



Oceans Economy and Trade: Sustainable Fisheries, Transport and Tourism¹

World Tourism Organization

GVLO Contribution UNCTAD 12 May 2016

Madame Chair, Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), I would like to thank the organizers for inviting UNWTO to contribute to the rich exchanges related to Oceans Economy and the SDG14, co-organized by UNCTAD, the Commonwealth and the International Oceans Institute.

Looking at the importance of joining forces with relevant UN organizations and other stakeholders, UNWTO is opening a Liaison Office in Geneva, with the aim of fostering strategic partnerships for achieving the 2030 Global Agenda.

As the UN specialized agency for tourism, UNWTO promotes sustainable tourism policies and practices which make optimal use of environmental resources, respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities and provide socio-economic benefits to all.

Tourism was for the first time recognized as sector contributing to the development objectives in the Rio+20 Outcome Document *The Future we want*, as well as in the SAMOA pathway and in the SDG 8-12 and 14.

With more **than a Billion of International tourists crossing borders** - International Tourism is a key services sector **accounting in 2014 for 7% of world exports, coming 3rd in export earnings by trade category, after Fuels and Chemicals. Tourism represents as well 30% of world services exports, providing 1 out of every 11 jobs in the world.**

The Universal dimension of the SDGs and SDG14 in particular requires looking at oceans and seas surrounding developed, as well as developing countries, in particular SIDS.

For example, **in the last decade, the number of international tourists visiting SIDS destinations increased by over 12 million to reach more than 43 million in 2015.** Tourism accounts for over 40% of the value of all exports of goods and services in half the SIDS and more than 20% of GDP in two fifths of the SIDS where data is available.

But this positive economic results need to be balanced with the right policy framework, as underlined by so many speakers today. Preservation of the biodiversity and sustainable use of oceans and coastal areas are key to sustain and preserve the natural resources asset and attractiveness of destinations, to develop tourism today and in the future.

¹ <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1082>

How can the tourism sector effectively contribute to socio-economic development in the oceans economy?

- UNWTO and its Member states response in addressing some specific SDGs has led to the creation of a strategic programme for the next decade: the 10 YFP Programme on Sustainable Tourism², fostering sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the SDG12. The programme addresses policy making, private sector commitment to mitigate impacts, supports sustainable investment and includes outreach to consumers. It is a holistic approach involving all type of tourism stakeholders. The ST 10YFP is led by UNWTO, col-led by France, Korea and Morocco and a broad coalition of tourism stakeholders.
- On the other hand UNWTO is working towards building a resilient tourism sector, including accessibility, resource efficiency and energy, marine conservation and biodiversity, reducing leakages and increasing market diversification,

Further work could include

- **A better coordination with trade/ transport and fisheries**, as well as research institutions - as suggested many times today.
- **Work on trade policies to unlock tourism potential** (eg Visa policies, Tariff Measures such as imports of EE/RE technologies and resource efficient operations...)
- **Strengthen value chains and diversify supplies with high value added** goods and services produced locally and reduce leakages for more inclusive growth and development strategies. For many SIDS, tourism is the mainstay of the economies, main source of employment especially for the youth and women and generator of foreign exchange.

Looking at the discussions held these three days, it is obvious that UNWTO could greatly contribute to the further roadmap for SDG14 and oceans economy and we are committed to continue working with all of you.

Let me as well inform you that the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in Dec. 2015 has approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. ³The resolution recognizes “the importance of international tourism, and particularly of the designation of an international year of sustainable tourism for development, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world”.

We are looking forward for you to join UNWTO in the celebration of the IYST2017.

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² <http://sdt.unwto.org/sustainable-tourism-10yfp>

³ <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2015-12-07/united-nations-declares-2017-international-year-sustainable-tourism-develop>