



UN TOURISM REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Sixty-eighth meeting
Republic Federal of
Nigeria
Abuja, 11th June 2025

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
TAKEN BY THE UN TOURISM REGIONAL
COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
AT ITS SIXTY-EIGHTH MEETING
ABUJA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 11th June 2025**

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1. AGENDA

CAF/68/Prov.
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Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chair (Mauritius)
3. Report of the UN Tourism Secretary-General
4. Report of the UN Tourism Regional Director for Africa
 - Implementation of the Programme of Work in Africa for the period 2024-2025
 - Technical cooperation projects in the region
 - Survey Findings on Members' Priorities for UN Tourism Programme of Work (PoW) 2026-2027
5. Report on the UN Tourism Affiliate Members activities in Africa for the period 2024-2025
6. Nominations and elections to UN Tourism statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies:
 - 6.1. Nomination of candidates to the various General Assembly offices and its subsidiary bodies:
 - a. **Two** Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for 2025
 - b. **Two** members to the Credentials Committee for 2025
 - c. **One** Chair of the Regional Commission for Africa for the period 2025-2027
 - d. **Two** Vice-Chairs of the Regional Commission for Africa for the period 2025-2027
 - 6.2. Nomination of candidates to represent the Africa region on the Executive Council and its subsidiary bodies:
 - a. **Five** members to the Executive Council for the period 2025-2029
 - b. **Two** members to the Committee on Tourism Online Education for the period 2025-2029
 - c. **Two** members to the Technical Committee for the International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT)*
7. Recommendation of the host country of the World Tourism Day in 2027
8. Place and date of the 69th Meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for Africa in 2026
9. Preparations for the 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2025
10. Other matters.

2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CAF/68/CR/1(LXVIII)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA & WELCOME REMARKS

Agenda item 1

The Commission for Africa,

Thanks Hon. Hannatu Musa MUSAWA, Federal Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the UN Tourism Secretary-General for their welcome remarks.

Acknowledges that due to unforeseen circumstances, H.E. Hon. Christian Harold Richard DUVAL, Minister of Tourism, Republic of Mauritius, and CAF Chairperson to the Commission, has not been able to attend this commission meeting. According to the rules of procedures, the CAF Vice- Chair of the commission, Hon. Hannatu Musa MUSAWA, will chair the 68th UN Tourism regional commission meeting for Africa.

1. Adopts the agenda of its sixty-eighth meeting.
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CAF/68/CR/2(LXVIII)

COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIR

Agenda item 2

The Commission for Africa,

Having heard the Communication of Hon. Christian Harold Richard DUVAL, Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Mauritius, Chair of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa (CAF)

Expresses its appreciation for the delivery of the Communication of the Chair on his behalf by Hon. Hannatu Musa MUSAWA, Federal Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and CAF Vice-Chair:

1. Welcomes CAF Chair's words key messages on Affirming the transformation of Africa's tourism narrative, from outdated perceptions to a continent now recognized for its vibrant cultures, rich biodiversity, and hospitality. From the Serengeti to Marrakech, and the Victoria Falls to ancient pyramids, Africa offers unparalleled experiences and remains a land of promise and opportunity.
2. Takes note of the impressive performance in 2024, with 74 million international arrivals, surpassing pre-pandemic levels by 7%, and a 12% increase over 2023—making Africa the second-fastest recovering tourism region globally. North Africa led the surge with a 22% rise in international arrivals.

3. Appreciates the sector's contribution to economic growth, with Travel & Tourism representing 8.5% of Africa's GDP in 2023 and the projected creation of 18 million new jobs by 2028. For countries like Gambia and Cabo Verde, tourism contributed nearly 50% of exports in 2023.
4. Highlights Africa's authentic and diverse tourism experiences, growing emphasis on sustainability, and increasing efforts to ensure inclusive benefits for local communities.
5. Commends The strategic collaboration across public and private sectors in enhancing safety, capacity-building, and destination marketing, with countries like Kenya, Tanzania, and Morocco exceeding 2019 arrival levels.
6. Acknowledges ongoing challenges that must be addressed, including:
 - Widespread infrastructure gaps in transport, energy, and digital access;
 - Security concerns and regional instability affecting perceptions;
 - Restrictive visa regimes and high entry costs impeding travel and integration;
 - Unequal participation of local communities in tourism benefits;
 - Insufficient investment in tourism education, innovation, and branding strategies.
7. Urges Member States to take bold and coordinated action, and encourage the following key initiatives:
 - Harmonization of visa policies, including support for the African Union passport and expansion of e-visa regimes;
 - A Pan-African tourism branding campaign showcasing the continent's diversity, resilience, and readiness;
 - Scaled-up investment in green, inclusive, and sustainable tourism infrastructure;
 - Enhanced training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship pathways for youth and women.
8. Reaffirms that tourism is not a luxury, but a catalyst for transformation—driving peace, jobs, cultural exchange, and investment. The Commission endorsed the call to unleash Africa's full tourism potential and to present a new, self-defined narrative to the world.
9. Thanks Hon. Christian Harold Richard DUVAL, for Mauritius' leadership and support on tourism development in Africa in its capacity as the Chair of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa during its two-year mandate from 2023 to 2025.

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REPORT OF THE UN TOURISM SECRETARY-GENERAL

Agenda Item 3

The Commission for Africa,

1. Having heard with great attention the comprehensive report of the UN Tourism Secretary-General since the 67th CAF meeting held in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia, in July 2024 and marking the Organization's 50th Anniversary in 2025, which highlights key achievements in Africa's tourism sector driven by the following five priorities: (i) Tourism Insights, (ii) Knowhow,

(iii) Investments and Innovation, (iv) Education and Human Capital Development and (v) UN Tourism on the Ground and Sustainable Practices including:

- Recalling, Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, UN Tourism Secretary-General, symbolic return to Abuja since 2018, in Abuja, where new bonds of solidarity were forged to place tourism at the heart of Africa's development;
- Welcoming the continued robust recovery of tourism in Africa, with 73.9 million international arrivals in 2024 and a further 9.4% growth in Q1 2025, placing Africa as the strongest performing region, 16% above pre-pandemic levels.
- Noting international tourist receipts reaching USD 42.6 billion in 2024, 8% more than in 2019, with Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Mauritius leading in income.
- Recognizing Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Cabo Verde as the top destinations for arrivals in 2024.
- Applauding the [Tourism for Rural Development Small Grants Programme](#), supported by TUI Care Foundation, benefiting artisanal communities in 10 African countries i.e. Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Tunisia, and Zambia;
- Commending the expansion of the "[Best Tourism Villages](#)" Network in Africa, now comprising 20 villages from Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, and Uganda with seven undergoing the Upgrade Programme, advancing rural economic development and cultural preservation;
- 13 of the Best Tourism Villages are from Africa ([Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), [Mauritius](#), [Morocco](#), [Rwanda](#), [Uganda](#)) three of them from last year's edition: [Grand Baie](#) and [Roches Noires](#) from Mauritius, and [Ruboni](#) from Uganda;
- Recognizing Gastronomy tourism is a key pillar of the [UN Tourism Agenda for Africa -Tourism for Inclusive Growth](#); [The First Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa](#) was held under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Auxillia C. Mnangagwa, First Lady of Zimbabwe, in July 2024, in Victoria Falls.
- Building upon the foundation laid in Zimbabwe in 2024, the successful convening of the [2nd UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa in Arusha, Tanzania, 23-25 April 2025](#), with a dedicated session on Global Roadmap for Food Waste Reduction, leading to a dedicated roadmap and regional culinary development and announcing the Republic of Sierra Leone as the next host in 2026.
- Recognizing the key importance of "Brand Africa", a brainstorming session at UN Tourism headquarters was held on 24 of January, to explore innovative strategies for destination branding and cooperation across the continent.
- Recognizing Africa's emergence as a tourism investment hub, with 101 greenfield projects totaling USD 6.7 billion over five years. Morocco, Tanzania, Tunisia, Kenya, and Nigeria lead the rankings.
- Welcoming the launch of [Tourism Doing Business Guidelines](#) for [Zambia](#), [Morocco](#), and [Namibia](#), and for the first time in Chinese editions for [Morocco](#) and [Zambia](#), with upcoming editions for Angola, Cabo Verde, Kenya, and South Africa.
- Noting the development of a dedicated "Why Invest in Africa" report to be presented at the G20 Summit in South Africa, 10-12 September 2025.

- Highlighting the establishment of the [First UN Tourism Thematic Office on Innovation for Africa in Marrakesh, Morocco](#), as a strategic hub fostering sustainable tourism investment, policy innovation, and digital transformation, for the first time on the continent; Morocco hosted the Conference on Technological Innovation and Tourism Investment on 28 January 2025 in Marrakesh, enhancing its position as an innovation hub in African tourism.
- launching a new flagship competition aimed at supporting women-led, technology-driven startups that address significant tourism-related challenges.
- Endorsing AI as a major tourism enabler, with initiatives including a dedicated Ministers' Summit, a report with Saxion University, a survey, a best practice toolkit, and an AI Challenge (17% African participation among 440 submissions). The next 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly (Saudi Arabia, 2025) will focus on AI;
- Congratulating Zambia for mainstreaming tourism in secondary education and hosting the Travel Hospitality and Tourism Education Summit (THTES), leading to the creation of the Regional Tourism Centre of Excellence;
- Supporting the new Bachelor of Science in International Sustainable Tourism and encourages Member States to sponsor students;
- Commending the [UN Tourism Online Academy](#) for training 670 professionals and awarding 3,390 scholarships across 19 African countries; Acknowledging key training institutions such as the Mukuni International Academy for Tourism and Hospitality in Zambia developed by ZITHS (Zambia Institute for Hospitality and Tourism Studies) and the forthcoming Africa International Tourism Academy for Culinary Arts in Zimbabwe, under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Auxillia Mhangagwa, First Lady of Zimbabwe.
- Reaching 40,000 learners on the UN Tourism Online Academy, including 4,709 from Africa, and encourages broader adoption of TedQual Certification which network includes 293 certified programs from 114 institutions. Last year the Kenta Utalii College and the Zambia Institute for Tourism and Hospitality received certifications from the UN Tourism academy;
- Highlighting field projects including hotel classification in Benin, Congo and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) covering Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Chad and Guinea Equatorial will increase the delivery standards of the private sector and improve the quality level of its customer service.
- Tourism strategy development in Botswana, and tourism statistical capacity-building in Cabo Verde and Seychelles, aim at enhancing competitiveness and building strong institutions.
- Recognizing the SAFE-D (Safety of Destinations) initiative, launched in Africa and now global, as a key support for tourism crisis management which started in Africa in 2018 through the capacity building and the [White Paper on Safety and Security in the tourism sector](#) developed by UN Tourism with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) has now expanded to the world.
- Encourages South-South cooperation, as exemplified by the Africa–Americas Tourism Summit with its first edition in [Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 2024](#) followed by a [second edition in Livingstone, Zambia 08-10th April 2025](#);
- Applauding collaboration with China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) on a project aimed at attracting Chinese development cooperation for African countries.
- Welcoming UN Tourism's support to the G20 South Africa Presidency (2025), focused on AI, investment, connectivity, and resilience.
- Commending the progress made through the Women in Tourism Leadership Africa Committee (WITLAC) since its close-door meeting held on the sidelines of the 1st **First UN Tourism**

Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa, held in Victoria Falls, July 2024 followed by the [Women in Tourism Regional Congress themed: Beyond Empowerment to Education, Innovation and Finance access, held in Freetown, from 29-31 October 2024](#) at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, organized in collaboration with UN Tourism; this congress aimed to promote gender equality and youth empowerment as integral to the sustainable growth of the tourism sector;

- Noting the expansion of the UN Tourism Affiliate Members network to 28 African members, with six new members joining in 2024; **6 new Affiliate Members from the region have been admitted**; Ethiopia, Gambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius — with now 1 new Affiliate Member; Zambia with now 2 Affiliate Members, and United Republic of Tanzania with now 3 Affiliate Members;

In addition, the UN Tourism Executive Director Executive Director of UN Tourism, presented a compelling overview of ongoing and upcoming initiatives spearheaded by the organization in the areas of education, innovation, and investment, with a special focus on Africa's tourism transformation:

- Tourism Online Academy: Now available in five languages (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and Chinese) with AI-enabled tutoring, the platform offers over 50 courses from top global universities.
- Impact in Africa: Over 3,590 scholarships granted to African students with a 41% increase in African enrolment year-on-year. Top participating countries include Eritrea, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Morocco, and Algeria.
- Vocational Training via AI Micro-courses: A new mobile-based service targets frontline workers such as taxi drivers, guides, and hotel staff who lack time and digital access. Example: In Colombia, UN Tourism trained taxi drivers via SMS-based micro-courses, a model now being explored with Tanzania. This innovative training uses AI to auto-translate into local languages and provides certificates jointly issued by UN Tourism and national ministries.
- Tourism in Secondary Education: UN Tourism has supported The Gambia in integrating tourism into high school curricula using international methodologies (British, American, IB). Other African nations are invited to collaborate on similar curriculum reforms.
- UN Tourism Innovation Hub in Morocco: A new semi-regional innovation office will serve as a digital transformation center for Africa. Priorities include: Publishing Africa's first Tourism Innovation Index, Organizing a regional startup competition, Promoting African presence at global tech forums, Delivering digital skills training
- AI and Startup Support: UN Tourism's global Artificial Intelligence Challenge for tourism startups is ongoing. 17% of applicants so far are African—a strong signal of emerging talent. Winners from Africa will be showcased at the upcoming General Assembly in Riyadh.
- UN Tourism has supported several African countries with tailored Tourism Investment Guidelines, including: Namibia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania
- Ongoing work with Angola, Cabo Verde, South Africa, Kenya, Madagascar, and further expansion planned. These guidelines focus on: Attracting private sector investment, Highlighting traditional and non-traditional incentives such as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and tax benefits. Guidelines are customized and translated (e.g., into Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian) to align with investor markets.
- Upcoming: A benchmark report on the most effective investment incentives globally, based on insights from the Africa-Americas Tourism Summit in Zambia.

The UN Tourism Executive Director concluded by reaffirming UN Tourism's deep commitment to supporting Africa through innovative, inclusive, and scalable solutions. She emphasized the need to empower the next generation, bridge the digital divide, and position Africa as a competitive, tech-savvy, and investment-ready tourism region.

The Commission for Africa,

1. Expresses appreciation to the UN Tourism Secretary-General for his continued leadership in advancing the Organization's strategic objectives and programmatic priorities across Africa;
2. Commends the progress made in tourism recovery, investment promotion, education, innovation, and sustainable practices since the 67th CAF meeting;
3. Congratulates the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the [68th CAF meeting and thematic conference on Boosting Social Impact and Education in Tourism through Innovation, AI, and Creative Industries in Africa, in Abuja, 11-13 June](#), and acknowledges its role as a strategic hub for Africa's tourism renaissance;
4. Welcomes the establishment of the UN Tourism Thematic Office on Innovation for Africa in Morocco and encourages Member States to engage with its initiatives;
5. Approves the continued expansion of the "Best Tourism Villages" Network and invites more African villages to participate in the Upgrade Programme to stimulate rural development;
6. Commends the Republic of Zambia for the successful hosting of the [2nd CAF-CAM Tourism Summit in Livingstone, Zambia, 08-10th April 2025](#), outlined concrete plans for achieving shared goals, focused on innovation, Technical Cooperation, enhanced connectivity, tourism investments and tourist confidence through security. The Third edition is scheduled to take place in 2026 in the Federal Republic of Brazil.
7. Applauds the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the [2nd UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa in Arusha, 23-25 April 2025](#), and endorses ongoing efforts to leverage gastronomy as a pillar of tourism competitiveness;
8. Takes note of the expression of interest of the Government of Sierra Leone to host in 2026 the third edition on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa and congratulates the Government for the hosting of the [Women in Tourism Regional Congress themed: Beyond Empowerment to Education, Innovation and Finance access, held in Freetown, from 29-31 October 2024](#), organized in collaboration with UN Tourism;
9. Takes note of the expression of interest of the Government of Zimbabwe to host in 2026 the next edition on Women in Tourism Regional Congress;
10. Thanks the intervention of the Head of Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo on behalf of H. E. Mr. Didier M'Pambia Musanga, Minister of Tourism of the Democratic Republic of Congo to invite member states to participate in the [1st World Music and Tourism Festival, Kinshasa, DRC, 16-18 July 2025](#)
11. Commends the Republic of Angola for hosting the [2nd UN Tourism/ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport in Africa, to be held in Luanda, Angola from 22 to 24 July 2025](#) highlighting the paramount necessity to accelerate the implementation of SAATM, flexible and e-visa policies, harmonizing regulatory framework as well removing unnecessary taxes and charges to unlock the tourism sector in Africa;
12. Encourages Member States to further develop visa facilitation frameworks including digital nomad visas and to explore the potential of a unified African visa system to enhance regional integration;
13. Supports initiatives promoting gender equality and youth empowerment in tourism, including the activities of Women in Tourism Leadership Africa Committee and regional youth innovation

14. Urges Member States to strengthen technical cooperation with UN Tourism in areas such as hotel classification, tourism safety and security, data collection, and sustainable tourism strategies;
 15. Calls upon Member States and partners to scale up investment in infrastructure, human capital development, and digital technologies to accelerate tourism growth and resilience;
 16. Encourages increased participation in UN Tourism's Online Academy and capacity-building initiatives to enhance skills development across the continent;
 17. Welcomes the growing UN Tourism Affiliate Members Network in Africa and urges continued collaboration to mobilize private sector engagement and innovation;
 18. Reaffirms the importance of tourism as a driver for economic recovery, peacebuilding, and sustainable development across Africa;
 19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed proposal on the establishment of an Africa Tourism Education Fund to enhance access and quality in tourism education;
 20. Calls for strengthened partnerships with regional economic communities, the African Union, and multilateral institutions to align tourism development with continental priorities.
 21. Thanks and congratulates the UN Tourism Secretary-General for his dynamic leadership and visionary guidance during his mandate (2018-2025), excellent work and continued support to the development of tourism in Africa, especially the implementation of the UN Tourism Agenda for Africa- Tourism for inclusive Growth by promoting gastronomy, investment and education in the continent.
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CAF/68/CR/4 (LXVIII)

REPORT OF THE UN TOURISM REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA

Implementation of the Programme of Work in Africa for the period 2024-2025

-Technical cooperation projects in the region

- Survey Findings on Members' Priorities for UN Tourism Programme of Work
(PoW) 2026-2027

Agenda item 4

The Commission for Africa,

Having listened attentively to the report delivered by the Regional Director for Africa on the main activities and initiatives undertaken under the realigned UN Tourism Agenda for Africa-Tourism for Inclusive Growth - since the last commission meeting, including technical cooperation projects and the survey results on Member States' priorities for the 2026-2027 Programme of Work:

1. Thanks her for the comprehensive and insightful presentation of the 2024–2025 Programme of Work, as well as for the thorough analysis of current tourism trends, strategic activities, challenges, and
2. Takes note with satisfaction of the robust growth in international tourist arrivals to Africa, with a 9% increase in Q1 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, and a 16% rise above pre-pandemic levels, confirming Africa's resilience and renewed global appeal.

3. Commends the progress made by African Member States in rebuilding tourism post-pandemic, leveraging innovation, cultural capital, investment opportunities, and intra-African cooperation.
4. Acknowledges the positive performance of destinations such as The Gambia, Morocco, Ethiopia, and South Africa, and urges all Member States to continue implementing evidence-based policies and inclusive recovery strategies.
5. Welcomes the establishment of the Africa International Tourism Academy for Culinary Arts under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa, First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in Victoria Falls, as a flagship centre to foster excellence in hospitality and culinary training.
6. Supports the creation of regional fora and high-level dialogue platforms that convene educators, employers, policymakers, and tourism stakeholders to design actionable strategies to address human capital gaps.
7. Takes note of the successful organization of the 3rd Travel Hospitality & Tourism Education Summit (THTES) under the theme “Bridging the Human Capital Gap in Africa’s Tourism Industry: Aligning Learning to Industry Development in the AfCFTA Era” in Lusaka, Zambia, 7–9 April 2025.
8. Encourages Member States to promote public-private-academic partnerships to reform curricula, align skills with market demand, and boost tourism-related employment for youth and women.
9. Reiterates that strengthening destination branding is essential to reshape global perceptions, enhance competitiveness, and empower African nations to own and narrate their tourism identity.
10. Supports continued development and implementation of coherent branding strategies that integrate data-driven research, digital marketing, and stakeholder coordination to elevate Africa’s tourism story.
11. Commends the initiatives and forums promoting Brand Africa, the strategic use of gastronomy, arts, music and cultural assets, air connectivity as tools to market Africa’s diverse offerings and the following key events:
 - Brand Africa Brainstorming Session, FITUR, Madrid, 24 January 2025
 - [2nd CAF-CAM Tourism Summit in Livingstone, Zambia, 08-10th April 2025](#) and Capacity-Building Workshop on Tourism and Connectivity held in the framework of this event
 - [2nd UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa in Arusha, 23-25 April 2025](#)
 - [1st World Music and Tourism Festival, Kinshasa, DRC, 16–18 July 2025](#)
 - [2nd UN Tourism–ICAO Ministerial Conference on Tourism and Air Transport, Luanda, Angola, 22–24 July 2025](#)
 - 21st Meeting of the UN Tourism Committee on Tourism and Sustainability in Zimbabwe, September 2025 (dates tbc)
 - Investment Tourism Forum and G20 Tourism Ministers Meeting- preceded by the 3rd Tourism Working Group meeting, Mpumalanga Province South Africa, 10-12 September 2025
12. Recognizes the strategic importance of sustainable investment in transforming Africa’s tourism sector and driving inclusive socio-economic growth;
13. Urges Member States to improve their investment climates by modernizing infrastructure, providing incentives for green investments, and developing national “Doing Business in Tourism” frameworks;
14. Commends UN Tourism’s technical assistance in supporting policy development, including:
 - UN Tourism Doing Business Guidebooks for [Tourism Doing Business Guidelines](#) for [Zambia](#), [Morocco](#), and [Namibia](#), and Chinese editions for [Morocco](#) and [Zambia](#), with upcoming editions for Angola, Cabo Verde, Kenya, and South Africa.
 - Support in policy development and tax incentive models
 - Promotion of eco-resorts and community-based tourism aligned with sustainability goals

15. Encourages development of eco-resorts, green hotels, and community-based tourism facilities in alignment with sustainability and local empowerment objectives.
13. Acknowledges progress in visa facilitation and connectivity, including:
 - 28% visa-free intra-African travel scenarios (Benin, The Gambia, Rwanda, Seychelles)
 - E-visa systems adopted by 26 countries
 - Support for the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)
14. Calls on Member States to continue enhancing border procedures, customs modernization, and seamless travel systems to facilitate regional integration;
15. Commends strategic partnerships with the African Union, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, and donors, which enhance technical cooperation and project implementation at national and local levels;
16. Appreciates the successful mobilization of funding for 11 ongoing and pipeline technical cooperation projects covering:
 - Hotel classification systems in Benin, Congo and the CEMAC Countries i.e, Cameroon, Congo, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea;
 - Botswana; implementation of the National Tourism Strategy in Tourism Development Area 1: Gaborone
 - Cabo Verde and Seychelles on **Tourism Statistical Assistance**, through diagnostic and training, which aim at enhancing competitiveness and building strong institutions.
 - Marketing and product development
 - Digital transformation
17. Takes note of the survey findings shaping the 2026–2027 Programme of Work, highlighting strong Member States demand which are intersecting with those encapsulated in the UN Tourism Agenda for Africa- Tourism for Inclusive Growth, namely (i) Investment and education, (ii) Brand Africa, marketing, sustainability and digital transformation and (iii) Strengthening institutional governance and regulatory frameworks.
18. Welcomes the contributions of Member States toward UN Tourism’s budget, especially those who have cleared or reduced arrears, with a 2024 collection rate of 59.5%, amounting to nearly €1.2 million;
19. Commends UN Tourism’s commitment to gender equality, notably the outcomes of the [Women in Tourism Regional Congress themed: Beyond Empowerment to Education, Innovation and Finance access, held in Freetown, from 29-31 October 2024](#), organized in collaboration with UN Tourism and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and supports:
 - Integration of gender parity in tourism leadership and policy
 - Financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs
 - Digital empowerment and AI training
 - Launch of a Pan-African mentorship programme
20. Takes note of interest of the Government of Sierra Leone in hosting the upcoming 2026 UN Tourism Gastronomy Forum and for championing the unity and visibility of African gastronomy and women's leadership.
21. Invites all Member States to participate actively in upcoming events and initiatives, and to continue aligning national tourism strategies with the 10 core priorities of the Agenda for Africa.
22. Expresses appreciation to the Regional Director and her team for their tireless efforts and reaffirmed commitment to delivering on the 2024–2025 Programme of Work and the UN Tourism Agenda for Africa- Tourism for inclusive Growth.

CAF/68/CR/5 (LXVIII)

Report on the UN Tourism Affiliate Members activities in Africa for the period 2024-2025

Agenda item 5

The Commission for Africa,

Having heard the presentation made by the UN Tourism Regional Director for Africa on behalf of the Board member of the Affiliate members, appreciates the valuable updates and insights provided regarding the status and activities of the UN Tourism Affiliate Membership;

1. Thanks her for his valuable intervention on the status and need of expansion of Affiliate Membership in Africa;
2. Encourages Member States to actively engage with the UN Tourism Affiliate Members network, including through participation in specialized committees and international tourism fairs, to promote inclusive and diverse tourism development across the continent;
3. Welcomes the increase in the number of Affiliate Members from Africa, to 28 African members, with six new members joining in 2024; **6 new Affiliate Members from the region have been admitted**; Ethiopia, Gambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius — with now 1 new Affiliate Member; Zambia with now 2 Affiliate Members, and United Republic of Tanzania with now 3 Affiliate Members, and **encourages** continued support to strengthen quality, representation, and geographic balance in future membership expansion;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the Affiliate Members and Public-Private Collaboration Department to create platforms for Affiliate Members to contribute and actively participate at the major International Tourism Fairs; namely
 - In November 2024, several Affiliate Members spoke at the World Travel Market Ministers Summit, co-organized by UN Tourism and WTTC;
 - At FITUR 2025, the Affiliate Members Corner – “Targeting Traveler Segments” - provided a platform to share best practices and data;
 - In March 2025, at ITB, a few Affiliate Members participated as speakers in the UN Tourism Ministers Summit;
5. Notes a more selective and rigorous admission process, ensuring that new members are well-positioned to bring value to the network. As a result, the number of entities ceasing to be Affiliate Members due to unpaid contributions has dropped significantly—from 97 in 2022 to just 20 expected this year.
6. Notes the election process for the Board of Affiliate Members for the 2026-2029 term;
7. Recommends that Member States collaborate with Affiliate Members in thematic areas such as sports tourism, creative industries, and digital innovation, including artificial intelligence and immersive technologies, to drive competitiveness and sustainability in African tourism;
8. Acknowledges the efforts of the Affiliate Members Board and the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership (CMAM);

9. Encourages stronger coordination between national tourism authorities and the Affiliate Members network to ensure alignment of strategic priorities and governance mechanisms.
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CAF/68/CR/6 (LXVIII)

Nominations and elections to UN Tourism statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies

- 6.1 Nomination of candidates to the various General Assembly offices and its subsidiary bodies
- 6.2 Nomination of candidates to represent the Africa region on the Executive Council and its subsidiary bodies

Agenda item 6

The Commission for Africa,

Acknowledging the candidacies received for the nominations and elections to statutory bodies and their subsidiary bodies,

1. Nominates **Zimbabwe** and **Nigeria** to serve as Vice-Presidents of the 26th session General Assembly 2025;
 2. Nominates of **Uganda** and **Tanzania** to serve as members of the Credentials Committee for the 2025 General Assembly;
 3. Nominates the sole candidature of **Zambia as Chair of the UN Tourism Commission for Africa for the period 2025-2027**, represented by Hon. Minister Rodney Sikumba, was endorsed unanimously by acclamation.
 4. Nominates of **Nigeria** and **Angola** as Vice-Chairpersons for the period 2025–2027;
 5. Recommends **Kenya, Zimbabwe, Angola, Seychelles and Zambia** as members of the UN Tourism Executive Council for the period 2025-2029, following a vote by secret ballot;
 6. Nominates **Morocco** and **Angola** as members to the Committee on Tourism Online Education (2025–2029);
 7. Nominates **Cabo Verde** and **Sierra Leone** as members of the Technical Committee for the International Code for the Protection of Tourists.
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CAF/68/CR/7 (LXVIII)

Recommendation of the host country of the World Tourism Day in 2027

Agenda Item 7

The Commission for Africa,

Having heard the report by the Chair on the consensus achieved on two candidatures received for hosting the 2027 World Tourism Day: Kenya and Cabo Verde;

1. Nominates **Cabo Verde** as the host country for the 2027 edition of World Tourism Day.
 2. Congratulates **Cabo Verde** and looks forward to a successful celebration.
-

CAF/68/CR/8 (LXVIII)

Place and Date of the 69th Meeting of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa

Agenda Item 8

The Commission for Africa,

Having heard the report of the Chair on the consensus achieved and acknowledging the following candidacies for the hosting of the 69th Commission Meeting for Africa in 2025, In order of application of letters addressed to the UN Tourism Secretariat by **The Democratic Republic of the Congo** on 25 July 2024, **The Republic of Angola** on 30 January 2025 and **The Republic of Seychelles** on 03 June 2025;

1. Welcomes with great pleasure and accepts the invitation by the authorities of **the Republic of Seychelles to hold its sixty-ninth meeting in Seychelles in 2026** on a date to be fixed by mutual agreement by the UN Tourism Secretariat and the authorities of the country.
-

CAF/68/CR/9 (LXVIII)

Preparations for the 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2025

Agenda item 9

The Commission for Africa,

Having heard the intervention of the UN Tourism Secretary-General on the forthcoming 26th session of the UN Tourism General Assembly, takes note of the session scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 10 November 2025. The Commission recognizes the critical importance of this session, notably for the approval and confirmation of the new UN Tourism Secretary-General;

2. Welcomes the historic nature of this event, marking a significant occasion as the first time in over three decades that the Middle East will host the General Assembly. It appreciates the efforts by the host country in preparing a large-scale and impactful event, with the support of the UN Tourism office in Riyadh;
3. Encourages all African member states to ensure strong representation and active participation during the General Assembly, emphasizing the value of regional unity and collaboration in advancing the interests of African tourism on the global stage;
4. Notes that detailed information on the program and logistics will be communicated regularly in the coming weeks, enabling adequate preparation by member states;
5. Acknowledges the importance of the Executive Council meeting prior to the General Assembly to finalize and approve the new composition of the Council for the term following the Assembly;
6. Urges member states to continue strengthening cooperation and engagement in preparation for this landmark event, reaffirming Africa's commitment to sustainable tourism development and global partnerships.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

On behalf of all the commission members, the Chairperson warmly thanked and congratulated the Secretary-General, His Excellency Zurab Pololikashvili, for his visionary leadership and unwavering dedication over the past eight years to both the organization and the African region. She highlighted that he has not only set out a bold and inspiring vision for Africa's tourism sector, but has brought that vision to life with passion, determination, and steadfast commitment.

She paid special tribute to his leadership during the most difficult moments of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing how he stood firmly by Member States, ensuring Africa remained a priority on the global tourism agenda when unity and decisive action were most needed.

She expressed heartfelt gratitude for his guidance, which has significantly enhanced the visibility and recognition of the continent and emphasized that the positive momentum he has created is being felt across Africa.

In closing, she invited everyone to rise and offer a heartfelt standing ovation, warmly applauding His Excellency for being not only a true champion of Africa's tourism development, but a tireless advocate for global tourism progress.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE HOST COUNTRY

The Commission for Africa,

Addresses its deepest appreciation to the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their remarkable hospitality throughout the [68th CAF meeting and thematic conference on Boosting Social Impact and Education in Tourism through Innovation, AI, and Creative Industries in Africa](#), held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria from 11 to 13 June 2025.

The Commission conveys its gratitude to Hon. Hannatu Musa MUSAWA, Federal Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for her tireless dedication and efforts for the successful meeting of the Commission and related events.

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