



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# TOURISM AND THE SDGs: ACCELERATING THE 2030 AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2022  
AT 7.30 AM (GMT-4) NEW YORK TIME

## BACKGROUND

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The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted the tourism sector with a spill-over effect of unexpected socio-economic consequences to many other sectors. At the same time, it has also provided an opportunity to rethink the sector and mainstream its contribution to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tourism's gradual restart comes as recognition of the sector's importance has never been higher. In May 2022, the United Nations General Assembly hosted its first debate on tourism, highlighting its key role on inclusive growth and development. At the same time, tourism is on the agenda of governments and of international organizations in every global region. And among the wider public, tourism is also increasingly recognized as a unique and powerful provider of decent livelihoods and an opportunity for sustainable development, highlighted more by the pandemic.

UNWTO and JICA have enjoyed a long working cooperation, further enhanced in 2017 with the signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation. Under this framework, the entities are collaborating in the creation of a set of project-based indicators in tourism for achieving the SDGs. The set of common and harmonized indicators, and explanations of connections with official SDGs indicators aims to evaluate the impact of tourism and its contribution to the SDGs at project level and can be adopted globally for all tourism projects.

## CONCEPT

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During this side event, we will have the opportunity to inspire action and strengthen the collaboration of key stakeholders at the multilateral and national levels and renew commitment to support the achievement of the SDGs through discussions and best practices on how tourism contributes to several goals, namely to SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

The event will start by introducing the linkages between tourism and all the SDGs and how this is reflected in the current UNWTO-JICA collaboration: the development of a new set of tourism project-based indicators to assess the role of tourism in achieving SDGs. These indicators will help to measure the contribution of tourism at different levels, adapted to the scale of a project and involved stakeholders.

Secondly, there will be a panel discussion on Power of Tourism as a driver for Sustainable Development. We will welcome speakers from the sector, including members of One Planet Network – Sustainable Tourism Programme, signatories of the Global Plastics Initiative or the Glasgow Declaration, and private tourism stakeholders who will showcase their best practices through tourism national or regional strategies, engagements and projects and related SDGs. The session will analyse the perception of tourism and exemplify how tourism contributes to more than the directly referenced goals of SDG 8, 12 and 14. Furthermore, it aims to explore ways to boost political and public recognition of the sector and the benefits it can deliver all while aligned with the achievements of SDGs.

Focusing on continued collaboration, the event calls for urgent, strong action and support to accelerate recovery for tourism and to build a more resilient, inclusive and low carbon sector while giving a forward-looking perspective for the role the tourism sector plays in our journey to 2030.

## OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED OUTPUTS

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UNWTO and JICA are committed to accelerate progress towards the 2030 agenda and provide a shared understanding on how the tourism sector can most effectively contribute to the SDGs and the implications of the SDGs for the tourism sector, especially after the aftermath of COVID-19.

The side event will provide a platform to debate key topics for the future of tourism and aims to

- Understand better the SDGs from the perspective of tourism;
- Recognize the potential of tourism in the achievement of the SDGs;
- Strengthen the engagement of tourism stakeholders in the SDGs implementation;
- Enhance partnerships among different stakeholders;
- Increase the relevance of tourism on public policy, financing framework and business operations;
- Catalyse increased ODA Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Aid for Trade flows from the donors community.

## RELATED LINKS

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Interesting links for more information :

- Project and Destination Information in Cibao, Dominican Republic
  - [www.proyectotcs.com](http://www.proyectotcs.com)
  - [www.descubrecibao.com](http://www.descubrecibao.com)
- [Video link from South Pacific Tourism Organization](#)
- The Long Run
  - [The Long Run Website](#)
  - [The Long Run Brochure](#)
  - [The Long Run Members](#)
  - [The Long Run Training Courses](#)
- [The One Planet Network](#)
- [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#)
- [World Tourism Organization \(UNWTO\)](#)
- [The Tourism4SDGs platform](#)

