-Ghorayeb
Director of International Cooperation
Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities
ghorayeba@scta.gov.sa

II. UNWTO FULL MEMBERS (NORTH AFRICA) /
الدول كاملة العضوية في منظمة السياحة العالمية (شمال أفريقية)

TUNISIA / تونس

Mr. Hassen Ghenia
Minister’s Chief of Cabinet
Ministry of Tourism
hassen.ghenia@tourisme.gov.tn

Mrs. Mouna Mathlouthi Ghliass
Director of International Cooperation
Ministry of Tourism
mounaelmathlouthi@tourisme.gov

III. OBSERVER STATES / دول مراقبة

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES / الإمارات العربية المتحدة

Mr. Mohammed Youssef
Expert Tourism Affairs
The National Council of Tourism and Antiquities
Mohammad.Youssef@ncta.gov.ae

Mr. Abdulla Saleh Bin Saleh Al Hammadi
Director, Marketing and Overseas Promotion
The National Council of Tourism and Antiquities
abdulla.alhammadi@ncta.gov.ae

IV. OTHER UNWTO FULL MEMBERS /
الدول كاملة العضوية في منظمة السياحة العالمية

TURKEY / تركيا

Mr. Salih Ozer
Coordinator for Middle East
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
salih.ozar@kultur.gov.tr
V. AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Dar Aldiafa for Tourism Human Resources Development (Jordan)

Ms. Suzy Hatough- Bouran
Consultant

TUROB (Turkish Hotels Association)

Dr. Cuneyt Mengu
CEO and President Group
Consultant "Mercan Companies"

VI. CANDIDATE AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Fundación Instituto Euroárabe de Educación y Formación (INSTEA)

Mr. Joaquin Duran
Director General

VII. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNESCO

Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki
Special Advisor to the Director General of UNESCO
and Former Director General of the International Centre
for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

ARAB TOURISM ORGANIZATION (ATO)

Mr. Saied Al Mukhtar Walad Alkhadrami
Secretary-General

VIII. OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Edith Szivas
Managing Director
Sea Star Consultancy
IX. WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION / منظمة السياحة العالمية

Dr. Taleb RIFAI
Secretary-General

Mr. Marcio FAVILLA
Executive Director for Competitiveness
External Relations and Partnerships

Mr. Amr ABDEL-GHAFFAR
Regional Director for the Middle East

Mr. Luigi Cabrini
Director Advisor of the UNWTO Secretary-General on Sustainability

Ms. Marina DIOTALLEVI
Chief of Ethics and Social Dimension of Tourism Programme

Mrs. Hanane LOUZARI
Programme Assistant
Regional Programme for the Middle East

Ms. María Soledad GAIDO
Regional Programme for the Middle East