



More resilient and sustainable tourism for the post-pandemic recovery

23 September 2021, 8:30-9.30 a.m. AST, 2.30-3.30 p.m. CEST

Background

The tourism sector is by far the most affected service industry by the COVID-19 pandemic in all developing regions. This sector is highly intensive in jobs for vulnerable groups such as the young and women and therefore needs specific mitigation and support measures. These include temporary financial support to tourism workers and business owners. Likewise, it is essential to accelerate the population's vaccination as a pillar for the reopening of international tourism and actively promote tourism with rigorous health and safety systems to attract international visitors. The tourism support measures should address the survival of the sector and improve its medium-term sustainability and resilience. Tourism is a critical sector that contributes directly or indirectly to several Sustainable Development Goals, such as 8 (decent work and economic growth), 13 (climate action), 14, and 15 (life below water and on land).

In this context, this event will address three main topics. First, it will discuss trends among different development regions regarding the partial recovery of the tourism industry from the COVID-19 pandemic. These regions share some of the origins of visitors from advanced economies but differ highly in the local impact of COVID-19. Second, it will compare measures, procedures and protocols that have been put into place to promote the recovery of tourism activity. The third and predominant part of the panel discusses best practices to increase the resilience and sustainability of tourism. This sector contributes approximately 5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, with transport accounting for almost three quarters, followed by accommodation (one-fifth). With the necessary measures to “green” this sector, its impact could be reduced considerably. Tourism can also contribute to the modernization of the agriculture sector, lengthening of value chains, and improving local populations' living and working conditions. The industry also needs to step up efforts to promote gender equality. The acceleration of the digital transformation of small and medium tourism businesses could increase the resilience of this sector.

Objective

This event is expected to increase the understanding of how the pandemic is playing out in recent tourism arrival trends across developing regions. Also, it contributes to getting to know the diversity of measures being taken to address the short-term crisis and medium-term social and environmental sustainability and resilience of this sector.



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CONCEPT NOTE

Logistics

Venue: The event will be held online. The link to join will be provided upon registration.

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More information and registration: The event requires prior registration [here](#)

Languages: English, Spanish and International Sign.

Programme

Opening

- Ms. Diane Quarless, Director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago
- Ms. Miho Shirotori, Officer in Charge, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Introductory remarks to the panel discussion

- Mr. Nejc Jus, Head of Research, World Travel & Tourism Council

Topics for panel discussion

- Has the global tourism industry been able to recover partly from the COVID-19 pandemic? What are the main trends across the developing regions?
- Which measures, procedures and protocols have been put into place to promote the tourism recovery?
- What can be considered best practices to increase the resilience and sustainability of tourism?

Moderated panel discussion

Moderator:

- Mr. Nanno Mulder, Chief, International Trade Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Panellists:

- Mr. Graham Harper, Sustainability & Social Responsibility Officer, Pacific Asia Travel Association
- Mr. Geoffrey Manyara, Economic Affairs Officer, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Mr. Alejandro Varela, Deputy Director, Americas Department, World Tourism Organization
- Ms. Michelle T. McLeod, COVID-19 Task Force, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica
- Ms. Leda Peralta, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters in Mexico, Mexico

Co-organizers

United Nations co-organizers



Other co-organizers



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