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Report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on tourism statistics. The report provides an overview of the progress achieved by UNWTO in cooperation with countries and international organizations since its previous report to the Commission, issued in 2014. The report describes the planned development of a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism to support more integrated measurement and policy in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and in response to requests from Member States and various stakeholders. This work is being led by a working group of experts under the auspices of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account. The report presents the progress achieved and proposes the development of a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism, a compilation guide for tourism satellite accounts (TSAs) and a technical note on linking the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the TSA. The report concludes with points for discussion.

* E/CN.3/2017/1.



Report of the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics

I. Introduction

1. In its report submitted to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fifth session (E/CN.3/2014/25), the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) indicated that sustainable tourism was high on its list of priorities. The General Assembly, in four resolutions adopted since 2012, has recognized the role of tourism in contributing to the three dimensions of sustainable development, including through job creation, income generation, education, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability:

- Resolution [66/288](#), on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”
- Resolution [69/233](#), on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection
- Resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The main text refers to a determination to promote sustainable tourism (para. 33), and tourism is referred to explicitly in 3 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, specifically in targets 8.9, 12.b and 14.7
- Resolution [70/193](#), in which the Assembly decided to proclaim 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

2. In the International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008), endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session, held from 26 to 29 February 2008, it is stated that “tourism has an impact on the economy, the natural and built environment, the local population at the places visited and the visitors themselves. Owing to this range of impacts and the wide spectrum of stakeholders involved, there is a need for a holistic approach to tourism development, management and monitoring. This approach is supported by [UNWTO] in order to formulate and implement national and local tourism policies”.

3. IRTS 2008 also recommends that “linking tourism and sustainability be considered a priority”, stating that “any measurement of tourism and its effect on an economy must take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts. Links with the latter component should be a high priority”.

4. Recognizing these statements, the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account, at its 16th meeting, held on 26 and 27 January 2016, launched a programme of work to advance towards a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism that considers the economic, environmental and social dimensions and the relevant spatial levels (global, national and subnational). The statistical framework is aimed at providing a common language and organizing structure for exploiting the richness of data already available and for identifying additional data that may be needed. This work is being undertaken in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goal indicators,¹ and of General Assembly resolution [70/193](#).

¹ UNWTO has been identified as a custodian agency for indicators for targets 8.9 and 12.b.

5. In section II below, the present report outlines the role of the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account. In section III, it discusses the work undertaken with regard to the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism, including the development of a compilation guide on tourism satellite accounts (TSAs), the preparation of a technical note linking the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the TSA, and the compilation of indicators on sustainable tourism, subnational measurement and testing in pilot studies. The report then outlines next steps and provides points for discussion.

II. Role of the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account

6. The Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account is a subsidiary advisory body of the UNWTO Executive Council² and, as such, contributes to the fulfilment of article 13 (3) of the agreement whereby UNWTO became a specialized United Nations agency. That agreement states: “The United Nations recognizes UNWTO as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.” Consequently, the Committee is involved in the following:

- Proposing initiatives relating to the design and implementation of international standards on tourism statistics
- Promoting the international comparability of tourism statistics by proposing initiatives relative to the collection, homogeneity, processing and dissemination of data
- Helping member countries in their initiatives to improve their respective national systems of tourism statistics and in the development of TSAs, including the further development and clarification of methodological issues relating to tourism statistics and exploring future extensions of TSAs
- Liaising with other international bodies with delegated responsibilities for leadership regarding and coordination of related international statistics and their standards within the sphere of the United Nations system.³

7. The Committee, consisting of representatives of the national statistical offices and national tourism authorities of UNWTO members, approves and significantly steers the programme of work for the UNWTO Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account Programme, which for the period 2016/17 includes the following tasks and objectives:

- Ensuring that UNWTO is the leading source of tourism data worldwide
- Translating the methodological framework into practical guidance for countries

² The terms of reference of the Committee are available from <http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/docpdf/termsreferencesfeb2016en.pdf>.

³ See http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/a21_08_i_b_draft_programme_of_work_and_budget_for_2016-2017_en.pdf.

- Advancing the methodological framework, in particular for the measurement of sustainable tourism
- Cooperating with regard to statistics on a permanent basis within the United Nations system, notably on Sustainable Development Goal indicators
- Disseminating knowledge
- Building capacity with regard to TSAs.

Working group of experts on measuring sustainable tourism

8. The Committee recently established a working group of experts on measuring sustainable tourism.⁴ The group met for the first time on 20 and 21 October 2016 at UNWTO headquarters in Madrid.⁵ It consists of experts⁶ in tourism statistics, tourism and environmental accounting, and the measurement and analysis of sustainable tourism, particularly at the subnational level. It is the task of the working group to develop the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism, which consists of a standard framework for collecting, organizing and disseminating relevant information; integrates tourism statistics with other economic, social and environmental information; and provides a coherent base for deriving indicators that are relevant to the monitoring and analysis of sustainable tourism. To achieve this, the framework will have as a central feature the linking of the TSA with SEEA.

9. The development of frameworks relating to sustainable development naturally cuts across a range of disciplines and agencies. It is therefore important that different stakeholders, from both the user and the producer perspectives, be involved and consulted during the development and implementation of the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism. From the perspective of statistical production and compilation, advancing the statistical will involve experts from national statistical offices, national tourism administrations, academia and other organizations in various fields that should, as much as possible, be represented in the working group, including:

- Tourism statistics
- Environmental-economic accounting
- Environmental statistics
- National accounts, employment, trade and other economic statistics
- Tourism satellite accounts
- Transport and mobility data
- Geospatial and regional statistics data

⁴ For the draft terms of reference of the working group, see <http://statistics.unwto.org/mst>. A preliminary meeting with a view to setting up such a group was held in November 2015.

⁵ For an agenda, list of participants and all the discussion papers and presentations, see http://statistics.unwto.org/wg_meeting.

⁶ Most of the national experts in this group are experts from national statistical offices, along with those working for the national tourism authority.

- Classifications of activities, products and environmental stocks and flows.

10. The work of developing a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism will be conducted under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account and in coordination with the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The plan for developing such a statistical framework was presented at the 10th and 11th meetings of the Committee, which supported the draft proposal and recommended taking a practical approach, including by drafting a technical note linking SEEA and the TSA⁷ (see para. 20 below for details). The London Group on Environmental Accounting has also been informed of this work.

Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account Programme

11. In accordance with its programme of work, UNWTO collects tourism statistics according to IRTS 2008 from countries worldwide, and maintains these statistics in a regularly updated database, bearing in mind the comparability of the data. On the basis of those data, UNWTO annually publishes the *Compendium of Tourism Statistics*, which provides data and indicators on inbound, outbound and domestic tourism, as well as on tourism industries, employment and some macroeconomic indicators relating to tourism. This is complemented by the *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics*, which focuses specifically on inbound tourism (total arrivals and overnight stays), broken down by country of origin and including conceptual, technical and methodological references and country notes.

12. With regard to capacity-building initiatives, UNWTO has organized regional workshops in Honduras (2016), Japan (2014), Mauritius (2014) and Turkey (2014). A regional programme for the capacity-building of African countries with regard to statistics, composed of a series of three workshops, has commenced in Algeria (2017-2019). Since 2012, UNWTO and the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa have collaborated to organize a series of workshops aimed at providing capacity-building to 15 Southern African countries in regard to the strengthening of their national systems of tourism statistics with a view to developing TSAs. As part of a joint project between UNWTO and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises on enhancing the understanding of European tourism, a training endeavour on TSAs will commence in 2017 for European Union countries, and for potential European Union candidate countries that are signatories of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. UNWTO, through its Technical Cooperation and Services Programme, also provides direct technical assistance to its Member States through projects and missions.⁸

⁷ See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/tenth_meeting/Minutes_UNCEEA2015.pdf, and http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh_meeting/11th%20UNCEEA%20Minutes_Final.pdf.

⁸ During the period 2014-2016, missions were undertaken to the following countries: Algeria (2014), Aruba (2014-2016), Belarus (2015), Cuba (2016), the Gambia (2015), Guatemala (2014 and 2015), Haiti (2016), Honduras (2016), Myanmar (2016), Nicaragua (2014), Oman (2015-2017), Paraguay (2016), the Republic of Moldova (2014), Romania (2015), Senegal (2014), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2016) and the United Arab Emirates (2016).

III. Towards a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism

13. The work on an SF-MTS is the natural evolution of and complement to the existing IRTS 2008 and *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework — 2008*.⁹ The goal is for the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable tourism to collect information in a standardized way and to derive relevant indicators for the monitoring and analysis of sustainable tourism.¹⁰

14. At this point, work is progressing to stimulate discussion on the potential to integrate international standards and recommendations on: (a) the measurement of tourism, including tourism satellite accounts; (b) the measurement of the environment and its links to economic activity, particularly environmental-economic accounting; (c) the measurement of social and cultural phenomena; (d) the measurement of data at the subnational and location levels; and (e) the use of statistical infrastructure such as business registers to underpin the collection and coherence of data.¹¹ A central feature of the statistical framework will be the linking of the TSA and SEEA. In the medium term, it will be important to incorporate statistical advances in the measurement of other dimensions of sustainable tourism, particularly in relation to culture. The use of an accounting approach ensures internal coherence and the ability to understand gaps in data. Further, it places different information in context and allows for the derivation of indicators from a common framework based on consistent economic and environmental statistics. Such an approach can support the credibility, comparability and outreach of data and various measurement and monitoring programmes pertaining to sustainable tourism, including the Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

15. The main steps involved in advancing the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism are considered to be the following:

- Engage in initial framing of sustainable tourism for measurement purposes
- Assess relevant statistical guidance and frameworks
- Assess country experiences
- Describe key measurement challenges
- Engage with users and clarify requirements
- Conduct pilot studies
- Draft a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism and discuss incremental versions in relevant forums.

Compilation guide on tourism satellite accounts

16. The TSA has long been a strategic area of work for UNWTO. The purpose of a TSA is to analyse in detail all the aspects of demand for goods and services

⁹ The Statistical Commission took note of the recommended methodological framework at its thirty-ninth session, in 2008. It updates and replaces the previous recommended methodological framework, which was approved by the Commission at its thirty-first session, in 2000.

¹⁰ See http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/mst_issue_paper_1.pdf.

¹¹ For more information, see http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/pdf/mst_issue_paper_8_0.pdf.

associated with an activity that is undertaken by visitors, in order to observe the operational interface with the supply of such goods and services within the economy and to describe how this supply interacts with other economic activities. It supports greater internal consistency of tourism statistics with the rest of the statistical system of a country, as well as the increased international comparability of those data.

17. Implementing TSAs is part of implementing the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism and underpins the derivation of tourism-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators. To support countries in the implementation of TSAs, the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account proposes to the Statistical Commission the development of a compilation guide on TSAs. The process of developing the guide would be supported by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It should be based on the wealth of experiences that a number of national statistical systems¹² have built up in compiling TSAs. It could also benefit from a global assessment survey carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in June 2016 on the implementation of TSAs. The primary purpose of the guide will be to provide further clarification and practical guidance for using sources and methods to compile TSAs. It will be designed to support the production of a high-quality set of standard tables, to strengthen the international comparability of TSA results, and to aid international reporting. It should discuss data sources and models, in addition to country experiences that demonstrate how some countries have solved specific problems. The TSA compilation guide should take into account work already being done in this field.¹³ It is further proposed that the guide also cover some relevant elements of measuring subnational tourism, building on existing work regarding, for example, regional TSAs.

Preparation of a technical note for linking the tourism satellite account and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

18. The initial linking of the TSA with SEEA can be achieved through considering the connection that characteristic tourism industries have with the environment. One aspect of this suggests presenting data on environmental flows (e.g., water, energy, solid waste and greenhouse gas emissions) within an accounting framework. This approach was briefly discussed in chapter 4 of *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012: Applications and Extensions*,¹⁴ and will benefit from the experiences in those countries, such as Canada¹⁵ and Italy,¹⁶ which have already started experimenting with this approach.

19. During 2017, it is anticipated that significant progress can be made in establishing connections between TSAs and SEEA in order to inform an

¹² For example, the national statistical systems of Austria, Canada, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands and the Philippines have compiled and published data on tourism satellite accounts.

¹³ For example, Eurostat's methodological work on tourism satellite accounts in the European Union.

¹⁴ Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ae_white_cover.pdf.

¹⁵ See Chris Jackson and others, "Linking the Canadian Tourism Satellite Account and the Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts to measure the environmental impact of tourism in Canada: an exploratory study for two pilot industries", presented to the ninth International Forum on Tourism Statistics, held in Paris from 19 to 21 November 2008.

¹⁶ See Cesare Costantino and Angelica Tudini, "How to develop an accounting framework for ecologically sustainable tourism" in *The Economics of Tourism and Sustainable Development*, Alessandro Lanza and others, eds. (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2005).

understanding of sustainable tourism. In this regard, both the working group of experts on measuring sustainable tourism and the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting agreed to the drafting of a technical note linking SEEA and the TSA, including consideration of the link of subnational aspects of tourism with the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

20. This technical note, as with the other notes being developed for the other SEEA modules, would provide core sets of accounts, tables and a small set of indicators to measure the relationship between tourism and the environment and provide practical compilation guidance to respond to the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Connections between tourism activity and changes in ecosystem conditions that can be attributed to that activity, as well as the impact of tourism on the ecosystems, will also be considered in the note.

21. It is intended that a draft of the technical note be presented for discussion at the sixth UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Measuring Sustainable Tourism, which will be held in Manila from 21 to 24 June 2017,¹⁷ and at the 12th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting.

Indicators for sustainable tourism

22. The concept of sustainable tourism has been actively developed over the past 25 years, led by UNWTO at the international level. The focus has been on the development of approaches to integrated decision-making at the destination level, including proposals for extensive sets of indicators. These sets of indicators have not been selected or developed in the context of a statistical framework. The goal of the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism is to enable indicators to be derived from it and hence to have a firm base for (a) ongoing measurement and comparison, (b) the assessment of data quality and (c) the appropriate coordination of collection activities. At this stage, there has been no conclusive discussion within the work on the statistical framework of the types of indicators of sustainable tourism that might be defined.

23. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, indicators are needed for monitoring the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. There are two targets that require the measurement of sustainable tourism, namely:

- Target 8.9: by 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- Target 14.7: by 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

24. For target 8.9, the current proposal is to use two indicators derived from the TSA, that is, gross domestic product (GDP) from tourism and employment in tourism-related industries. These two indicators are intended to provide an

¹⁷ See <http://asiapacific.unwto.org/event/6th-unwto-international-conference-tourism-statistics-measuring-sustainable-tourism>.

indication of the economic dimension of sustainable tourism and, in part, the social dimension. At present, indicators that capture the environmental dimension of sustainable tourism have not been incorporated. Building on the discussion above, the statistical framework envisaged would support the derivation of indicators such as tourism-related greenhouse gas emissions, energy use and water use. Within an accounting framework, these flows might be compared with GDP from tourism. These types of indicators will support an improved understanding of the environmental pressures created through tourism activity.

25. Another issue pertaining to the discussion of indicators of sustainable tourism in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals concerns indicators relating to the implementation of tools to monitor progress towards sustainable tourism:

- Target 12.b: develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

For this target, the proposal from the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account¹⁸ is to focus on assessing progress towards the implementation of both TSA- and SEEA-based frameworks and their application to sustainable tourism. Advancing a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism is of direct relevance in this regard.

26. UNWTO and its Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account also consider that tourism may be relevant to many more goals and targets beyond those which explicitly mention sustainable tourism. An additional set of indicators around a “tourism theme” could be developed to complement the above indicators in order to support global and national monitoring relating to the Sustainable Development Goals. This would include indicators for monitoring elements not covered in the existing indicators for targets 8.9, 12.b and 14.7 and for monitoring the contribution of tourism to other targets for which tourism is not explicitly mentioned but relevant, such as Goal 11, on sustainable cities and human settlements.¹⁹

27. Beyond indicators that are relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals, it will be important to assess the extent to which the broader range of sustainable tourism indicators that have been described in previous work (by UNWTO and others) may be derived from the accounting-based statistical framework that will be developed.

¹⁸ See, for example, a note prepared by the Committee in which it is proposed that, for target 12.b, the currently proposed indicator be focused on measurement of the stage of implementation of the SEEA and TSA frameworks, owing mainly to the fact that there is no internationally agreed (statistical) concept that can be used to define a sustainable tourism strategy or policy or action plan, or what the relationship/boundary may be between those three different instruments. For example, a tourism master plan may contain elements of all three. In that case, would it count as one action or three?

¹⁹ See UNWTO, *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals* (2015), available from <http://icr.unwto.org/publication/tourism-and-sustainable-development-goals>.

Subnational measurement

28. The development of statistics on tourism has focused on the compilation of data at the national level. Nevertheless, tourism has been recognized as highly sensitive to location and as requiring a planning process for its development. Recognition of these facts is not new, and several initiatives worldwide, including UNWTO projects and initiatives, are focusing on some of the issues involved in the subnational measurement of tourism.²⁰ The lion's share of past and current work on sets of indicators for sustainable tourism has been focused on the subnational destination level in order to be of direct use to tourism planners and managers of destinations.²¹ It is important to recognize that, while tourism is "seen and felt" at the local destination level, with management taking place at that level, the broader policy direction and resource allocation may be provided at the national levels and policy implementation is often the role of regional authorities. This mix of roles at different levels is a strong rationale for the harmonization of data at the national, regional and destination levels to facilitate policy coherence. In this regard, the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting has suggested that the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting approach is a useful framework for considering environmental-economic issues pertaining to tourism at the subnational level.

29. The need to provide information from different spatial perspectives is real but not unique to tourism. Indeed, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages "all Member States to develop as soon as possible ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda" and "to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven".²²

30. In advancing the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism, it is not considered sufficient to articulate the integration of information across sustainable development themes at the national level. This task is important, but it is equally necessary to investigate how statistics can be integrated at the subnational and destination levels. Ultimately, the aim is to provide a richer information base to place tourism activity in its spatial context and to support better understanding of the balance between the economy, society and the environment. At the same time, the aim is to provide a means to see each location in relation to national and international situations. Ideally, a statistical framework should permit the uniqueness of each location to be reflected within an overall framework.

31. Furthermore, as statistics offices have increased their use of administrative data and progressed towards the geocoding of statistical outputs, the potential to develop subnational data has increased. These developments, which continue to gather pace, are important drivers. The challenge remains, however, to consider how these advances in data might be harnessed when considering multiple datasets. The provision of fine-level detail for individual data sets, without consideration of how

²⁰ See, for example, the work of the International Network on Regional Economics, Mobility and Tourism, available from <http://statistics.unwto.org/project/closer-look-tourism-sub-national-measurement-and-analysis-inroute-unwto-collaboration>.

²¹ See, for example, the work of the observatories that are part of the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories of UNWTO, available from <http://sdt.unwto.org/insto-about>.

²² General Assembly resolution 70/1, paras. 78 and 79.

they relate to each other, leaves unmet the challenge of providing an overall picture of a specific destination or community. This is particularly true with regard to the integration of environmental information with socioeconomic data.

Pilot projects

32. Advancing the development of a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism involves consideration of the issues in several pilot studies for destinations and countries. The objective in undertaking pilot studies is to understand, in specific contexts, the types of measurement issues and analytical applications that surround the topic of sustainable tourism. The work is highly relevant in the development of a broader, more generic statistical framework, since the pilot studies should speak to both the relevance and the feasibility of developing such a framework.

33. There are three key benefits that emerge from undertaking a pilot study at the country or destination level. First, it should provide a rationale for bringing together various stakeholders with an interest in sustainable tourism to discuss key policy and analytical questions and to understand the information requirements. Second, a pilot study should provide a broad assessment of the availability and quality of data for measuring sustainable tourism, an understanding of the associated institutional arrangements for data production and dissemination, and proposals for advancing work in this area. Third, a pilot study can provide some initial estimates of data concerning sustainable tourism to inform policy and analysis.

34. Work on pilot projects is under development as part of the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism in Austria, Fiji, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (specifically, in Wales). Their experiences were presented at the first meeting of the working group of experts on measuring sustainable tourism. More pilot projects may follow as work progresses.

IV. Conclusions and next steps

35. Overall, the work on a statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism responds to a gap in the framework of tourism statistics concerning sustainability, which has been acknowledged for some time. The current momentum relating to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the extensive current and past discussions on sustainable tourism, the recent work on developing subnational tourism statistics and the increasing recognition of the role of extended accounting frameworks (TSA and SEEA) together provide a firm basis for advancing this work and delivering meaningful progress on establishing such a statistical framework.

36. A key to progress will be ongoing engagement with the various stakeholders, notably through the working group of experts on measuring sustainable tourism but also through other relevant forums. To this end, relevant papers describing the project and its progress will be proposed for discussion by the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account, the sixth UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics, the Committee of Experts on Environmental-

Economic Accounting, the London Group on Environmental Accounting, and the SEEA central framework technical committee.

V. Points for discussion

37. The Commission is invited to express its views on:

(a) The development of the statistical framework for measuring sustainable tourism by the UNWTO working group of experts on measuring sustainable tourism, which will include the development of indicators for sustainable tourism, measurement at the subnational level and pilot projects;

(b) The development of a compilation guide for tourism satellite accounts, under the supervision of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account, with the support of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(c) The preparation of a technical note linking SEEA and the TSA, including the subnational aspects of tourism, under the auspices of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account;

(d) The need for capacity-building with regard to measuring sustainable tourism and, in particular, tourism statistics, the TSA and their linkages.
