

From Davos to Bali: A Tourism Contribution to the Challenge of Climate Change



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From Davos to Bali: A Tourism Contribution to the Challenge of Climate Change

Introduction

The Second International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism held in Davos, Switzerland, in October 2007 was a milestone event. It reunited stakeholders from across the sector to review developments and re-chart the future, in the light of the rapidly evolving science, global awareness and market place reality.

The Davos Declaration acknowledged the reality of climate change and its strong interrelationship with tourism. It also acknowledged the need for a long term strategy for the sector to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in line with other sectors. It called for urgent adoption of a range of policies to encourage sustainable tourism and travel patterns that take into account climate responsiveness. It also gave a clear commitment for action to respond to the climate change challenge and identified concrete initiatives from governments, industry, consumers, research and communications networks to build awareness, data, education, collaboration and a changed culture of priority climate response.

Subsequent to the Davos conference, the issues related to climate change and tourism, were further discussed at a Ministerial Meeting held in London on 13 November 2007 and at the UNWTO General Assembly held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 23-29 November 2007. The following points were underscored:

- The importance for the tourism sector to identify consensus measures to address climate change without losing sight of all other priorities, especially poverty alleviation and tourism's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals.
- The urgent need for the tourism sector: to adapt to climate change conditions; to mitigate greenhouse emissions in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities included in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to help to transfer new technologies especially through the clean development mechanism and to make efforts to secure financial resources to assist developing countries which are especially vulnerable to climate change.
- There should be no discrimination against developing countries by creating obstacles to their economic development and in particular of those developing countries located at long distance from tourists generating markets. Special consideration should be given to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the provision of financial, technical and training support to tourism destinations and operators – particularly in the context of contributions to the UNFCCC LDC Trust Fund.
- Policy responses should be balanced and comprehensive and focus on measures which are economically efficient. The entire tourism industry – including the private sector - must play a strong role as part of a broader response to climate change; however it should not be disadvantaged through the imposition of a disproportionate burden either on tourism as a whole or on vital components such as aviation.
- UNWTO should continue to lead initiatives in the tourism sector as part of the overall UN effort to develop a common framework in tackling the climate change challenge, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization and in consultation with the UNFCCC.

The key messages arising from this intense debate were transmitted by the Secretary-General of UNWTO to the UN Climate Change summit in Bali on 12 December 2007.

UNWTO, in cooperation with other international Organizations, its member States and partners from the private sector will maintain "climate change and tourism" as a priority on its agenda, and has adopted for the 2008 World Tourism Day and the related year-long campaign the theme "Tourism: responding to the challenge of climate change".

Second International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism

CLIMATE CHANGE AND TOURISM RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Davos, Switzerland, 3 October 2007

DAVOS DECLARATION

The international community is taking concerted action against climate change around a commonly agreed framework led by the United Nations. This UN framework will seek to establish a long term post-Kyoto roadmap with rapid deployment and targeted milestones. The tourism sector has an important place in that framework, given its global economic and social value, its role in sustainable development and its strong relationships with climate.

To support this action the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with the support of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Swiss Government, convened the Second International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, in Davos, Switzerland, from 1 to 3 October 2007. This event, building on the results of the First International Conference organised on this topic in Djerba, Tunisia in 2003, gathered 450 participants from over 80 countries and 22 international organizations, private sector organizations and companies, research institutions, NGOs and the media, with the aim of responding in a timely and balanced way to climate change imperatives in the tourism sector. In preparation of this Conference the organizers commissioned a report to provide an extensive review of current impacts and analyse options for possible actions.

The Conference agreed that:

- climate is a key resource for tourism and the sector is highly sensitive to the impacts of climate change and global warming, many elements of which are already being felt. It is estimated to contribute some 5% of global CO₂ emissions.
- tourism - business and leisure - will continue to be a vital component of the global economy, an important contributor to the Millennium Development Goals and an integral, positive element in our society.
- given tourism's importance in the global challenges of climate change and poverty reduction, there is a need to urgently adopt a range of policies which encourages truly sustainable tourism that reflects a "quadruple bottom line" of environmental, social, economic and **climate** responsiveness.
- the tourism sector must rapidly respond to climate change, within the evolving UN framework and progressively reduce its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) contribution if it is to grow in a sustainable manner; this will require action to:
 - **mitigate** its GHG emissions, derived especially from transport and accommodation activities;
 - **adapt** tourism businesses and destinations to changing climate conditions;
 - apply existing and new **technology** to improve energy efficiency;
 - secure **financial** resources to help poor regions and countries.

The Conference calls for the following actions.

1) Governments and International Organizations:

- Incorporate tourism in the implementation of existing commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, and respond to the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for launching,

at the 13th session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bali, December 2007, an effective and comprehensive climate change framework for the post-2012 period.

- Implement concrete, simultaneous actions for mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals.
- Provide financial, technical and training support to tourism destinations and operators in developing countries (especially in the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States) to ensure that they can participate in the global climate response framework, through established initiatives, such as the Clean Development Mechanism.
- Promote, at all levels, interdisciplinary partnerships, networks and information exchange systems essential to sustainable development of the sector.
- Collaborate in international strategies, policies and action plans to reduce GHG emissions in the transport (in cooperation with ICAO and other aviation organizations), accommodation and related tourism activities.
- Introduce education and awareness programs for all tourism stakeholders – public and private sector – as well as consumers.
- Develop regional and local climate information services tailored to the tourism sector and promote their use among tourism stakeholders. Build capacities for interpretation and application of this information, strengthening collaboration with WMO's National Meteorological Services.
- Implement policy, regulatory, financial, managerial, educational, behavioural, diversification, research and monitoring measures, for effective adaptation and mitigation.

2) Tourism Industry and Destinations

- Take leadership in implementing concrete measures (such as incentives) in order to mitigate climate change throughout the tourism value chain and to reduce risk to travellers, operators and infrastructure due to dynamic climate variability and shift. Establish targets and indicators to monitor progress.
- Promote and undertake investments in energy-efficiency tourism programmes and use of renewable energy resources, with the aim of reducing the carbon footprint of the entire tourism sector.
- Integrate tourism in the formulation and implementation of regional, national and local level adaptation and mitigation strategies and implementation plans. The Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, coordinated by UNFCCC, represents an important opportunity for the tourism sector to enhance knowledge, increase capacities and stimulate action.
- Strive to conserve biodiversity, natural ecosystems and landscapes in ways which strengthen resilience to climate change and ensure a long-term sustainable use of the environmental resource base of tourism - in particular those that serve as "earth lungs" (carbon sinks), sequestering GHGs through forest management and other biological programmes, or that protect coastlines (e.g. mangroves and coral reefs).
- Seek to achieve increasingly carbon free environments by diminishing pollution through design, operations and market responsive mechanisms.
- Implement climate-focused product diversification, to reposition destinations and support systems, as well as to foster all-season supply and demand.
- Raise awareness among customers and staff on climate change impacts and engage them in response processes.

3) Consumers:

- In their choices for travel and destination, tourists should be encouraged to consider the climate, economic, societal and environmental impacts of their options before making a decision and, where possible to reduce their carbon footprint, or offset emissions that cannot be reduced directly.
- In their choices of activities at the destination, tourists should also be encouraged to opt for environmentally-friendly activities that reduce their carbon footprint as well as contribute to the preservation of the natural environment and cultural heritage.

4) Research and Communications Networks:

- Encourage targeted, multi-disciplinary research on impacts of climate change in order to address regional gaps in current knowledge, develop tools for risk assessment and cost-benefit analyses with which to gauge the feasibility of various responses.
- Include environmental and climate specific subjects in the study curricula of tourism training programmes and extend these to broader educational systems.
- Promote responsible travel that supports “quadruple bottom line” sustainable tourism, incorporating climate, environmental, social and economic considerations.
- Raise awareness on tourism’s economic role as a tool for development, and present information on causes and effects of climate change based on sound science, in a fair, balanced and user-friendly manner.

The Conference

- sets out a range of specific actions to be taken by all stakeholders in the sector to immediately begin to establish and implement a long range carbon-neutral roadmap;
- invites governments and international organizations, the tourism industry, consumers, research and communications networks to implement these recommendations, with concrete commitments and action plans, and to use the UNWTO on-line Climate Change and Tourism Information Exchange Service as a platform, for committed stakeholders to register their pledges and activities toward adaptation and mitigation on an on-going basis;
- stresses the need that UNWTO, in collaboration with UNEP and WMO, continue to lead this process, and to consider convening a Third Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, at an appropriate time in the future, to review progress, to maintain response levels and to identify further needs and actions;
- urges action by the entire tourism sector to face climate change as one of the greatest challenges to sustainable development, and to the Millennium Development Goals in the 21st Century.

The Davos Declaration and results of this conference will provide the basis for the UNWTO Minister’s Summit on Tourism and Climate Change, scheduled at the World Travel Market, London, UK, 13 November 2007. It will be submitted for adoption at the UNWTO General Assembly in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 23-29 November 2007, and also will be presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007.



Ministers' Summit on Tourism and Climate Change

13 November 2007, London, United Kingdom

Conclusions

The participants to the Ministers' Summit on Tourism and Climate Change gathered in London on 13 November 2007 welcome the initiatives taken by the tourism sector, under the leadership of UNWTO in cooperation with UNEP and WMO, to address the causes and consequences of climate change for the tourism sector.

The participants strongly endorse the Davos Declaration and urge all tourism stakeholders to follow its recommendations. Some delegations made however specific comments, and request the Secretary General of UNWTO to report on them to the UNWTO General Assembly and at the Bali summit on climate change.

The Delegation of Australia wishes to record the following statement:

"Tourism Ministers support effective global action to address climate change. Policy responses should be balanced and comprehensive and focus on measures which are economically efficient. The tourism sector must play a strong role as part of a broader response to climate change; however it should not be disadvantaged through the imposition of a disproportionate burden either on tourism as a whole or on vital components such as aviation".

The Delegation of Bangladesh wishes to stress that special consideration should be given to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the provision of financial, technical and training support to tourism destinations and operators. A specific mention should be made to support their National Adaptation Programmes of Action on climate change through contributions to the UNFCCC LDC Trust Fund. It also suggests to add a specific reference to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, when describing actions addressed at conserving biodiversity, natural ecosystems and landscape.

The delegation of India wishes to put on record the following statements:

"India is acutely aware of the considerable challenge we face today from climate change. We, like other developing countries, bear an inordinate share of the burden of climate change even though this is due to high-level emissions of developed countries. In such circumstances, we must significantly shore up our abilities to cope with and adapt to climate change. To be able to do so, we need development, which is also the best form of adaptation."

"The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has one of the largest numbers of State Parties of any multilateral instrument. It is, therefore, appropriate that matters relating to climate change are addressed in the UNFCCC. At the UNWTO we need to try and take stock of the situation as it affects our sector and see what can be done to adapt to the inevitability of further global warming, especially as far as developing countries are concerned."

The delegation of Brazil wishes to reinforce the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities (as included in the UNFCCC), especially in the section of the Davos Declaration calling for actions of the different stakeholders. It also suggests to add the following paragraph under the section relating to actions from Governments and international Organizations: *"Assist developing countries where the tourism sector is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effect of climate change, in order to allow them to meet the related costs of adaptation"*.

The delegation of Uruguay suggests adding the following paragraph related to the actions of tourism industry and destinations: *"The private sector should proportionally contribute to the costs that imply preventing, mitigating and adapting to climate change"*.

The delegation of Maldives suggests undertaking awareness activities on the importance of climate change.



**Resolution adopted by the UNWTO General Assembly,
held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 23 to 29 November 2007**

Tourism and climate change

The General Assembly,

Having taken cognizance of the document relative to climate change and tourism and of the report of the Secretary General,

Taking into account that the effects of climate change have already a serious impact on several tourism destinations; that certain activities relating to the tourism sector generate only a small proportion of the total greenhouse gas emissions; that there is scientific evidence that global warming will continue to increase at an alarming rate if substantial remedial actions are not taken,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the active engagement of the UNWTO Secretariat to analyze the complex issues deriving from the inter-relations between climate change and tourism with a view to taking effective measures of adaptation and mitigation, through transfer of advanced clean technologies, to combat the effects of warming on the tourism sector;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary General for having organized the Djerba Conference from 9 to 11 April 2003, the Davos Conference from 1 to 3 October 2007 and the London Ministerial Summit on 13 November 2007, which generated meaningful discussions on climate change and tourism;
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the participation in these events of the tourism authorities of a broad number of countries, and of a wide spectrum of tourism stakeholders from the public and private sector and welcomes the exchange of views on the problems and the actions to be undertaken;
4. Takes note of the main elements of the Davos Declaration issued on 3 October 2007 and of the conclusions reached at the London Ministerial Summit on 13 November 2007 and emphasizes that the recommendations emanating from these fora should not discriminate against developing countries by creating obstacles to their economic development and in particular of those developing countries located at long distance from tourists generating markets;
5. Recognizes the urgent need for the tourism sector: to adapt to climate change conditions; to mitigate green house emissions in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities included in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); to help the transfer of new technologies especially through the clean development mechanism and to make efforts to secure financial resources to assist developing countries which are especially vulnerable to climate change; and calls on governments, international organizations, professionals of the tourism sector, media, and other actors to engage in the response to one of the greatest challenges of our times;

6. Reiterates the importance for the tourism sector to identify consensus measures to address climate change but without losing sight of all other priorities, especially poverty alleviation and tourism contribution to Millennium Development Goals;
7. Takes note with interest of the preliminary findings of the technical study on climate change and tourism undertaken by a group of experts under the supervision of UNWTO in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and welcomes comments from the State members after the final report has been circulated by the Secretary-General; and
8. Welcomes the close cooperation established by UNWTO with other relevant agencies of the UN System, and in particular with UNEP and WMO, in view of the forthcoming climate change summit to be held in Bali in December 2007 and of the future actions to be taken within the UN framework, and urges UNWTO to work in close consultation with the UNFCCC, which is the appropriate mechanism within the UN system to address issues relating to climate change.



Statement by Francesco Frangiali,
Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization,
on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change

Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, 12 December 2007

Mr. President,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Tourism contributes to global warming, and, at the same time, is a victim of climate change.

Tourism is a central phenomenon of today's world. It has become globalised. It is growing spectacularly, from 165 millions international arrivals in 1970, to 846 millions last year, and, undoubtedly, 1.6 billion by 2020. And this, without including domestic travel.

A phenomenon of such magnitude could not remain without consequences for the climate on account of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by trips and stays. In turn, the warming caused by major human activities profoundly alters the conditions of tourism development. Small tropical islands and medium-altitude ski resorts are the first destinations to be affected. Others will follow, those for which the product is based on forests, glaciers, biodiversity and wildlife.

* * *

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have **two messages** for you today.

The **first message** is that the tourism community will not shrink back. It will participate in the common effort led by the United Nations. Two weeks ago, the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization responsibly engaged itself. A consensus has been forged among our 153 members. I hope this Conference will reach the same level of consensus.

UNWTO members agreed that we should not sidestep the issue, by arguing that the contribution of travel and tourism to greenhouse gas emissions is limited to five per cent of the total - half of which for passenger air transport. It is true, but it is not a valid excuse.

You can count on us. We are ready to take up our share of the burden. But, by the same token, we are also within our rights to tell the public opinion and the media: "do not unfairly target tourism! It is an activity just as respectable as others, which satisfies needs that are just as essential".

* * *

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have a **second message**: never forget that tourism generates wealth, creates jobs, and contributes to the alleviation of poverty.

Those who say: “do not travel far from home and avoid taking planes to save several tons of carbon emissions”, should think twice. Because these long-haul trips are often to countries that are home to the planet’s poorest populations, which - we know - will already be the first victims of warming. These communities, like Bali, would be doubly affected if we also deprive them of the economic contribution of tourism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To the negotiators gathered here, we would like to say: you hold an important part of our industry’s destiny in your hands. Having come to Bali, you are tourists yourselves! You are part of the tourism economic pattern, even if you work in this conference room and do not stay on the beach!

As tourists, as travellers, in the decisions you are going to take, do not forget the message of tourism.

I thank you.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the only intergovernmental organization that serves as a global forum for tourism policy and issues. Its Members include 153 countries, 7 territories as well as over 370 Affiliate Members from the public and private sectors. UNWTO's mission is to promote and develop tourism as a significant means of fostering international peace and understanding, economic development and international trade.



WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

Committed to Tourism, Travel and the Millennium Development Goals

