59th Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Africa, Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia, 19 April 2017

UNWTO Convention on the Protection of Tourists and the Rights and Obligations of Tourism Service Providers

Background

- **2010**: Icelandic volcano ash cloud caused **chaos**:

✓ Over 10 millions of passengers were stranded or unable to board flights not only in Europe but across the world

✓ Some hotels received fewer incoming tourists, others increased prices to take advantage of stranded tourists.

Objectives of the Working Group

WG Members: Representatives of States, International Organizations and Private Sector

Discuss

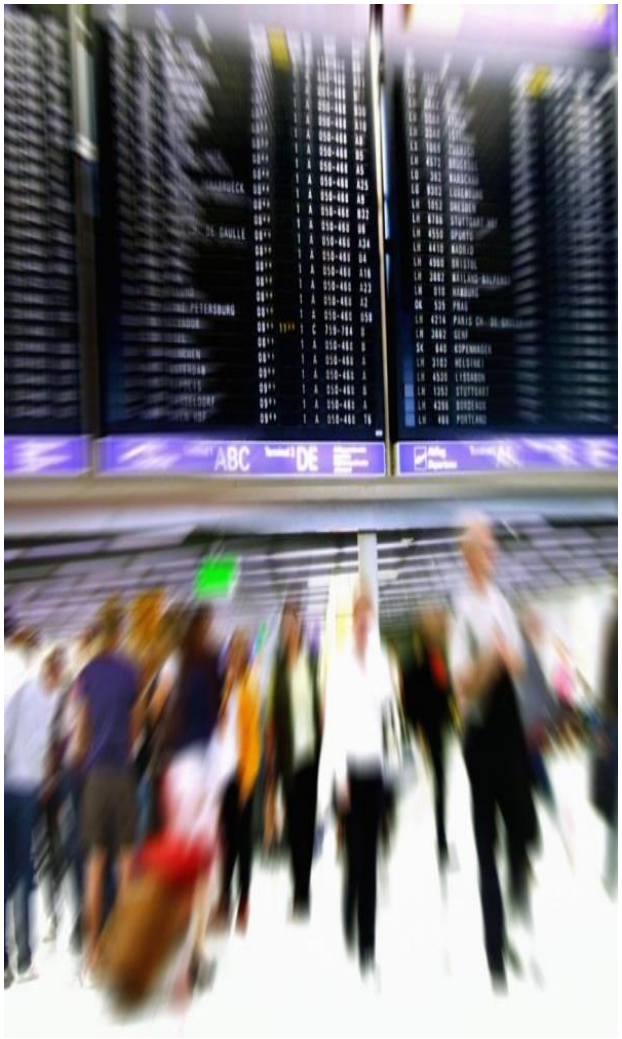
- "Content" and "Form" of the draft Convention

Submit

- Wording proposals
- Comments/concerns
- Suggestions

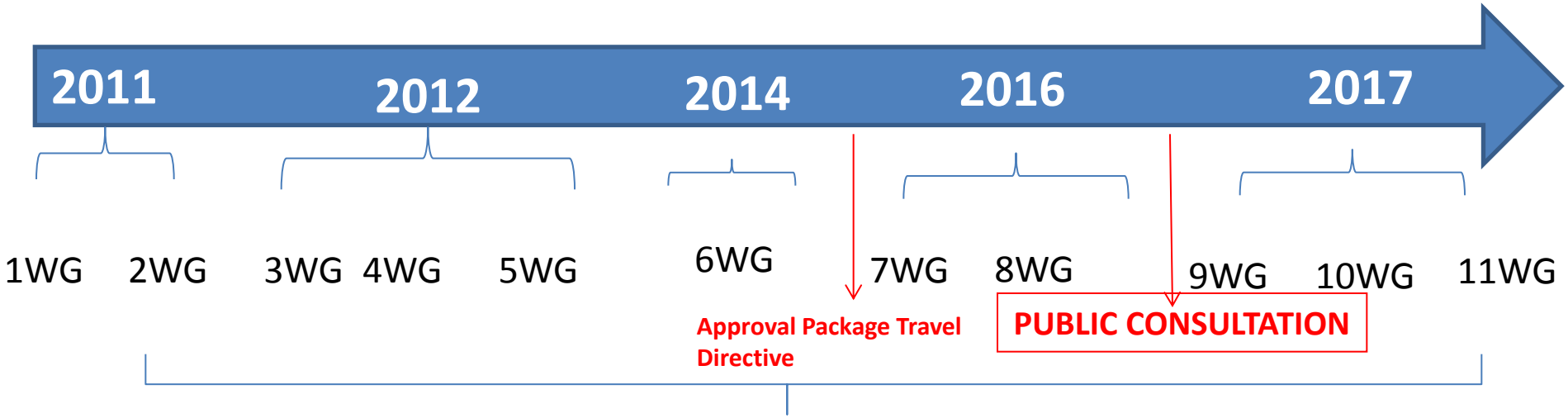
Adoption

- Make compromise
- Endeavour to reach an internal Agreement



Timeline of the meetings

- **6** **Years** of work in this project
- **11** **Working Group** Meetings
- **16** **States + 1 Associate** Member
- **3** **International Organizations** (EC,ICAO, IATA)
- **15** Representatives of the **Private Sector**



Public Consultation: Replies 32 States+ 1 Associate
Replies from Africa: Kenya, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

Content of the Convention

General Part of the Convention

- ✓ Preamble
- ✓ Legal articles

Annex I

Assistance obligation of States in Emergency Situations

- ❑ **Standards**: Binding Rules
- ❑ **Recommended Practices**

Annex II

Package Travel

- ❑ **Standards**: Binding Rules
- ❑ **Recommended Practices**

Annex III

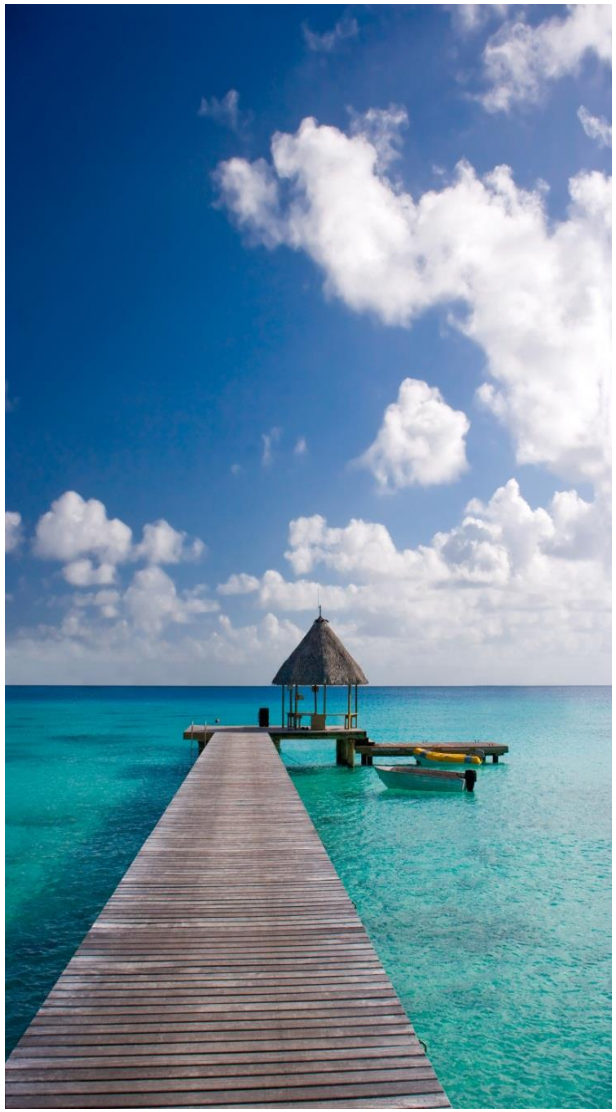
Accommodation

- ❑ **Standards**: Binding Rules
- ❑ **Recommended Practices**

Next Steps

- **Report to the EC:** May 2017

- **GA:** September 2017



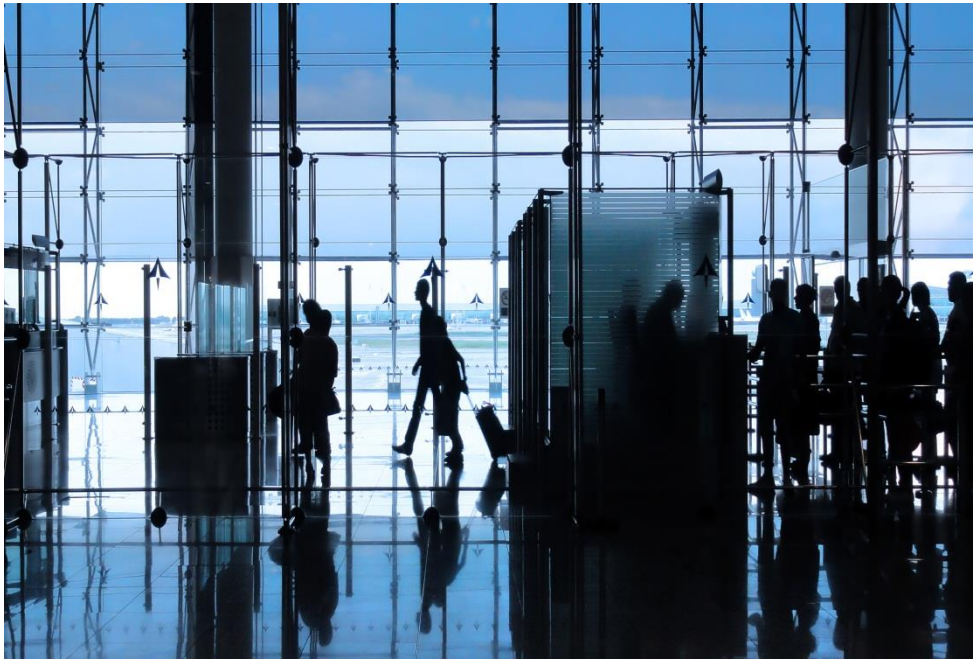
Main Challenges

- **Long-term project**

A treaty making process requires many years of discussions, negotiations and consultations with Governments.

- **Achieve global consensus**:

Diverging interests in the Convention:

- ✓ Regional interests
- ✓ National interests
- ✓ Private Sector's interests

Thank you!