

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON TOURISM STATISTICS

Jointly organized by UN Statistics Division and UNWTO Department of Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism

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Agenda item 19 - Issues of measurement of environmental and social sustainability of tourism

Statement by
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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of my colleagues working in social and environmental statistics I would like to convey to UNWTO their appreciation of the work it is doing in the area of measuring sustainability of tourism. The recent UNWTO publication *Indicators of Sustainable Development for Tourism Destinations* is singled out as particularly important.

I would agree with those who think that the revised *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* should recognize the importance of measuring social and environmental impacts of tourism and include some policy guidance on how national statistical systems should approach this issue. During the upcoming worldwide consultations on the draft revised text of the Recommendations we all will have an opportunity to reflect on it and see how to formulate recommendations in this area.

In this connection I would like to stress that, in my view, the revised Recommendations should deal not with the indicators of sustainable development of tourism as such, but rather with the basic data, which might be collected as a part of regular data compilations activities and be useful for derivation of those indicators. In this context, I would very much welcome country assessments of feasibility of collecting specific variables relevant to this topic.