

Madrid, 15 April 2020

UNWTO input to the 2020 Session of the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under the theme:
Accelerated action and transformative pathways, realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

[half-page consolidated input]

The 2020 Session of the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), organized under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will be addressing the theme of “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways, realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) advocates for tourism as a key driver of socio-economic growth and development for realizing the 2030 Agenda, and supports the development and implementation of sustainable tourism policies and practices which makes optimal use of environmental resources, respects the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities and provides socio-economic benefits for all.

With the global outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), tourism is one of the most affected sectors, but it is also a sector that is one of the most resilient and can play a major role in contributing to the sustainability and recovery. UNWTO also calls upon the sector and travelers to address this challenge with sound judgment and proportionate measures and calls for solid international leadership and for tourism to be included as a priority in future recovery efforts:

Against a backdrop of travel restrictions being introduced, UNWTO underscores the importance of international dialogue and cooperation and emphasizes the COVID-19 challenge also represents an opportunity to show how solidarity can go beyond borders.

People are at the heart of UNWTO’s plan for tourism’s post-COVID-19 recovery. With millions of jobs at risk, the COVID-19 pandemic hits tourism harder than any other sector. The World Tourism Organization response is calling for urgent and strong support to help the global tourism sector not only to recover from the challenge of COVID-19, but to ‘grow back better’.