

Documentation of the Work of the **United Nations
Environment Assembly (UNEA)** NMUN Simulation*



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United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Ensuring Sustainable Tourism
2. Promoting Regional Cooperation on Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
UNEA/1/1	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	Adopted by consensus
UNEA/1/2	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	50 in favor, 10 against, 7 abstentions
UNEA/1/3	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	46 in favor, 18 against, 3 abstentions
UNEA/1/4	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	41 in favor, 19 against, 7 abstentions
UNEA/1/5	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	53 in favor, 10 against, 4 abstentions
UNEA/1/6	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	53 in favor, 9 against, 5 abstentions
UNEA/1/7	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	44 in favor, 17 against, 6 abstentions
UNEA/1/8	Ensuring Sustainable Tourism	50 in favor, 12 against, 5 abstentions

Summary Report

The United Nations Environment Assembly held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Ensuring Sustainable Tourism
2. Promoting Regional Cooperation on Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally

The session was attended by representatives of 67 Member States.

On Friday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Ensuring Sustainable Tourism.” Nine working groups were formed to address various dimensions of the issue. By Saturday afternoon, the Dais had received a total of nine working papers. Two groups successfully merged, resulting in eight comprehensive working papers covering a wide range of subtopics, including low-emission and sustainable fuel development, data sharing, tourist education, production and consumption standards, protection of vulnerable environments, public-private partnerships, and the promotion of ethical tourism guidelines. The tone of the committee was mutually respectful, committed, diplomatic, and productive, with delegates demonstrating eagerness and collaboration throughout the sessions.

On Sunday, all eight working papers were accepted as draft resolutions. The committee proceeded into voting procedure, during which one draft resolution (DR 1/4) received one unfriendly amendment that did not pass. One resolution was adopted by consensus, while the remaining seven resolutions were adopted by a recorded vote. Following the closure of debate on Topic 1, the committee briefly began discussion on Topic 2, “Promoting Regional Cooperation on Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally.” However, due to time constraints, the committee was unable to form working groups for this topic.

Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1, adopted in 2015, established “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” emphasizing the SDG 11 in promoting sustainable cities and environment, human settlements that is inclusive, safe, and resilient,

Considering the Member States that have ecological certification standards and environmental initiatives, it is proposed to allocate funds contributed by those States that participate voluntarily to achieve their objectives,

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to the principles outlined in General Assembly resolution 70/193 (2017) on the “Promotion of Sustainable Tourism”, and recognizing the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in advancing global efforts toward responsible, sustainable and universally accessible in line with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Underscores General Assembly resolution 75/271 (2021), in seeing the importance of transboundary cooperation in conserving biodiversity, including the Global Biodiversity Framework, the need for officially protected ecosystems to ensure preservation of vulnerable sites of nature,

Stressing that Member States promote regional cooperation in sustainable tourism and community development, through the General Assembly resolution 78/145 (2023) taking effective measures, including eco-tourism,

Understands the need to reduce air pollution caused by tourism to protect the health people and planet through UNEA Resolution 6, with the Clean Air and Climate Coalition (CACC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) partnership with African Union Commission producing the African Clean Air Programme,

Stressing the promotion of sustainable tourism education through United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Online Academy, the Tsibilibi Declaration 2020, and Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in tourism, universally applicable to any institution, improving the quality of training, and research programmes,

Recognizing the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) work in 2024 towards implementing digital technologies into tourism,

Recalling the use of information technology in the European Region in 2019 towards implementing digital technologies that find gaps in tourism infrastructure based on the need of tourists,

Further recognizing the previous work by developing Member States and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) on improving hotel energy efficiency, reducing single-use plastics, and Georeferenced mapping platforms for small and medium-sized enterprises and online carbon-footprint calculators,

1. *Asks* for increased coordination between major companies and locally owned businesses; in order to maximize the benefits that locals directly receive from tourism ultimately allowing for positive economic growth on a national level through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
2. *Urges* Member States to utilize and adapt the Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan (SCP-NAP), an EU-funded SwitchMed programme that is overseen by the UNEP, and that guides Member States in implementing eco-certification standards in order to reach to goals outlined in SDG 12 (responsible production and consumption);

3. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate and push for the establishment and recognition of vulnerable ecosystems to protect flora and fauna from the effects of tourism, such as habitat destruction, resource depletion, pollution and wildlife disturbance;
4. *Request* to strengthen Member States' capacity to accommodate tourists effectively, enabling better coordination and sustainable tourism management; Through sector-specific panels led by local members that monitor tourist traffic in the areas with the highest economic performance and share this information with both the private and public sectors in order to plan in advance for sufficient response in terms of adaptability;
5. *Calls upon* all Member States, in partnership with the UNEP, the UNWTO, and regional development bodies, to establish a global framework for sustainable tourism transition by:
 - a. Integrating low-carbon, circular economy principles, and cultural stewardship education, in line with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNEA Resolution 5/4 on Sustainable Resilient Tourism;
 - b. Strengthening technology transfer and financial assistance to developing nations and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
6. *Suggests* Member States to implement education programs that focus on how to be respectful in religious sights for tourists, so that engagement with the local community and environment is done in a respectful and appreciative manner;
7. *Encourages* reducing air pollution caused by tourism by suggesting to policymakers to reduce the amount of planes permitted to fly into areas that can be traveled to using alternative methods of transportation that causes less carbon footprint by:
 - a. Recommending and encouraging travels to places through boat/ferry, if available, due to it causing less air pollution;
 - b. Inviting the use of public transportation instead of personal vehicles while travelling to and in the place that is being visited, such as using buses, therefore, achieving less carbon footprint;
8. *Recommends* using information technology to maximize efficiency within travel routes, specifically the use of public travel, wherein:
 - a. The state via each Tourist Agency will opt-in to create a country specific search engine which can create itineraries based on each tourist's agenda constructed on the countries data base;
 - b. Local guides are given access and partner them with the country's tourist agencies to provide a tour guide to people based on the itineraries that were created for them which will create more job opportunities for local communities;
9. *Encourages* developing technologies, such as complex algorithms and cognitive computing through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to collect data and see strengths in sustainability initiatives and gaps in specific communities in popular tourist locations assessing necessary resources;
10. *Observing* sustainable tourism is managed responsibly, so that Member States can foster valuable understanding of local interests and increases the likelihood of success through:

- a. Calling for nations to directly make sure practices of sustainable tourism are implemented so that Member States can grow education on how to ensure national success;
 - b. Requesting Member States to hold meetings every six months to ensure that sustainable tourism standards are being met in their nations, after a while of sustainable tourism going smoothly, meetings will be changed to yearly;
- 11. *Recommends* that Member States work towards increasing regional partnerships that promote community based tourism in order to:
 - a. Ensure local populations to benefit directly through an increase of job opportunities within the tourism sector while boosting the economies of the notions in which they work;
 - b. Ensuring local communities are able to preserve and protect their cultures, as well as share them with tourists;
- 12. *Encouraging* public-private partnership with the UNEP under the life cycle initiative in order to gain knowledge of goods and services to public and private stakeholders in support of sustainable tourism by:
 - a. Promoting collaborative sustainable alternatives such as banana leaves, turned into hotel styled “Stanleys” with refilling systems;
 - b. Further recommends launching an online carbon footprint calculator in partnership with the National Forestry Financing Fund (NFFF), allowing travellers to measure and offset their emissions by contributing to ecosystem restoration projects, which:
 - i. Welcomes tourists with a “Know Before You Go” initiative, a brief bilingual guided presentation similar to The Guna Yala’s “Dii Agued Igar” (“care of water”), that ensures tourists are knowledgeable about the Nation’s sustainability initiatives;
 - ii. Requests implementing attractive accommodations such as cultural and nature based excursions, which further helps Member States reduce carbon emissions.

Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Appreciates the Global Accelerator on Job and Social Protection for Just Transition established by the United Nations and the International Labor Organization in support of job creation in green and care economies,

Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), with certain focuses on local education on environmental practices, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) with a focus in job creation in sustainable tourism sectors, SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) with a focus in innovating new ideas to increase the tourism sector, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) with a focus on uplifting local communities, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by focusing on the collaboration between Member States,

Affirming resolution 78/161 adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023, which focuses on cultural, environmental, and economic preservation of individual nations and cultural communities being vital to sustainability,

Acknowledges the need for organizations such as the Hands on Tourist (HOT) guide training provided by the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations and other Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) accredited certification organizations in ensuring cultural, environmental, and economic preservation,

Recognizing the initiatives and dedication of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) such as providing high quality learning solutions and training events to Member States, local stakeholders, and community representatives,

Having devoted attention to national programs focused on job creation in tourism sectors and promoting population retention such as the Community Development Program in Guatemala,

Seeking to establish collaborative memberships alongside heavily overburdened regions to incentivise re-centering the efforts within the tourism sector surrounding strictly local communities,

1. *Endorses* the creation of the United Nations Education and Tourism Training Initiative (UNETTI), which will be:
 - a. Overseen by UN Tourism;
 - b. Modeled after national programs focused on tourism resilience such as Guatemala's Community Development Program;
 - c. Focusing on the education of local populations and tourists to ensure sustainable tourism efforts such as the significance of utilizing reusable resources over single-use plastics, crisis management, and climate consequences;
 - d. Emphasizing the training of locals in various job fields such as hospitality, park service, food service to increase job creation and population retention by using an online program that provides free training certificates to willing participants;
2. *Endorses* the establishment of a Sister City Tourism Program, encouraging global cooperation between developing countries and heavily overburdened touristic cities, which:

- a. Seeks to cooperate with overburdened touristic Member States through redirecting flow of tourists towards underdeveloped nations;
 - b. Operates the The Sister City Tourism Program, which will be overseen by the United Nations Tourism Agency, and:
 - i. Aims to advance traction in local regions outside of heavily urbanized and populated areas through establishing travel agencies and travel packages between nations to redistribute tourism flows and reduce environmental pressure on heavily populated regions;
 - ii. Establishes cruise networks, aviation packages, as well as developing transit routes further along already established Sahel Routes which will be managed by The International Maritime Organization (IMO) alongside The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO);
 - iii. Ensures increased distribution of tourism revenue, amplifying local involvement specifically in the cruise industry employment sector, as well as mitigating overcrowding and further educating travelers on participating in respective sustainable tourism practices;
 - iv. Organizes initiatives responsible for preserving, overseeing the maintenance, and further developing on infrastructure along the Sahel Routes;
 - v. Promotes cooperation with travel agencies to create cruise and aviation networks and packages;
 - vi. Partners with the GSTC to ensure the Sister City Tourism Program only works with corporations who adhere to sustainable tourism practices and guidelines;
 - c. Emphasizes mobilization towards regions of significant cultural and natural heritage through:
 - i. Promoting eco-tourism in redirecting large tourist groups from heavily overwhelmed and urbanized touristic areas towards exploring more nature based excursions;
 - ii. Cooperating with UNESCO and World Heritage Center to implement sustainable frameworks that preserve and oversee the upkeep and maintenance of cultural heritage sites;
 - iii. Empowering local communities in re-centering tourism efforts and appeals strictly regarding local communities and culture;
3. *Strongly encourages* the collaboration of the UNDP, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Joint SDG fund to dedicate funding to the UNETTI and the Sister City Tourism Program by:
- a. Requesting the funding for UNETTI be proportional to other programs funded by the Joint SDG Fund aimed at job creation and training such as the UN Global Accelerator on Job and Social Protection;
 - b. Requesting the funding for the Sister City Tourism Program be proportional to other initiatives by United Nations Tourism such as the UN Safe Destinations Challenge;

- c. Acknowledging additional funding can be gained via voluntary funding from regional governments and corporations;
 - d. Encouraging cities interested in acquiring advertisement funds to apply for grants provided by this voluntary funding;
- 4. *Invites* the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to create educational resources and courses of local peoples on their lands, culture, and history through:
 - a. The provision and implementation of additional job opportunities for locals to further resolve the issue of economic leakage and increase GDP through economic exports by:
 - i. Including expansion of self resolving jobs where locals enforce their own environmental policies;
 - ii. Training locals to be professional local guides and park rangers by utilizing UNITAR to educate them on customer service, hospitality, and cultural practices, giving them a specialized knowledge of the land;
 - b. The training and educating of several communities on climate consequences, crisis management, and resilience in tourism;
 - c. The incentivization of population retention, fostering stronger sense of community, as well as improving regional economic development;
- 5. *Recommends* that Member States, in cooperation with local education and tourism programs, support the formation of local tour guide certification programs in nations to certify community members as tour guides in sustainable tourism practices by:
 - a. Recommending a portion of funding be voluntary corporate sponsorships and encourages this funding through an official UN award committee to promote and award these corporations to incentivize voluntary funding;
 - b. Recommending a review of each organization to ensure sustainable standards are met for certification;
- 6. *Affirms* the usage of certification organization models such as those proposed by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) which is in direct partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in which UNEA is the governing body;
- 7. *Suggests* nations implement an annual award for tourism certification organizations best adhering to the standards of sustainable tourism that are in relation to the aforementioned GSTC model while permitting variations for the needs of individual countries;
- 8. *Encourages* an advertisement campaign to promote the UNETTI and the Sister City Tourism Program by:
 - a. Providing set advertising formats that available to participating communities by:
 - i. Using premade templates that are easy to access through the UNETTI;
 - ii. Having a selection of advertisements that represent different tourist areas that utilise the UNETTI resources, such as local villages, national monuments, and protected environmental areas;

- b. Encouraging tourism heavy areas to post posters, billboards, and printed signs by using places such as airports, train and bus stations, and vehicles such as buses;
- c. Using templates that encourage tourists to respect local tourism areas by:
 - i. Reminding tourists to respect the environment;
 - ii. Asking travellers to respect local costumes;
 - iii. Listing environmental impacts such as air pollution, littering, and overconsumption;
 - iv. Providing QR codes to find additional information;
- d. Having advertisements promoting locally owned tourism sectors by:
 - i. Promoting ecotourism in native environments;
 - ii. Drawing attention to areas of significant cultural heritage;
 - iii. Encouraging tourists to visit more remote habitats;
 - iv. Showing sectors that are locally owned.

Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledges the existence of the UN Joint Strategic Development Goals Fund,

Noting with satisfaction the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which advocates for global and regional scapes of ensuring sustainable tourism,

Bearing in mind the importance SDG goal 8 (Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth) which promotes sustainable and productive economic growth,

Aware of the impact of SDG goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), which seeks to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Deeply conscious of SDG goal 13 (Climate Action) which works to combat climate change, Reaffirming SDG goal 14 (Life Below Water) promoting sustainable use of marine resources,

Fully aware of SDG goal 15 (Life on Land) to protect and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems,

Recalling SDG goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) to strengthen the means of implementation of sustainability by fostering cooperation,

Desiring to give space to both global and regional voices through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

Observing the Southern Cone Sustainable Tourism Education Council, a program created to educate Latin American regional conservation leaders in sustainable resource management,

Believing that through a cohesive and worldwide consensus on those contributive mechanisms, which can be provided by the global community, regional communities will be best prepared and moreover empowered to develop specific and regionally effective solutions,

Taking into account the role of the UNEP to support governments and businesses to promote and mainstream sustainable tourism,

Emphasizing the existence of global digital platforms to facilitate regional cooperation in the study of other environmental issues such as the Global Air Quality Network, which was created by UNEP,

Recognizing regional and local players are best informed on those issues and solutions which impact their nations,

Concluding that an effective resolution will constitute voluntary resource and knowledge exchange from Member States set to pursue multiple solutions, some of which will be relevant globally, and others will be relevant to specific regions,

1. *Calls for* the UNEP to collaborate with the General Assembly Second Committee (GA 2) to discuss creating a Global Sustainable Tourism Trust (GLOSTRUST), to be operated by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), intended as a holistic mechanism encompassing the funding and coordination of operational projects to promote knowledge sharing, technological sharing initiatives, advocacy efforts, and regionally tailored solutions, which:

- a. Requests a disbursement from the UN Joint SDG Fund be set aside for sustaining the Global Sustainable Tourism Trust;
 - b. Promotes the collaboration between UNWTO, UNEP, Member States, GA 2, relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and commercial bodies to assist GLOSTRUST's Mission;
 - c. Allocates a portion of GLOSTRUST's grants to support promising academic and applied research on environmental resilience and sustainable tourism models;
2. Suggests that Member States prioritize and implement green technologies and UNEA eco certification standards within their businesses by joining the Green Credit Tourism Sector Initiative (GCTSI), a sustainable consumption and economic cooperative which recognizes high performing businesses through:
 - a. A voluntary crediting system where tourism based businesses can earn green tourism credits to support, wherein:
 - i. Recommendations for nations to provide tax subsidies and concessionary loans for businesses that meet eco-certification standards within their borders;
 - ii. Environmental transparency as the procurement, tracking, and sharing of green tourism credit data between Member States allows for greater accountability, comparability, and cooperation in achieving the SDGs;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to foster in sustainable development specifically with:
 - i. Various hotels and rental platforms, such as Airbnb, to increase economic standings while also ensuring the eco-certification standards are met;
 - ii. Promoting busses and public transportation modes that utilize electric and clean fuel technologies, so that common pollutants are not continuously emitted into the environment as tourists traverse the areas they are visiting;
 - iii. Sustainable agricultural linkages, such as increasing advocacy for local food sourcing and climate-resilient farming techniques to strengthen the relationship between tourism and rural livelihoods;
 - c. Funding from GLOSTRUST with oversight from UN Tourism as it promotes responsible and sustainable tourism avenues;
3. *Recommends* that Member States collaborate with the UNEP and neighbors to create guidelines for voluntary regional data sharing in order to submit ideas for incentives and plans to help create sustainable tourism by:
 - a. Including digital information-sharing platforms under UNEP, operating in a similar capacity to the Global Air Quality Network;
 - b. Encouraging states to participate in a voluntary basis among regional neighbors;
 - c. Creating the specific mandate to share data on tourism and best strategies for the sustainable development of tourism;
4. *Encourages* the promotion of voluntary measures to emphasize the need for tourism in rural areas beyond the mainland in order to alleviate pressure on major urban centers by:

- a. Encouraging Member States to pursue “low-impact high-benefit” tourism models, such as agri-ecotourism which combines environmental conservation with agricultural experiences;
 - b. Using marketing campaigns and advertisements to showcase these local sites, ultimately resulting in an increase of agricultural business worldwide by cultivating the relationship between nation states and agricultural institutions;
- 5. *Proposes* marketing with more digital tourism platforms that connects travelers with maintainable and locally owned businesses to:
 - a. Promote advanced digital skills for online tourist marketing and data analyses, allowing tourism businesses to track and respond to visitor preferences more efficiently through:
 - i. Recommending that Member States and UN agencies promote sustainable and inclusive digital tourism practices;
 - ii. Emphasizing that data use should align with environmental sustainability and ethical data practices;
 - b. Provide specialized training program for businesses to customize visitors interests and expectations by:
 - i. Encouraging integration of environmental and sustainability goals into digital tourism initiatives;
 - ii. Urging collaboration between governments, private sectors, and international organizations to support green digital tourism;
 - c. Improve service quality that will help with quicker access and bookings for website visitors and training for businesses that communicate and engage with tourists effectively by:
 - i. Encouraging the importance of using virtual tour tools to improve visitor interaction and provide real-time assistance;
 - ii. Suggesting for partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to improve website infrastructure and secure online payment systems that reassures travelers financial spendings;
- 6. *Calls upon* Member States to commit on maintaining their national parks and other common tourist attractions free of pollution to ensure that tourism continues to be a source of opportunity within these nations without sacrificing the health of the planet as well as the tourists that visit these areas;
- 7. *Endorses* the creation of a regional framework for sustainable tourism education, similar to the Southern Cone Sustainable Tourism Education Council, composed of representatives from national ministries of environment, tourism, and education, as well as civil society and academic institutions, which will:
 - a. Promote cooperation amongst neighboring Member States and the UNEP to work with local and global NGOs to create targeted guidelines which seek to alleviate regionally specific issues;

- b. Seek to partner with academic institutions within Member States, UNWTO, and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to support the implementation of these guidelines in Member States;
 - c. Leverage GLOSTRUST, the UNEP Environment Fund, and voluntary contributions from individual Member States, as well as partnered NGOs, in order to incentivize the promotion of sustainable tourism practices through streamlined national and industry based training programs;
- 8. *Invites* Member States to use sustainable technological advancements to optimize tourism by:
 - a. Creating personalized itineraries, as well as promoting ecotourist areas that will not harm biodiversity and indigenous communities;
 - b. Supporting Member States that do not have access to sustainable technological advancements;
- 9. *Further* recommends the UNEP and UNWTO to collaborate on the creation of the Tourism Resources and Analytics for Viable Eco-friendly Leisure (TRAVEL) initiative, a global hub working to share best practices for sustainable tourism which includes:
 - a. Case studies showing different examples of sustainable tourism working and thriving under different conditions;
 - b. Legal frameworks which would give governments templates or models for creating our reforming national tourism laws to more closely align with sustainability principles;
 - c. Infrastructure models which have proven effective in balancing economic growth and environmental preservation;
- 10. *Emphasizes* the creation of the Low-impact Utilization of Natural and Renewable Resources (LUNARR) Mission which:
 - a. Seeks to create off-world tourism infrastructure by leveraging cooperative Member States and their space travel capacities by:
 - i. Fostering collaboration between Member States, private stakeholders, and the UNOOSA to create a globally regulated and established tourism ecosystem on the Moon;
 - ii. Creating global frameworks which provide for increasing transparency between all stakeholders and allow for progress on the project to be accurately tracked and evaluated;
 - b. Will seek funding from GLOSTRUST, the Environment Fund, and voluntary contributions from Member States and other viable stakeholders;
 - c. Will continue to stay economically friendly by:
 - i. Utilizing sustainable materials in the creation and operation of the space shuttles;
 - ii. Transporting terrestrial waste out of orbit, in line with the UN Beam of Hope.

Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Emphasizing the significant contribution that tourism has to Gross Domestic Product in many parts of the world while also keeping in mind the need for sustainable growth,

Noting with regret that Member States that rely heavily on their tourism industries find themselves at risk of being endangered not by foreign nations but foreign business entities willing to exploit local ecosystems and resources,

Declaring that Member States have complete sovereignty when it comes to the area of protecting their environmental economies,

Conscious of the lack of awareness regarding the destruction of local environments by foreign corporations usurping local resources with minimal reciprocity to the local community,

Noting further the need to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Fully believing in the need to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss,

Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 71/240 (2017) which calls on Member States to promote investment and entrepreneurship in sustainable tourism,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/178 (2022) which affirmed the need for tourism that improves community welfare and empowers marginalized communities,

1. *Urges* Member States to establish national regulatory standards and regulations that are fully enforceable at the discretion of the state to hold foreign entities accountable;
2. *Further invites* Member States to establish national rules and regulations for entities that maintain the presence and prevalence of local peoples by:
 - a. Complying fully with domestic laws and regulations and international standards;
 - b. Prohibiting firms from unduly exercising their power, money, and influence, to exploit local environments and small working communities;
3. *Recommends* the development and strengthening of existing environmental and social safeguards within the national policies of Member States;
4. *Encourages* inclusive governance and regional cooperation that supports local communities and cultures affected by tourism by:
 - a. Supporting tourism firms and cooperatives started by locals;
 - b. Encouraging education about local cultures for their preservation and to prevent their commodification;
 - c. Creating mechanisms to listen to the concerns voiced by the local populations where tourism occurs;

5. *Welcomes the use of* environmental campaigns to educate tourists on sustainable options, such as local destinations and products, as opposed to international chains, through notices via pamphlets, signs and visual announcements in tourist-rich areas;
6. *Suggests that* Member States ensure foreign investments in tourism comply with existing local and international environmental and cultural protection frameworks;
7. *Prompts* Member States to make investment agreements with foreign firms transparent and publicly accessible in order to create accountability and ensure firms are adhering to the mission for sustainability;
8. *Advocates* for Member States to promote fair local employment practices and partnerships with the local community;
9. *Expresses* its hope for Member States to conduct environmental impact assessments and grant certificates to tourism firms deemed sustainable.

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Alarmed by the current tourism sector's high consumption focus that does not address environmental impacts where 80% of tourists pour into only 10% of tourism locations, including World Heritage Convention sites,

Concerned by the environmental impacts of tourism growth emphasized by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) such as resource depletion, biodiversity loss and rising emissions that contribute to the resource depletion rate tripling since the year 1970 and the greenhouse gas emissions that are projected to rise by 43% by the year 2060,

Recognizing the European Union's exemplary Green Gateway programme, dedicated to turning cooperating Nonprofits/Intergovernmental Organizations to green investments, monitoring the transition to green economies,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 69/313 (2015), Addis Ababa Action Agenda, that emphasizes the importance of sustainable tourism for economic growth and calls for improved monitoring specifically for measuring the development impacts of sustainable tourism,

Considering that unsustainable tourism contributed to an 8.88% share of global greenhouse gas emissions recorded in 2019, reported by the World Tourism and Travel Council,

Emphasizing the lack of Member States on track to reach the "30 by 30" target of preserving 30% of the world's land and ocean area by the year 2030,

Recognizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 15 (Life on Land) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), which focus on the importance of ecotourism to stimulate sustainable economic growth by creating local employment and preserving the nation's ecosystems through the protection of national parks and heritage sites,

Further recognizing the importance of tourism as it accounts for 10% of the world's GDP, reported by the World Bank in 2024,

Underlining General Assembly resolution 77/178 (2022), which emphasizes sustainable and resilient tourism through environment protections,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its relevant goals, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) which highlights the need for tourism development that protects tourists and local communities from high temperatures and natural disasters such as sandstorms, and at the same time protecting the environment from pollution,

Understanding the importance of public-private partnerships in the process of establishing more sustainable tourist strategies in developing Member States,

Stressing the importance of growing the local economy and the promotion of culture enrichment while ensuring sustainable tourism practices,

Recognizing Türkiye's "Future is in Tourism" support fund to provide necessary tools and guidance to local villages to strengthen their capabilities, and help them develop skills relating to sustainable tourism practices,

Aware of the Tourism Development Project within Indonesia of the development of "tourism villages" with the purpose of job creation and increased effectiveness towards unintegrated villages and communities,

Underscoring the need for community led tourism to uplift local communities and avoid corporate monopolies in the sector to ensure tourism is beneficial to the community,

Acknowledging that the World Bank identified approximately 400 million tons of carbon dioxide were released into the atmosphere as of 2020 due to gas flaring sites which are located within 5 kilometers of 10 million people internationally including major cities prone to immense tourism,

Respecting the privacy of each Member States personal data on sustainable tourism and thus ensuring the protection and appropriate sharing of all data,

Acknowledging the efforts of public-private partnerships such as the Creative and Tourism Infrastructure Corporation to promote environmental awareness in natural heritage sites,

Recognizing United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/4 (2022) on "Sustainable tourism and its call to integrate environmental, social, and cultural sustainability into tourism development",

1. *Encourages* Member States to identify and establish cultural nature sites to submit to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and work with NGOs that partner with local communities to address and reduce biosphere harm and educate tourists about the significance of caring for Member States' unique ecosystems through:
 - a. Partnerships with environmentally focused NGOs that work to promote positive relationships between local communities and tourists;
 - b. Educational seminars that cater to Member States' and inform tourists about the harm caused to ecosystems when they engage in behaviors like littering;
2. *Suggests* Member States to adopt and implement programs similar to the already existing Dubai Sustainable Tourism Stamp, adopted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) aiming to:
 - a. Certify hotels that excel in energy and waste efficiency;
 - b. Using less energy to perform the task to raise benchmarks to make private firms strive towards raising environmental standards;
 - c. Using data analytics to track hotel and attraction energy usage, water consumption and food waste;
 - d. Being guided by UAE and UNEP to host training hubs and workshops to transfer their expertise in these innovations;
 - e. Develop eco-friendly practices, involving reducing, recycling and reusing waste,

conserving water and energy, while ensuring a stable circular economy, where resources are kept in use until complete depletion;

3. *Endorses* Member States to work with the existing ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable tourism and consumption, detailing non-exact practices; expanding the program to developing nations to promote global cooperation and inclusivity by:
 - a. Promoting responsible consumption, local engagement, and climate-conscious tourism with the use of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme;
 - b. Encouraging further use and national application of the 2030 Development Agenda in more Member States;
4. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate with national development banks in Member States with the support of NGOs on a globalized scale to further advocate for environmentally focused non-profits and IGOs such as SGD, CONCORD Europe, Global Institute for Sustainable Development, Green Coalition of Public Development Banks, Deutsche Gesellschaft Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo (ECODES), African Development Bank Group, and International Development Finance Club to lead and cooperate with both public and private investment banks by:
 - a. Reporting back to such Member States' development banks on the green impact of high risk investment;
 - b. Promoting more global transparency within Member States of the United Nations;
 - c. Deflecting most investment interests onto infrastructure projects pertaining to localized ecological changes with economic support of NGOs for tourism investments;
5. *Urges* controlled development growth in order to regulate climate impacts to aid heritage sites and ecosystems by:
 - a. Implementing environmental and cultural protection regulations requiring reviews for any major tourist project near heritage or conservation areas;
 - b. Encouraging financial and technological aid from wealthier nations and international banks to help developing countries adopt greener tourism;
6. *Further recommends* the UNEP to facilitate the Green Tourism Observatory, a data sharing platform in collaboration with other Member States that:
 - a. Tracks tourism flows and their environmental impact to prevent over-tourism in fragile ecosystems;
 - b. Allows for transparency among Member States for better policy coordination for regional and international frameworks;

7. *Encourages* ongoing adherence to monitoring systems and digital data collection tools like the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories and System of Environment and Economic Accounts to assess tourists' passage and regional environmental influence;
8. *Requests* utilizing alternative, eco-friendly materials for tourist infrastructure of major cities in turn reducing health risks towards tourist due to poor air quality caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas;
9. *Urges* Member States to measure economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism and mitigate the negative effects of unregulated tourism by:
 - a. Establishing monitoring systems that evaluate the contribution of the tourism sector to the country's GDP;
 - b. Integrating local communities in ecotourism initiatives and decision-making processes;
 - c. Implementing annual environmental impact assessments;
10. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt and implement programs similar to Nigeria's Creative and Tourism Infrastructure Corporation which:
 - a. Highlights natural heritage sites through popular culture to promote environmental Awareness;
 - b. Implements environmentally sustainable projects to support local community development and boost tourism;
11. *Suggests* Member States to engage with private corporations and businesses to expand upon sustainable tourism initiatives that align with SDG 8 and 12, which can be done through Member States encouraging businesses to abide by and adopt SDGs into fair business practices within the tourism industry;
12. *Further recommends* to the UNEP and The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) to collaborate on and manage the creation of the Tourism Resources and Analytics for Viable Eco-friendly Leisure (TRAVEL) initiative, a global hub to share best practices for sustainable tourism which includes:
 - a. Case studies showing different examples of sustainable tourism working and thriving under different conditions;
 - b. Legal frameworks which would give governments templates or models for creating or reforming national tourism laws to more closely align with sustainability principles;

- c. Infrastructure models which have proven effective in balancing economic growth and environmental preservation;
- 13. *Invites* tourists to visit local villages with the help of UNEP to reduce tourist congestion in areas with unsustainable traffic by:
 - a. Recommending investment into marketing and promotion for local villages, encouraging tourists to visit local villages, promoting economic growth for smaller businesses;
 - b. Advising UN Tourism to create a program similar to Türkiye's "Future is in Tourism" support fund and Indonesia's "Tourism Villages" on a global scale;
- 14. *Emphasizes* the need for protections of local businesses such as financial protections to ensure tourism is focused on uplifting the communities by encouraging Member States to offer:
 - a. Concessions on fines and operating costs for small business to ensure they aren't overshadowed by big corporations in tourism;
 - b. Education programs for businesses to have sustainable long term strategies.

Code: UNEA/1/6

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Encouraging Member States, international organizations, and private actors to foster innovation in alternative and renewable fuels, such as sustainable aviation fuels, hydrogen, and advanced biofuels,

Alarmed by barriers preventing Member States from being on track to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the Global Biodiversity Framework's Target 3 (30 by 30), which furthers the destruction of an already damaged environment,

Aware of the fact that according to the UN Tourism, by 2030, international arrivals in foreign countries will rise to 1.8 billion, negatively affecting local communities' quality of life because of overcrowding,

Notes with appreciation all Member States which advocate for, share resources on, and make notable legislation in the promotion of reusable commercial products,

Underlining that transportation negatively affects the environment, promoting cleaner and more efficient fuels would reduce the tourism sector's environmental footprint, as established in the Inland Transportation Committee (ITC) Strategy on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Inland Transport,

Highlighting that 15 million hectares of the Amazon rainforest have been lost from anthropogenic activities from 2015 to 2023, which endangers 10% of the world's biodiversity, as stated by the World Wide Fund for Nature,

Welcoming an expansion of the responsibilities of the UN Tourism from highlighting the economic importance of sustainability in tourism and establishing tourism practices to include actively managing tourism pollution,

Noting with concern that dependency on fossil fuels and gas fuels for inland, maritime, and aviation transportation continues to contribute to pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate instability, as mentioned at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28),

Observing the significant role of fossil fuels in tourism, the need to switch to sustainable fuels in the interest of longevity and consistency is a notable concern,

Commending the efforts of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and regional collaborations through the Andean Community's Sustainable Tourism Initiative and the Central American Ecotourism Strategy (SICA),

Expressing concern about the 300 million tonnes of new plastic created annually and 8 million tonnes of plastic released in both the accommodation of tourists as well as in touristic management and operation, as mentioned in the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Plastics Initiative,

Having considered the dangers of tourism on the local community, encourage Member States to emphasize practices that protect locals from cultural encroachment,

Further recognizing the UNWTO's commitment advocating for, sharing resources on, and making notable legislation to improve international development and collaboration with the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Program for the need for education and international cooperation in preserving fragile or vulnerable ecosystems from the effects of over-tourism,

Bearing in mind the lack of progress towards SDG 10, which aims at reducing inequalities in regards to employment in the tourism sector, as 8.6% of women are unemployed according to the UN Women Data Hub,

Desiring to preserve the beauty of each environment and protect it for future generations to take advantage of it with natural sites, including forests and beaches, which account for 80% of tourism's value,

Reaffirming the contributions of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism)'s One Planet Network and other tourism efforts to counteract environmental impact on the sustainability efforts,

Directs attention to, the UN Tourism "Financing Sustainable Tourism Development Report 2024" which highlights the \$4 trillion financing gap in sustainable tourism development,

Deeply concerned by overcrowding leading to overtourism due to the increase in International tourist arrivals by 1.47 billion travelers from 2023 - 2024 according to the UN Tourism,

Taking note that nature-based tourism drives 8 billion individual unique visits to protected areas that comprise 8% of the world's marine areas, as stated by the World Bank, in order to promote sustainable international visits,

Recognizing the key role of tourism as a key driver of global economic growth and sustainable development, especially for developing and flourishing Member States, as this economic sector contributes approximately \$2.36 trillion to the national GDP,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 79/228 (2024), which promotes sustainable and resilient tourism, including ecotourism for poverty eradication and environmental protection,

1. *Encourages* Member States to promote eco-friendly certification, which encompasses factors like greenhouse gas emission, waste generation, and resource consumption, for hotels and other areas with high levels of tourism;
2. *Recommends* Member States to expand on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG) while including international incentives that will ensure that the signatories of the Paris Agreement and the "30 by 30" target to preserve at least 30% of land and water area within the next five years, and additionally reach and maintain the goal of 1.5C° by 2030;
3. *Asks* that Member States promote awareness campaigns that encourage tourists to respect local communities and environments to ensure the sustainability of local resources and peoples;
4. *Invites* Member States to utilize and support the United Nations Environment Programme Net-Zero Nature Positive Accelerator Programme to expand on already existing region-specific environmental and sustainable strategies through:
 - a. Community-based sustainability projects implemented through the United Nations Environment Programs (UNEP);
 - b. Current air quality and emissions research projects, such as UNEP's "Transforming Tourism Value Chains" caused by tourism;
 - c. Suggesting a collaboration with the UN Tourism and UNESCO to determine tourist capacity in specific regions;

5. *Supports* the integration of sustainable tourism objectives into national climate adaptation and biodiversity strategies to ensure infrastructure development aligns with national and international climate and biodiversity commitments, which:
 - a. Encourage eco-friendly infrastructure powered by renewable energy in tourist regions;
 - b. Call for reforestation and habitat protection in areas impacted by tourism;
 - c. Promote community involvement in sustainable tourism planning and management;
6. *Requests* Member States to consider implementing incentives or fiscal measures affirming the rights of Member States to promote sustainability measures in tourism by rewarding hotel operators and cruise lines for adopting renewable energy, pushing for reduced plastic use, and creating and maintaining conservation programs;
7. *Expresses its appreciation* toward efforts to encourage reforestation by using the application of campaigns like One Tourist, One Tree from Kenya to uphold preservation in biodiversity through counterbalancing visitors' carbon footprint and engaging visitors to engage in reforestation efforts;
8. *Emphasizes* the importance of global cooperation for sustainable living practices by reducing the use of harmful actions and pushing for environmental harmony;
9. *Advises* the establishment of a collaborative forum to discuss traditional practices and cooperation with fellow Member States to recognise the most sustainable practices;
10. *Endorses* the expansion of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Green Growth and Jobs Accelerator program, which allows for more job opportunities;
11. *Further encourages* best practice sharing through regional workshops on preserving natural heritage sites for sustainable tourism and focusing on integrating nature-based solutions; These regional workshops would focus on integrating nature-based solutions by including workshops on the sustainability related topics, with:
 - a. Considerations of technology to promote public awareness;
 - b. Increased environmental monitoring of natural heritage sites;
12. *Calls for* the implementation of regional partnerships that focus on promoting common environmental practices and cultural and social traditions in the tourism sector while boosting tourism growth, which:
 - a. Emphasize the necessity of partner Member States that work to preserve, support, and promote heritage sites and locations to expand local economies sustainably;
 - b. Support environmental protections for similar environments with the voluntary participation of Member States to share successful prevention and mitigation strategies that have worked for Member States;
13. *Appeals* to the Member States, particularly within the frameworks of the Central American Integration System (SICA), to collaborate on transboundary marine protection efforts as marine ecosystems transcend national boundaries and the degradation of coastal and marine environments is detrimental regionally and not Member State specific, which:

- a. Ensures the sustainable use of marine resources, and strengthens regional food security, livelihoods, and climate adaptation efforts, including the conservation of coral reefs, mangroves, and marine biodiversity;
 - b. Coordinates actions in exchange for best practices for minimizing the environmental impacts of tourism and maritime activities on shared marine ecosystems;
 - c. Encourages Collaboration with the facilitation of the United Nations Tourism through transparent and public oversight on marine protection, local and private partnerships;
14. *Calls upon* Non-Government Organisations and the local government to create projects centered around local communities, traditional occupations, and cultural programs through careful implementation through:
- a. Guided tours that will highlight the indigenous and rural communities under a cultural heritage revival program to encourage tourists to learn about the local culture and way of life;
 - b. Best practice sharing summits to educate rural and local communities on sustainable practices and technology to bridge gaps in rural capacities;
 - c. Ensuring the expansion of community-based tourism through collaboration with NGOs such as the Environmental Defense Fund, Earthwatch, and the Nature Conservancy to promote sustainable tourism while enhancing host communities;
 - d. Urging Member States to evaluate domestic sites for submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention with an emphasis on LDCs and SIDS;
15. *Welcomes* Member States to adopt more sustainable methods of transport to lower dependency on fossil fuels, including a provision for a Car Allowance Rebate System, which offers financial incentives to replace high-emissions vehicles, and an expansion of emissions testing to all participating Member States;
16. *Further invites* the implementation of national programs that support sustainable tourism through the use of revenue generated by tourism to invest in sustainable practices and infrastructure for the purpose of further tourism:
- a. By inviting governments, the private sector, and local communities to collaborate in pooling funds and sharing best practices;
 - b. Through general policy recommendations to governments on strategies for sustainability and UNEP best practice sharing workshops hosted at future conferences or summits;
 - c. For the purpose of developing sustainable infrastructure practices such as efficient and clean power generation, transportation, and effective waste management, as well as efforts to limit the production of pollutants;
 - d. Through the promotion of funding for eco-tourism and renewable energy projects;
17. *Suggests* promoting Member States who encounter challenges in the tourism industry to both reduce the strain on the top tourist destinations, while creating a new source of revenue for developing Member States to put towards green initiatives, by:

- a. Expanding on public-private partnerships to promote economic growth in Member States tourism sector to further improve quality of life with increased employment opportunities;
 - b. Collaborating with UN Tourism on strategies and tourist-friendly policies through semi-annual international public forums to divulge information on already existing and future successful projects and strategies as a method to attract NGO and public sector funding;
 - c. Emphasizing the need to overcome the ongoing issue regarding over tourism by implementing strategies, such as visitor limits and as well as diversifying attractions to spread out tourists, especially out of urban areas;
18. *Urges* Member States to promote research, innovation, and development of efficient, low-emission fuels for all modes of transport related to tourism by working with universities, research institutions, and the private sector;
19. *Affirms* the establishment of international partnerships and initiatives to accelerate the commercialization and distribution of the new sustainable fuels, especially in tourism-dependent regions, by sharing research findings between Member States;
20. *Further recommends* Member States to voluntarily share best practices, data, and technology related to fuel efficiency and emissions reduction in tourism-related transport through UNEP-led knowledge platforms such as UN Tourism and UNEA resolution 4/23 (2021), the Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS);
21. *Further suggests* regional organizations such as the Southern African Development Community to incorporate sustainable fuel development into their climate and tourism policies, aligning with international environmental objectives from COP28 on adopting a new framework for the Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA);
22. *Trusts* Member States to act with dignity and respect regarding the implementation of the above-stated initiatives.

Code: UNEA/1/7

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging that local populations have direct correlations to tourism and the tourism sector must work towards incorporating communities into sustainable tourism,

Affirming that the New Urban Agenda established an innovative framework but lacks capacity to scale data sharing and monitoring for an international community,

Agreeing with the sentiment that necessary protections for ecosystems and communities are needed in order to maintain and preserve land,

Asserting the importance of a comprehensive system to protect vulnerable land through SDG 15 (life on land) targets while positively impacting rural and indigenous communities,

Bearing in mind the Glasgow Declaration in the Conference Of the Parties (COP) climate conference, wherein the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) along with 300 organizations committed to halving tourism-based emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050,

Emphasizing General Assembly resolution RES/79/229 (2024), which acknowledges that indigenous groups are disproportionately negatively affected by unsustainable tourism, and placing a focus on promoting local and indigenous businesses for the purpose of economic development,

Expressing its appreciation for the UNEP-UNWTO promoted Net Zero Roadmap for Travel & Tourism's guidelines for the implementation of renewable energy shifts, energy efficiency in the hospitality sector, and adaptation of sustainable aviation fuels,

Firmly convinced that the only path to comprehensive sustainable change is to implement a framework that ensures all Member States have access to the knowledge and financial resources they need to to implement evidence-based solutions,

Further invites discussion about the need for sustainable ways to decrease CO₂ emissions that arise as a result of heavy flows of tourism from national and international travel,

Giving notice to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Building Back Better initiative through the emphasis on community based and green tourism models,

Having examined the UNEA-6/10 resolution passed in 2024 which created the Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx), a program designed for knowledge sharing across borders,

Highlighting the need for reforestation of ending deforestation and restoring degraded forests and ensuring conservation of mountain ecosystems,

Mindful of the financial constraints that least developed countries (LDCs) must work within and the limitations they pose to the acquisition and sharing of knowledge which limits their ability to implement solutions,

Raising concern regarding the fact that tourism can be practiced unsustainably that harms the environment and communities primarily in developing countries,

Reaffirming the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDGs 8 (decent work and economic growth), 12 (responsible consumption and production), and 14 (Life Below Water),

Realizing the vital role of tourism in achieving economic growth and cultural understanding,

Recalling the General Assembly resolution RES/70/1 (2015), Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 (partnerships for the goals),

Recalling the General Assembly resolution RES/45/158 (1990), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which establishes essential protections for migrant groups that is statistically employed in the tourism sector at higher rates,

Recognizing the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework in order to promote preservation of land, specifically in terms of protecting air quality, need for biodiversity, and connections to indigenous groups and cultures,

Referencing the current regional dialogue focused on cultural and environmental protections, such as in the Central American Integration System (SICA), as well as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and General Assembly Resolution 45/158 (1990),

Reflecting on the use of nature based solutions as a source for delivering infrastructure services to achieve expanding sustainability towards environmental, social and economic structures, successful case studies such as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) – Urban Green Infrastructure & The New Urban Agenda,

Reiterating UNEAs commitment to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Remembering the success UNEP Air Quality Cooperation Network which emphasizes data sharing and collaboration,

Reminding that sustainable tourism is a global issue which both reflects upon the tourist and local community,

Understanding the need for collaboration and the global expansion of successful initiatives, and the vital role that the private sector plays in these efforts,

Wishing to explore environmentally friendly methods of accommodation for tourists such as United Nations Glamping and Eco-clusters,

1. *Encourages* Member States who have not yet done so to consider legally recognizing the rights of Indigenous groups and acknowledging their vital role as stewards of the land, as well as advocating for their inclusion in the legislative process and business communities by:
 - a. Providing support to local and Indigenous businesses to ensure that they are resilient and retain their culture and traditional practices and guarantees their livelihoods and historical lands are protected;
 - b. Limiting the number of multinational corporations and foreign businesses in tourist areas that are located on the land of Indigenous peoples;

- c. Fostering tax incentives for public-private partnerships (PPPs) to avoid Indigenous-based tourist locations, unless they enter into a PPP with legally protected Community Benefit Organizations (CBOs), in order to:
 - i. Emphasize the need to track short term rentals, whether they have local ownership;
 - ii. Gather data on the degree of sustainability short term rentals are employing;
- 2. *Promotes* the introduction of educational programs focusing on sustainable methods of tourism that serve to further educate tourists on proper/traditional cultural practices within the region they're visiting by:
 - a. Creating Seminars to be given to individuals who have a visa of longer than 30 days in order to educate foreigners on proper respectful manners of living;
 - b. Extending the idea of offering specialized work visas for those who work fully remote so that they may come into a country as tourists for extended periods of time outside of peak tourism seasons, while still being able to perform their work;
- 3. *Uplifting* the improvement of the quality of training to better harness the potential of inter-business collaboration to improve attractiveness for working in the tourism industry and overall worker retention by:
 - a. Intercorporating measures to improve the working conditions, such as:
 - i. Implementing cloud-based software for processes like recruitment, onboarding, payroll, and performance management;
 - ii. Creating optimized duty rosters;
 - iii. Establishing liveable and sufficient housing accommodations for staff;
 - iv. Generating targeted staff programmes;
 - b. Implementing practical relevance, permanent further development and quality assurance of the training to encourage enthusiasm and increase morale in working in the field of tourism;
 - c. Strengthening technical linkages with other branches of the tourism industry and new combinations of competences to create modern and attractive job profiles to improve the transition from the educational system to the industry;
- 4. *Promotes* the expansion of sustainable and accessible policies on transportation by:
 - a. Recommending Member States to decrease domestic air travel and utilise electric vehicles and zero emission options, such as electric trains, buses, and bikes for connecting tourist areas and expanding interurban transportation;
 - b. Providing grants and subsidies at national and local levels for the purchase of new zero-emission vehicles;
 - c. Expanding upon currently successful initiatives, such as the Veturilo bike sharing app and infrastructure from Poland;
 - d. Implementing of low-emissions zones in overcrowded tourist areas and ensuring vehicles are meeting pollution requirements;

5. *Calls for* the expansion of the UN Tourism for SDGs Platform and the INSTO observatories network a global tourism data and sustainability data sharing platform under UNEP and UN Tourism, wherein environmental data relating to tourism can be voluntarily submitted/collected, analyzed, and utilizing the Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST) framework by:
 - a. Utilizing the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs - DaRT integrated respective goals and targets in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) establishes requiring a flexible universal framework for action on biodiversity, by:
 - i. Encouraging the international community to voluntarily commit to transparent data sharing standards and incentives those who contribute to higher quality data;
 - ii. Recommending that a special committee be established to research options for establishing a standard framework of legal regulations to ensure transparent data sharing practices;
 - iii. Including details on the cost-benefit analysis for each of these changes they implement so that Member States have a clear template for viable implementation and logistical framework;
 - b. *Creates* regulatory guidelines to ensure that air quality data regarding measurements of pollutant concentrations, typically focusing on particulate matter air pollution shared by member states can be equally accessed and is transparent so we can track metrics and further use AI to predict trends and create solutions;
6. *Recommends* Member States to integrate nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration, coral rehabilitation, urban greening, or other regionally relevant projects, into national tourism planning, focusing on:
 - a. Highlighting building materials that are of significant to indigenous peoples' traditional building practices and ensuring that those groups have access to those materials;
 - b. Detailing sustainable building materials that Member States should incentivise the use of to ensure that new buildings have a reduced environmental impact;
 - c. The establishment of coral rehabilitation zones where coral populations are threatened;
7. *Encourages* the creation and maintenance of public-private partnerships and incentives for expansion of greenery or native species in cities;
8. *Encourages* Member States to phase out single-use plastics, in favor of biodegradable materials;
9. *Acknowledges* the importance of cultural preservation as conservation and to expand based on the concept of a Partnership for Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria coalition, by:
 - a. Encouraging carbon-neutral tourism experiences through innovative modes of transport and production, and green events such as internationally recognized cleanup events;
 - b. Introducing certification of sustainability for tourism businesses to provide a standard on how to appropriately operate in the market of ecotourism;

- c. Promoting the use of solar roofs, recycled water, low-emission ground transport fleet such as buses, cars, etc.;
- 10. *Encourages* the formation of a coalition known as the Global Affinity for Park Preservation and Promotion (GAP3) to encourage engagement from Member States, which:
 - a. Comprises of United Nations agencies whose missions are in line with the scope of this project and have the resources and expertise essential to ensuring the implementation of recommendations issued in this resolution, specifically recommending:
 - i. That the UNEP Ecosystems Division manages the coalition, as their specialization on implementation and ability to launch and coordinate programs uniquely qualifies them to manage the coalition and expand it as they see appropriate;
 - ii. That the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is involved in the coalition and leverages their World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) which sets the global standard for transparent environmental data sharing, to ensure that these efforts to expand sustainable tourism are guided by existing data sets to reduce the risk of harm to wildlife, they also provide global recognition and classification of sites that are ecologically and culturally significant;
 - iii. That the UN Tourism Programme and One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme share their expertise on tourism policy and and sustainable tourism certification, which:
 - 1. Request that they share access to data from the UN Tourism Sustainable Development Measurement Framework, and the Tourism Satellite Accounts to distribute data on tourism's economic and environmental impact;
 - 2. Request that the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) tracks destinations' sustainability performance;
 - iv. The contributions of UNESCO to protect sites of Outstanding Universal Value, Intangible Cultural Heritage, and share their Education for Sustainable Development infrastructure;
 - v. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as they coordinate with specialized agencies;
 - vi. The Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, PAGE and other relevant organizations;
- 11. *Promotes* the induction of the Community Based Tourism (CBT), which will uplift impoverished indigenous communities by:
 - a. Providing education to communities to create local guides who can also serve as translators when needed;
 - b. Focusing on locally headed tourist organizations which bolster local economy;

- c. Pursuing avenues of tourism which are based on a deep respect for the surrounding environment;
 - d. Calling for infrastructure which maintains sustainable methods of tourism;
- 12. *Encourages* Member States to prioritize environmental action and sustainable ecotourism practices through:
 - a. Promoting policies that foster resilient and sustainable ecosystems within rural communities;
 - b. Bolstering the economy in rural communities and LDCs;
 - c. Bolstering and empowering Member States with the resources they need to reinforce existing tourist destinations and aid in developing new, culturally protected, welcoming destinations for eco-centric tourist;
- 13. *Endorses* the incorporation of the existing Sustainable Tourism Indicators as a metric for a Global Tourism Sustainability Repository for the dissemination of solutions that have seen success in previous implementation attempts, especially in providing guidance based on ecosystem/habitat-status-based solutions that could be applied both locally and jointly between nations;
- 14. *Encourages* strengthening regulatory frameworks through city ordinances to empower local authorities, expand local capacity, prevent overcrowding and promote sustainable transport through collaboration with UN Tourism by:
 - a. Promoting reusable alternatives to plastic to prevent the pollution of culturally and historically significant areas;
 - b. Adopting Energy Efficient Requirements for properties and tourist accommodations through the Diagnostic de Performance Energetique (DPE) rating based system;
 - c. Encouraging short-term rentals to address housing shortages, retaining revenue locally, and supporting businesses that benefit the community through initiatives similar to France's LeMeur Act and Venezia Autentica;
- 15. *Recommends* a UNEA- Supported Global Sustainable Tourism Fund modeled after the success of the Green Climate Fund and Green Environment Facility to support the financing of developing Member States' eco-friendly infrastructure and community-based tourism by:
 - a. Prioritizing funding for small and medium-sized enterprises, specifically those owned by local and Indigenous communities, to ensure tourism profits remain within host regions;
 - b. Supporting the development of eco-friendly infrastructure with net zero emissions, and sustainable transportation;
- 16. *Calls* for the use of naturally powered renewable resources in the context of tourism to reduce harmful environmental impact through:
 - a. Harnessing solar photovoltaic panels which are low maintenance panels that convert sunlight directly into electricity and also use wind power for electricity generation to power visitor centers, hotels, and resorts;

- b. Expanding small scale hydro-power which is the generation of electricity from flowing water or existing infrastructure to power remote lodges;
 - c. Connecting on-site renewable energy generation to the local grid to optimize energy use;
- 17. *Advocates* for the role of the UNWTO specialized working groups, such as those focusing on technology and tourism and accessible tourism, coordinated through UNEP and the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme, that will be tasked with implementing the following goals:
 - a. Establishing regional working groups to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing that facilitate conversations with Member States relevant to their specific regional issues;
 - b. Assigning working groups dedicated to addressing the implementation of sustainable tourism practices related to specific industries to accelerate the transition by allowing the group to focus on a smaller range of issues;
 - c. Reporting progress on these initiatives, allowing for stronger accountability and transparency, by:
 - i. Submitting annual sustainability briefings;
 - ii. Integrating this data into the UNWTO Tourism Data Dashboard;
- 18. *Recognizes* that not all Member States have the financial means to implement these vital changes, especially:
 - a. Noting with interest that the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) provides microfinance loans and grants which can support Member States in the transition to implementing these recommendations;
 - b. Recommending that the Member States utilize the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) to finance large-scale projects;
 - c. Encouraging the UNDP to provide guidance technical support and project oversight;
 - d. Observing that the World Bank offers financing opportunities for Least Developed Nations through the International Development Association (IDA);
- 19. *Introduces* the establishment of an International Education Campaign on Sustainable Travel Practices, under the coordination of the UNWTO, with support of the UNEP and the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme by:
 - a. Raising global awareness among tourists and local communities of the environmental, social, and cultural impacts of tourism, and to promote sustainable behaviours consistent with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 12;
 - b. Urging countries whose citizens often tour internationally to inform their citizens of proper sustainable methods of tourism and how to avoid scams which prey upon unsustainable methods;
 - c. Inviting Member States to integrate this campaign into national tourism strategies and educational systems by:
 - i. Including partnerships with tourism boards and indigenous communities;

- ii. Engaging with private-sector actors such as hotels, airlines, and tour operators to further promote education and adapt these strategies;
 - iii. Developing capacity-building workshops through established and developing partnerships;
 - d. Requesting UNEP and UNWTO to mobilize financial resources for the campaign through voluntary contributions to the UNEP Environment Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and partnerships with philanthropic and private-sector entities;
 - e. Promoting voluntary recognition and certification schemes for destinations and enterprises demonstrating leadership in sustainable travel education;
 - f. Voluntarily creating of short format educational videos to inform tourists about the environmental issues within each country to be shared during aviation as well as automatically emailed once tourists enter the country in order to educate them on sustainable practices utilized by the country;
20. *Calls for* the use of renewable energy based travel facilities, focusing on:
- a. Further recommending the construction of glamping sites which use solar panels and renewable energy to minimize the use of resources for tourism growth;
 - b. Expanding eco-clusters which offer tour guides and education to tourists to ensure we can grow tourism and inform tourists about nature reserves/ indigenous populations;
21. *Supports* an establishment of a UNDP subsidiary body, to be known as the Global Research Alliance for Communities and Ecosystems (GRACE) which aids in:
- a. Assisting in developing a UN-backed certification framework for research institutions that helps identify and make recommendations on ways to leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships to bolster sustainable tourism;
 - b. Requesting funding from the UN World Tourism Organization, the World Bank, and the Green Climate Fund;
22. *Encourages* Western European Member States, in collaboration with the European Union and the UNWTO, to strengthen sustainable tourism initiatives by promoting eco-certification programs, reducing carbon emissions in transport and accommodation sectors, and supporting coastal communities through responsible tourism development;
23. *Promotes* the value in UNEP partnering with the UNWTO and the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme, to develop a framework template (VISIT), as a voluntary guidance tool which encompasses all ideas herein presented, that may be shared across nations and implemented into countries at various stages of development and economic growth, including:
- a. Verifying local and indigenous customs, allowing for input from local communities regarding tourism practices:
 - i. Conducting prior research on local communities;
 - ii. Developing a council of indigenous community members to accurately represent their communities;
 - b. Initially implementing of guidelines for touring practices that maintain eco-friendly initiative:

- i. Promoting transportation methods with low carbon emission rates;
 - ii. Educating tour guides on local flora and fauna that is at higher risk due to tourism and visitation;
- c. Securing communication with local populations and indigenous groups, including:
 - i. Outlining letters of communications;
 - ii. Recommending on legal contracting between groups; Sensitivity measures that should be taken upon communicating with vulnerable groups;
- d. Initiating investment plans and guidelines to assist in funding goals outlined;
- e. Training initiatives for tour guides, focusing on capacity through education and job development.

Code: UNEA/1/8

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Ensuring Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming commitment to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production,

Recognizing the significant role that tourism plays in driving economic growth, as tourism contributes 10% to global GDP and development across multiple nations by fostering job creation and investment opportunities, while understanding the need for balance between these benefits and sustainability,

Considering that 2030 transport-related carbon emissions from tourism are expected to grow 25% from 2016 levels, as forecasted by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism),

Draws attention to the critical role of multilateralism in cultivating a more sustainable tourist culture and fostering a collaborative effort in oversight mechanisms,

Emphasizing community involvement and equitable benefit-sharing is essential for the long-term success of rural and local inclusive tourism projects through the UN Tourism initiatives,

Underscoring the importance of maintaining the natural environment, seeing as it is responsible for \$343.6 billion annually in tourism revenue, this can be prioritized by,

Acknowledging the contribution of tourism to the world's economy by generating 375 million jobs and income, according to The World Travel & Tourism, yet resulting in deforestation, environmental contamination, and overexploitation of coastal resources,

Aware that tourism must exist in harmony with nature, and that there is a lack of adequate financial resources available to certain Member States,

Affirming the role that the tourism industry plays in driving economic growth with more than \$1.3 billion international arrivals in 2023, in addition to the lack of educational programs addressing the critical aspect of unsustainable tourism,

Keeping in mind that sustainable tourism is a means to stimulate economic growth and local development, the enrichment of local diversity, and the engagement of local businesses to emphasize sustainability's role in tourism,

Conscious of the rising issues regarding over-tourism in already well-known areas and the growing concern linked to transportation pollution contributing to 29% of greenhouse gas emissions according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the negative effects this has on the population the UNEA,

1. *Calls upon the creation of a Green Certification Initiative (GCI) under the UN Sustainable Programme, which operates through the UN Tourism and One Planet Network partnership that focuses on:*
 - a. *Setting metrics established by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council Standards, which take into account the needs of the geographical location and focus on regulating tourism businesses;*
 - b. *Serving as a guide for visitors to know which businesses and sites are eco-friendly;*

- c. Regulating through yearly audits by the UN Sustainable Programme, businesses that are not keeping up to date with the standards will be fined or their license will be revoked;
2. *Encourages* the implementation of a rewards system linked to UN Tourism that focuses on sustainable transportation, volunteer work, and support of local businesses, in addition to adaptable strategies unique to the needs and priorities of each nation by:
 - a. Obtaining rewards with the use of public transportation, the support of businesses that have sustainable practices, and through volunteer work that supports the environment within the nation;
 - b. Redeeming the benefits of the program, such as discounts to different points of interest within each city, including cultural landmarks, historical sites, restaurants, or public transportation systems;
3. *Welcomes* the UN to encourage Member States to lower public transportation costs, financed through local tourist levies, and parking charges in high-pressure zones, which will encourage tourists to choose cleaner and greener travel options when touring countries;
4. *Seeking* all relevant agencies of the United Nations, such as UN Tourism and United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), to oversee countries to enhance sustainable tourism by providing standard practices, reporting systems, and promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) by:
 - a. Promoting pre-existing and standardized reporting practices, such as socio-economic impacts and environmental performance, for countries that can track sustainable tourism and consider better practices;
 - b. Requesting guidelines that would be effective for PPPs in the tourism sector, focusing on resource mobilization and risk-allocation management;
 - c. Strengthening partnerships between UNEA, UN Tourism, and UNEP to expand educational programs that amplify Indigenous and local voices in tourism policymaking;
5. *Reiterates its call* to amplify community involvement and long-term support for rural and local success for social-economic benefit, and implement funding through tourism revenue that sponsors villages to attract tourists by:
 - a. Focusing on revitalizing the tourism sector with training in product design and entrepreneurship using the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) "Future is in Tourism Sustainable Tourism Support Fund";
 - b. Promoting destination brochures with the help of UN Tourism to highlight the unique cultures of local and village regions across the nation, diverting focus from major tourist cities;
6. *Further believes* in classifying 35% of a state's lands as protected by the year 2040, committing to a 2-3% increase in funding over the course of 10 years for government agencies responsible for land conservation, and establishing or increasing a carbon tax on large carbon-producing industries by 2-4%, and utilizing that revenue to invest in eco-tourism options in protected lands will promote sustainable eco-tourism;

7. *Asks* UNEP, UNDP, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to develop a regional sustainable tourism development framework that promotes environmentally sustainable tourism on an international level by:
 - a. Placing teams to provide advisory support and technical assistance, conducting capacity building workshops in renewable energy/waste management, creating a regional coordination mechanism to align efforts, and introducing an electronic tracking system to monitor progress and make sustainability reports publicly available;
 - b. Providing technical and training for tourism officials and local authorities related to monitoring environmental standards;
 - c. Coordinating annual accountability reviews for environmental sustainable tourism performance across the region;
8. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations to increase financial and technical support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to strengthen sustainable tourism infrastructure, by:
 - a. Developing green infrastructure projects, such as the UNEA's Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Roadmaps, within the tourism sector;
 - b. Integrating renewable energy technologies to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency, through existing UN funding mechanisms such as the UNDP;
 - c. Establishing an effective waste-management system that specifically addresses plastic pollution and other environmental hazards with partnerships facilitated by the UN Tourism;
9. *Further welcomes* the development of a comprehensive system overseen by the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), to raise awareness about the problem related to various pollutions, and its lasting effects on sustainable tourism by:
 - a. Creating an international education program where countries could work to design lessons about pollution, the environment, and sustainable tourism that can be used in schools around the world;
 - b. Encouraging students to take part in projects like starting eco-clubs or creating sustainable tourism campaigns;
 - c. Ensuring long-term cooperation, invite all participating countries to monitor progress and continue improving the program to create positive change in both the education and tourism sectors;
10. *Reaffirms* the value of sustainable practices by implementing incentives through the UNSDG, which will oversee establishments' progression towards eco-friendly advancements by:
 - a. Introducing tax deductions, government grants, and publicity on the Sustainable Travel International website, which promotes businesses dedicated to implementing sustainable changes in daily operations and logistics;
 - b. Displaying plaques next to the main doors to increase public transparency into their sustainable practices, any establishments failing to participate can receive fewer incentives;

11. *Suggests* the global expansion of the existing airline stopover initiatives, such as the Panama Stopover Program, by:
- a. Promoting more international tourism to less-visited countries, boosting a more diverse cultural appreciation and education, as well as positively impacting a nation's economies;
 - b. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the long run because the alternative, traveling separately to each country round-trip, would have multiple longer flights, resulting in higher emissions.