

UNWTO Commission for Africa
Sixty-sixth meeting
Republic of Mauritius
26 July 2023

CAF/66/CR
Madrid, 26 July 2023

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
TAKEN BY THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
AT ITS SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING**

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, 26 July 2023

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1. AGENDA

UNWTO Commission for Africa

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Date: Wednesday 26th July 2023

CAF/66/Prov.

Madrid, July 2023

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chair (Cote d'Ivoire)
3. Report of the Secretary-General
 - *Implementation of the Organization's Programme of Work*
4. Report of the Regional Director
 - *Implementation of the UNWTO Programme of Work in Africa 2022-2023 (Regional and Technical activities)*
 - *Results of the survey on redefining the UNWTO Agenda for Africa – Tourism for Inclusive Growth*
5. Survey Findings on Members' Priorities for the UNWTO Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 and the long-term vision
6. Discussion on the UNWTO Programme of Work 2024-2025
7. Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies
 - 7.1. Nomination of candidates to the various General Assembly offices and its subsidiary bodies:
 - a. **Two** Vice-President of the General Assembly (2023)
 - b. **Two** Members of the Credentials Committee (2023)
 - c. Election of **one** Chairperson of the Commission for Africa (2023-2025)
 - d. Election of **two** Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission for Africa (2023-2025)
 - 7.2. Nomination of candidates to represent the region on the Executive Council and its subsidiary bodies:
 - a. **Six** candidates to the Executive Council (2023-2027)
 - b. **One** candidate to the Programme and Budget Committee (2023-2025) *
 - c. **Two** candidates to the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability (2023-2027)
 - d. **Two** candidates to the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (2023-2027)
 - e. **Two** candidates to the Committee on Tourism Statistics for the period (2023-2027)
 - f. **One** candidate to the Committee on Matters Related to the Affiliated Members (2023-2027)
 - g. **Two** candidates to the Task Force on "Redesigning Tourism for the Future"
8. Recall Venue of the 67th Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Africa in 2024
9. Preparation for the 25th session of the General Assembly in October 2023
10. Other Matters
11. Closing Remarks

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

- Nomination of special adviser to UNWTO Secretary-General
- Presentation of Kenya Best Tourism Village Plate (Olorgesailie Village)
- Signature of Agreement between UNWTO and the Government of Zimbabwe (Communication, Media and Tourism training)

2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CAF/CR/1(LXVII)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – WELCOME BY THE CAF CHAIR

Agenda item 1

The Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of the individuals who lost their lives caused by the wildfires on July 23, 2023, in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The Commission,

1. Thanks the Chair of the UNWTO Commission for Africa (Côte d'Ivoire) and the Secretary-General for their welcome words;
2. Adopts the agenda of its sixty-sixth meeting.

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CAF/CR/2(LXVII)

COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIR

Agenda item 2

The Commission,

Having heard the communication of the Chair of the UNWTO Commission for Africa, by the Minister of Tourism of Côte d'Ivoire on:

- Highlighting the great importance of this meeting which will hold the nomination and elections of new candidates to UNWTO statutory organs and its subsidiaries bodies in a view of the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 16 to 20 October 2023.
- Emphasizing the significant progress achieved by the UNWTO through the implementation of the 2022-2023 Programme of Work and the remarkable recovery of the global tourism sector. Africa, in particular, has demonstrated its resilience by rebounding to 88% of its 2019 arrival levels and 75% in terms of revenue. This achievement is highly encouraging and stands as a testament to the collective efforts of all stakeholders and the effective deployment of recovery tourism strategies. Despite its gradual recovery, Africa consistently remains the continent with tremendous potential for the future. It is imperative that we continue to prioritize the key areas outlined in our Agenda for Africa.

- Underscoring that promoting Brand Africa to create a strong and resilient Africa brand, developing the African Tourism Academy to provide high-quality training and education opportunities for the continent's youthful population, with 70% of it being under the age of 35, and actively seeking the establishment for the Pan-African Tourism Fund will be essential to support our national tourism champions and to attract funds for the attainment of our ambition to tourism growth.
 - Underlining, the Regional Office in Morocco to be officially opened and effective aiming to increase the impact from tourism within the member states of the region and bringing them much closer together.
 - Recommending that all Member States be involved in the creation of working groups in order to recognize the challenges that must be addressed and to propose concrete solutions.
 - Inviting member states to participate actively to the conference on Rethinking Tourism for Africa: Addressing global challenges; promoting investment and partnerships, organized in Mauritius following the 66th CAF Meeting.
 - Expressing his thanks and gratitude to the host country of Mauritius, the member states, the Secretariat and particularly the UNWTO Secretary-General Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili for his profound engagement and continuous dedication to raise the flag of tourism at the highest level in Africa and therefore contribute to increase the visibility of the sector.
 - Extending his compliments to H.E. Ahmed AlKhateeb, Minister of Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chair of the UNWTO Executive Council, for his presence and active participation, Ms. Elcia Grandcourt, Director of the Africa Department, and her team for their invaluable support throughout his mandate and for ensuring the seamless conduct of this meeting.
1. Expresses its sincerest gratitude to the CAF Chair and First Vice Chair of the Executive Council for his outstanding leadership in his two consecutive terms and key proposals and initiatives undertaken to promote the tourism agenda for Africa, a pivotal sector for the socio-economic recovery in the region;
 2. Welcomes CAF Chair's words of appreciation for the efforts deployed by UNWTO and its Secretariat in their support towards the mainstreaming of tourism and its recovery in Africa;
 3. Salutes Côte d'Ivoire for its leadership role as CAF Chair and First Vice Chair of the Executive Council in its continuous commitment towards the rethinking of tourism in Africa.
 4. Welcomes the establishment of a comprehensive pan-African fund for the development of tourism which will address the complex issue of funding in the tourism industry in Africa.

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CAF/CR/3 (LXVII)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Agenda item 3

The Commission,

Having heard with great attention the Report of the Secretary-General, which provided an overview of the activities undertaken by UNWTO since the last Commission meeting held in the United Republic of Tanzania on 5 October 2022, to accelerate the recovery of the tourism sector in Africa and assistance given to African Members and beyond, including:

- Reiterating his sincere condolences and UNWTO's support to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria following the loss of many lives caused by the wildfires in the country on July 23rd.
- Inviting Member States to participate in the upcoming third edition of the Global Conference on Sports and Tourism, scheduled to be held in Côte d'Ivoire in January 2024, following the inaugural congress in Barcelona (2021) and the subsequent congress in Croatia (2023). Sport tourism represents a significant source of tourists and should seize the opportunity presented by Côte d'Ivoire's hosting of the AFCON (African Cup of Nations) in January 2024. Notably, this event will involve and feature the participation of Didier Drogba, UNWTO Tourism Ambassador.
- Providing a comprehensive overview of tourism trends over the past twelve months since the last meeting in Tanzania. While acknowledging the challenges that have arisen during this time, it is important to emphasize that progress has continued. The report serves as a reference point for the current state of global and regional tourism in Africa.
- Focusing on global and African Tourism Recovery in the face of the turbulent past, there's hope in the world of tourism. New statistics show a remarkable recovery in international travel in the first three months of 2023. Overall, international arrivals reached 80% of pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2023. An estimated 235 million tourists travelled internationally in the first three months, more than double the same period of 2022.
- Recognizing the equally impressive recovery in Africa, a testament to the continent's resilience, is noteworthy. In the first quarter of 2023, international arrivals in Africa surged to a remarkable 88% above pre-pandemic levels. This resurgence is further underscored by robust revenue figures. Globally, international tourism receipts soared to an impressive USD 1 trillion in 2022, marking a 50% growth in real terms compared to 2021. Among African destinations with available data, Mauritius and Morocco, in particular, have notably exceeded their 2019 tourism receipts in the first quarter of 2023. Furthermore, this noteworthy recovery extends beyond sub-Saharan Africa, with North Africa emerging as a standout, boasting 4% higher levels than the pre-pandemic year of 2019 and playing a pivotal role in this strong rebound.
- Commending countries for their remarkable recovery efforts amidst the global recession, several nations have distinguished themselves as frontrunners in this process. Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Morocco have emerged as leaders in the arena of tourism recovery, underscoring the effectiveness of their focused initiatives and resilient strategies. These countries are not only regaining lost ground but are also flourishing, setting an exemplary model for the rest of the world to emulate.
- Turning the attention to the reopening of China's borders, a monumental moment in the global tourism narrative, holding immense potential to reinvigorate the sector's momentum. One instance that deserves special mention is the visit by H.E. Mr. Hu Heping, China's Minister of Culture and Tourism, to the headquarters of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This historic event underscores the robust relationship between China

and UNWTO within the tourism sector. Simultaneously, it's worth noting the geopolitical dynamics at play, exemplified by the Russian Federation's departure from UNWTO membership. This move highlights the organization's capacity to adapt to evolving diplomatic landscapes and underscores its unique status as the sole UN entity to take such measures.

- Reiterating the strategic objectives and priorities of the UNWTO's programme of work, i.e. (i) Education, jobs and empowerment, (ii) Investments in tourism, (iii) Sustainability and the green transition, (iv) Competitiveness and resilience, (v) Innovation and digital transformation, helping to reshape and guide the organization's multifaceted activities.
- Applauding the 33 UNWTO CAF Member states that took part in the survey for the UNWTO Agenda for Africa-Tourism for Inclusive Growth aiming at reshaping the priorities of the agenda in the mist of new challenges.
- Providing a crucial update, most importantly on education, jobs, and empowerment, the cornerstones of sustainable development within the tourism sphere, the initiatives designed to bolster skills, forge career pathways, and bridge the gap between educators and employers have been set in motion.
- Commending the successful collaboration with the Zambia Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Studies, which hosted the inaugural Travel, Hospitality, and Tourism Education Summit in May 2023. The summit underscored the critical necessity of enhancing skills, establishing more defined career trajectories, and facilitating stronger connections between educators and employers. In this context, it is essential to emphasize the significance of the UNWTO Tourism Education Guidelines. These guidelines can serve as the foundational framework for enhancing human capacity within the tourism sector throughout Africa.
- Highlighting that the UNWTO Tourism Online Academy stands as a symbol of the digital transformation that is reshaping educational paradigms, while the commitment to enhance human capacity is underscored by the proposed International Academies, exemplified by the collaboration with People and Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The inaugural First Africa Tourism Education Forum to be hosted by Algeria is eagerly anticipated as a catalyst for meaningful change and the discussion on the international Academy in Nigeria is making progress.
- Underlining the UNWTO's engagement towards global Education initiatives extended beyond the boundaries of the African continent, as underscored by a pioneering agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This landmark collaboration introduces a novel dimension to education, marked by joint online training courses. With the potential to reach an astounding 300 million individuals in six languages, this initiative signifies a transformative leap in accessible education. In tandem, the Jobs Factory, supported by 50 employers, extends its empowering reach to as many as 100,000 jobseekers within the Kingdom.
- Fostering the Ted.Qual initiative, which stands as a testament to UNWTO's unwavering dedication to nurturing talent. This pioneering program, now encompassing almost 300 certified programs across 100 institutions spanning 39 countries, epitomizes UNWTO's commitment to fostering skill development and capacity building on a global scale. Particularly laudable is the role, Ted.Qual plays in harnessing the burgeoning potential of Africa's youth, aligning with the continent's position as the youngest in the world.

- Commending the celebration of youthful ingenuity at the Global Youth Tourism Summit held in Sorrento, Italy, in 2022, where the vibrant energy of Africa's youth, a significant asset, took centre stage. The inaugural Global Youth Tourism Summit in Sorrento, Italy, served as a proud showcase for the exuberant spirit of young Africans in the tourism sector. Amidst representatives from 57 countries, Africa shone brightly, with 11 nations making significant contributions and 21 students actively participating. This demonstration of youthful dynamism instils confidence in the continent's future as a thriving centre of tourism excellence.
- Championing education at every level, UNWTO's commitment to education traverses' borders, underlined by significant initiatives such as the introduction of the first Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Tourism in collaboration with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The organization's reach extends further as it advocates for the incorporation of tourism as a subject in high schools across the globe. This education-centric approach underscores the profound impact that well-informed future generations can have on the tourism landscape.
- Empowering African professionals through training and upskilling, UNWTO's commitment is demonstrated through persistent dedication to invest in African professionals' education. The evolution of Brand Africa serves as a tangible testament to this commitment and for Africa to harness the positive narrative of the region. A third Brand Africa Think Tank Dialogue is poised to convene CEOs of National Tourism Organizations across Africa. This gathering will delve into effective marketing and promotional strategies, thus catalyzing tourism sector recovery from the reverberations of the COVID-19 pandemic. Africa's culture is not promoted as it is deserved, and the need of guidelines will be necessary to increase the visibility of the region. As an illustration, FITUR provides a valuable platform that supports the promotion of Africa destinations and offers opportunities of business and networking for members as well as of for the private sector.
- Encouraging the pursuit of training and upskilling is accentuated by the forthcoming UNWTO Communication, Media, and Tourism Training Workshop to be hosted by Zimbabwe, from 13TH to 15TH November 2023. Aiming to amplify communication skills and media literacy such as storytelling, this initiative stands as an embodiment of UNWTO's pledge to elevate African professionals.
- Highlighting UNWTO's second priority, which centres on investments in the tourism ecosystem as they play a vital role in driving the industry's growth. As Africa takes centre stage, we have successfully hosted two Tourism Investment Forums for Africa, with a third event on the horizon. We've also launched noteworthy Investment Guidelines, aimed at fostering synergies between investors and destinations, starting with Tanzania, and soon to be followed by Mauritius. This pioneering approach extends the transformation to other African nations, including Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, and Zambia. This unwavering focus on investments will come to the forefront on the occasion of World Tourism Day (WTD), which will be officially hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on September 27th. The theme will revolve around the relationship between tourism and green investments, highlighting a key area of our organization's commitment to sustainability.
- Underlining UNWTO's dedication to reshaping funding strategies for tourism, with a special emphasis on the African context. Notable examples, such as Rwanda and Seychelles leveraging IMF funding to align growth with environmental preservation, highlight the practicality and efficacy of this approach.
- Backing the establishment of a Pan-African Fund endorsed at the 117th session of the UNWTO Executive council in 2022, specifically tailored to bolster the recovery of the tourism sector throughout the region. While still in the deliberative phase, this initiative holds significant promise. Conversations are ongoing, with the potential for

creating a dedicated working group to facilitate its realization. It is paramount to reiterate that investments play a pivotal role in our collective objectives, ensuring a flourishing and prosperous tourism sector.

- Advocating for sustainability and the green transition, the third priority, is a call to action for an all-encompassing industry-wide dedication to sustainability. UNWTO's flagship Sustainable Tourism Programme, the One Planet, stands as a symbol of the organisation's unwavering commitment to environmental protection, coupled with its commitment to combating plastic pollution through its Global Tourism Plastic Initiative.
- Urging member states and stakeholders in the tourism sector to endorse the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in the Tourism Industry, a call for signatories to commit to achieving Net-Zero emissions by 2050. Given that Africa is one of the regions most severely affected by climate change, it is crucial to encourage additional signatories to make a substantial global impact. To date, 50 entities have already pledged their commitment, but we invite more member states to actively participate in this initiative. We thanked FENITOURCI - the National Federation of the Tourism Industry of Cote d'Ivoire, for joining the commitment.
- Recalling that one of the primary areas of technical support sought by member states is the implementation of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSAs). In collaboration with the West African Economic and Monetary Union, we organized a regional workshop addressing the challenges and essential steps in implementing TSAs within their member states. Furthermore, we have provided assistance to the Government of Benin in establishing an experimental TSA, with support from the World Bank.
- In partnership with the United Nations and the International Labor Organization (ILO), we are advancing a global standard for the Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism or MST. South Africa and Uganda are currently serving as pilot countries for this important tool, and we wholeheartedly encourage African members of the MST Expert Group to actively participate in this initiative.
- Welcoming the first national-level signatories to the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics in 2020 and commending Nigeria and Seychelles for their commitment to the convention. We urge other member states for looking into the Convention and expressing their interest. Furthermore, we are pleased that the International Code for the Protection of Tourists is gaining recognition. We acknowledge Guinea-Bissau for adhering to the Code and encourage other nations to follow this commendable example.
- Stressing UNWTO's work in advancing women empowerment in tourism. UNWTO Gender Equality in Tourism Training Course is now available in five languages and in the region the UNWTO Women in Tourism Leadership for Africa Committee continues to advance empowerment across the region, positioning women at the core of tourism development and socio-economic recovery. The Committee is currently finalizing an action plan based on the survey report on women empowerment in African tourism. The plan focuses on capacity-building, leadership, mentorship, entrepreneurship, access to finance, and mainstreaming gender equality in tourism policies and marketing strategies. Together we are building a tourism sector that is more ethical, more sustainable and more inclusive.
- Recognizing the paramount importance of enhancing connectivity across Africa, which stands as a central priority within the UNWTO Agenda for Africa - Tourism for Inclusive Growth. We commend numerous African countries that have implemented noteworthy changes to their visa policies, with special mention given to Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa.

- Supporting in the same vein, a joint tourism and air transport agenda, two interlinked sectors to boost tourism and air travel Africa, UNWTO has been engaged and working closely with the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) on the Air Transport Sustainability Roadmap and UNWTO the lead for the project on Partnerships with African Airlines and Tourism Bodies to improve intra-Africa Tourism, and the African Civil Aviation on key activities of both sectors including the support the rollout of the Single African Air Transport Market Pilot Implementation Project (SAATM).
- Promoting competitiveness and resilience through diversification as the fourth priority, the tourism sector shifts to fostering competitiveness and resilience. The UNWTO Tourism Barometer and the Tourism Data Dashboards lead the way in providing market intelligence for governments, businesses and the media.
- Advancing the UNWTO Tourism for rural development programme stands as an example of the organization's mission to empower through tourism and how tourism can transform rural landscapes, stimulate economic growth and promote cultural heritage.
- Congratulating the six African villages that were awarded the best tourism village title at the first edition in 2021, in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco and Rwanda as well as the host country the Republic of Mauritius for the Best Tourism Villages nominees of the 2021 first Edition - Le Morne a UNESCO World Heritage site and Old Grand port. The third edition is currently undergoing, and the nominees will be selected at the occasion of the UNWTO General Assembly in Uzbekistan.
- Recognizing the immense potential of cultural and gastronomy tourism in Africa, there is a notable opportunity to more effectively integrate cultural and creative industries into the tourism supply chain, thereby accelerating tourism recovery and its associated socio-economic advantages. The hosting of the UNWTO Global Conference on Linking Tourism, Culture and Creative Industries: Pathways to socio-economic recovery held in Lagos, The Federal Republic of Nigeria in November 2022 is a testimony of the region's potential in creative industries, gastronomy-intangible and cultural heritage to help shift the narrative and promote development.
- Highlighting Innovation and Digital Transformation as the fifth priority, recognizing them as pivotal drivers in the transformation of tourism. The introduction of UNWTO Startup Competitions and Innovation Challenges marks the onset of a new era, where technology-driven solutions are actively sought to address longstanding challenges. The Digital Futures for SMEs Programme is a notable milestone, with almost 1000 registrations originating from 135 countries. It emerges as a catalyst for digital empowerment, facilitating the digitalization of small enterprises, thereby ushering in a new era of efficiency and competitiveness. The African region particularly stands out, with 1,300 applications from African startups participating in various UNWTO competitions. Additionally, Morocco serves as Africa's first pilot project in the UNWTO Digital Futures programme, aiming to digitize 10,000 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.
- Underscoring UNWTO's role as a nurturer of technical assistance and global partnerships with over forty projects in thirty countries being implemented. In Africa, 17 projects are to be developed in 15 Africa member states. The organization's technical assistance projects, in harmony with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, stand as monumental efforts to catalyze sustainable tourism development. The total value of these projects currently stands at US\$11 million which testifies UNWTO's symbiotic partnerships with organizations such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank, showcasing the power of collaboration.
- Strengthening UNWTO's policy outreach and diplomacy as an organization, with the announcement of the Government of Spain to finalize plans for the new headquarters in Madrid set to be established in 2024.

Additionally, negotiations are underway with the Kingdom of Morocco for the establishment of a UNWTO Regional Office in Africa bringing African nations even closer into our collaborative network. Furthermore, it is worth noting high-level representatives from Senegal, Rwanda, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as well as from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) held meetings with the UNWTO Secretary-General at the UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid.

- Highlighting the new internal UNWTO Research Council which capitalizes on UNWTO knowledge network and aiming at boosting tourism impact worldwide. UNWTO ever-growing Affiliate Members network is gaining momentum and in Africa two new members from the Kingdom of Eswatini and South Africa have joined the network. More stakeholders from the private sector in Africa are strongly invited to join to increase the visibility of the region and contribute to public-private partnerships.
- Recognizing UNWTO's imprint on the global stage reverberates. The adoption of UN General Assembly resolutions and the observance of "Global Tourism Resilience Day" signal the organization's indomitable commitment to advocating for tourism's socio-economic impact. The organization's presence at key UN summits (High level Political Forum on sustainability in tourism in July 2023) and its collaboration with sister UN agencies like the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the hosting of a second edition of the Ministerial Conference of Tourism and Air Transport in Africa in 2024 reaffirms UNWTO's position as a potent voice in shaping global policies.
- Concluding with prospects and urging member states to embrace the journey ahead. Preparations for the Programme of Work for 2024 and 2025, underscored by the Members Survey, and the impending 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly to be held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan from 16 to 20 October 2023, serve as a platform to direct UNWTO's work as well as of the Regional Commission for Africa as we move forward together.

In addition, the Executive Director elaborated on the critical strategic objectives and vision for the African continent on Education, Investment and Digital Transformation

- Emphasizing the pivotal areas of education, investment, and digital transformation, the overarching goal is to build a robust future for tourism by investing in human resources and harnessing the potential of technology. It is essential to empower individuals and leverage technological innovations, particularly for mega-events.
- Encouraging global participation and in line with this vision, UNWTO has launched an open call for a Global Start-ups Competition, extending an invitation to entrepreneurs across Africa to participate actively. The primary aim of this competition is to gather groundbreaking ideas and innovative solutions that can contribute to the development of mega-events and pilot projects in Samarkand, Uzbekistan ([25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly, 16-20 October 2023](#)), providing an exceptional platform for showcasing technology advancements and engaging Africa's youth from a global to a local scale.
- Nurturing innovation within the continent, UNWTO has been proactively supporting start-ups in Africa, exemplified by the start-up competitions in Morocco, Nigeria and Senegal. The overarching objective is to identify and select the most promising start-ups, subsequently collaborating with governmental bodies to facilitate the realization of pilot projects. These initiatives are geared toward fostering innovation within the tourism sector.
- Promoting youth empowerment, an integral part of this strategy involves the Africa Youth in Tourism Innovation Summit & Challenge, a significant platform for youth-led projects and entrepreneurship driven by the African

Tourism Partners (ATP), a UNWTO Affiliate member. UNWTO has been collaborating with ATP over the last three years to support Namibia which envisions taking this summit to Madrid, Spain, to scale up innovative solutions and foster connections between African youth and various corporate partners and accelerators. This approach underscores the organization's commitment to empowering African youth and promoting cross-continental collaboration between Africa and Europe.

- Expanding collaboration and innovation, UNWTO has a comprehensive global start-up network that is poised to play a pivotal role in advancing innovative solutions. This network offers access to a vast database of start-ups, both globally and within Africa, enabling stakeholders to gain insights into the technologies employed by these start-ups and the nature of their pilot projects. This network serves as an invaluable resource for fostering innovation and collaboration.
 - Illustrating the effectiveness of UNWTO's support for start-up initiatives in Africa, several success stories highlight the organization's role as a catalyst for positive change. These include an agro-tourism project in Kenya, which received support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an innovation LAB project in Namibia, and a bicycle education initiative in Morocco, which gained recognition from The Guardian. UNWTO actively contributes to bringing these innovative projects to fruition, underscoring its role as a catalyst for positive change.
 - Advancing education and workforce development, UNWTO offers annual scholarships through the Tourism Online Academy and has entered into strategic agreements with educational institutions, including Algeria's High Institute on Hospitality and Catering ([ESHRA](#)), Switzerland's Evictus group, and the University of Cambridge (UK), to further strengthen the tourism sector. Notably, 10% of these scholarships are awarded to students from Africa, emphasizing the organization's commitment to building a skilled workforce within the continent.
 - Highlighting investment opportunities, UNWTO has launched the second edition of the Investment Tourism Framework in collaboration with the Financial Times. This initiative comes at a propitious time, as it highlights the significant investment opportunities in Africa. Notably, the framework underscores the value of greenfield projects and emphasizes the creation of job opportunities through foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa. It's noteworthy that six of the 16 megaprojects in the region are greenfield projects, contributing to substantial job creation. UNWTO is committed to supporting and facilitating investment in Africa's tourism sector, capitalizing on these burgeoning opportunities.
1. Thanks him for delivering on the main strategic objectives and priorities of the Organization and the results of the implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 in the Africa region;
 2. Appreciates the update on international tourism trends, showing resilience and fast recovery of Africa higher than the global level;
 3. Concurs on the critical importance of cooperation to face challenges, such as climate emergency and talent shortage crisis;
 4. Welcomes the five priorities and strategic objectives of the UNWTO, and appreciates the progress achieved towards these goals;
 5. Congratulates the Secretary-General who spared no effort to restart tourism post-covid 19 for international tourism flows towards Africa and remarkable progress has been noted in the implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 and support therefor the implementation of the Agenda for Africa -Tourism for inclusive Growth that will contribute positively to inclusive development in the region.

6. Commends The Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the *UNWTO global conference on linking tourism, culture and the creative industries: pathways to recovery and inclusive development* in Lagos, Nigeria, 14-16 November 2022 and the Kingdom of Morocco for the 117th Session of the UNWTO Executive Council in Marrakesh, from 23 to 25 November 2022, both events held successfully.
7. Seizes the opportunity to reflect collectively on the future of the sector for a more resilient, responsible, sustainable and resilient tourism and share our views on the theme rethinking tourism following the negative impact of COVID-19 on African economies.
8. Encourages the secretariat to expand its support to more member states in the development of a tourism satellite account and the establishment of development of comprehensive system of tourism statistics. It is imperative that the economic contribution of tourism to national economies be more accurately measured. Such measurements will facilitate enhanced tourism planning, enabling member states to advocate for increased support for the sector at both national and continental levels. To achieve sustainable and competitive tourism development, countries require a deep understanding of their tourism sector and its economic significance. This can only be accomplished through the establishment of a reliable and accurate System of Tourism Information.
9. Congratulates member states from the region that are actively collaborating with UNWTO on the development of a tourism satellite account and the development of system of national statistics. The Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) should be recognized as a vital tool for comprehending tourism as an integral component of an economy and to describe it as an activity that has important impacts on other activities and sectors. A TSA, based on a robust System of Tourism Statistics (STS), can become a reliable instrument to monitor and to orient public policies on tourism development while serving as a powerful lobbying tool for National Tourism Administrations (NTAs) to advocate the cause of tourism.
10. Highlights that tourism plays a crucial role in Africa economies as it contributes to job creation, preservation of intangible and tangible cultural heritage, biodiversity and endemic species, natural resources and contribute to international cooperation.
11. Underlines that COVID-19 has brought to light the vulnerability of the tourism sector and compel us to relook at our tourism strategies. Today we face multi-faced challenges such as climate change, scarcity of financial resources, social inequalities, and new expectations of tourists. Therefore, a holistic and innovative approach is paramount to tackle these challenges, harnessing opportunities and creating pathways for a promising tourism sector in Africa.
12. Recognizes the need to diversify the tourism offer in nature, culture and discovery and to reinforce the involvement of local partners and communities based on social equity.
13. Emphasizes the importance of strengthening partnerships between African countries to promote regional cooperation. They stressed the need to collaborate, share knowledge, expertise, and develop common strategies to attract international tourists. The aim is to harness Africa's vast tourism potential collectively. and requests support from UNWTO to enhance the capacity of its tourism workforce.
14. Recognizes the challenges facing the tourism industry, including connectivity issues. They emphasized the need for coordinated strategies to reconquer the Chinese tourism market and boost intra-African travel. Suggestions are to include simplified visa processes among African countries, create cross-sectoral dialogue involving civil aviation authorities, and strengthen South-to-South cooperation.

15. Stresses the great importance of safety and security and encourages the member states to utilize the publication of the [UNWTO/AUDA-NEPAD/UEMOA White Paper on Safety and Security in the Tourism Sector](#) presented in three volumes. The publication aims at supporting members better i) understand the links between tourism, safety, security and development, ii) understand the risks on the tourism sector by highlighting their direct and indirect impacts, in particular on the confidence given to the actors in charge of security; and iii) prepare and support the design of a security strategy to increase the level of security of tourist activities and, therefore, promote socioeconomic development.
16. Emphasizes the importance of sustainability especially for Small Island States (SIDS), noting that conservation is a key product in African tourism. They highlighted the need to address conservation issues, such as wildlife and forest management, as part of tourism development. Developing skills in digital spaces and investing in research were also cited as vital components of a sustainable tourism industry.
17. Recommends UNWTO to support efforts in sustainability by providing guidance and promoting responsible tourism practices. They also suggested that the UNWTO work with governments on environmental conservation initiatives to ensure that tourism activities do not harm the environment.
18. Underlines that advocating Brand Africa remain one of the key priorities for promoting the region.; Africa is often hindered by an unwarranted and disproportionately negative perception of the region. Persistent perceptual barriers and stereotypes impact on the entire continent with harmful effect on Africa's image and, consequently, on tourism and its potential for economic development. Members underscore the importance of shifting the narrative around the continent by promoting positive stories to help build consumer and market confidence and thereby accelerate recovery.
19. Commends the Republic of Zimbabwe for its exceptional organization of the SADC Traditional Tourism Gastronomy competition in The Masvingo Province on 25 May 2023, under the leadership by H.E. Mrs Dr. Auxillia Mnangawa, First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe for championing the promotion of gastronomy tourism not only in Zimbabwe but at the continental level. UNWTO in its publication "A [Tour of African Gastronomy](#)" released in 2021, which showcased 38 Chefs from the region, featuring state-of -the-art recipes enriched with endlessly divers flavors and the remarkable culinary traditions of the continent.
20. Urges member states to promote regional and sub-regional inter-country trails that tell the story of Africa's history, including liberation struggles and the legacy of slavery. They emphasized the importance of unity among African nations to build a collective and competitive African brand.
21. Invites all member states to send representatives at the highest level to attend and support the UNWTO Brand Africa Think Tank Dialogue with CEOs of Africa's National Tourism Organizations.
22. Expresses a need for improved human resource capacity in the tourism sector and called for vocational training programs to equip young people with relevant skills. Skills development and research are essential areas of concern.
23. Commends the UNWTO initiative with the University of Lucerne in Switzerland and all online capacity-building programmes organized by UNWTO aiming to strengthen the tourism workforce and to respond to the needs of tourists.

24. Highlights the shared commitment to developing the tourism sector in Africa and the need for collaborative efforts. Member states look to the UNWTO for guidance and support in various areas, from culture integration to sustainability and skills development.
25. Appreciates UNWTO's Technical Assistance projects to support its Members, with 17 technical assistance projects in 15 African countries;
26. Notes with interest that the UNWTO collaborates with several key partners, including the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Western African Monetary Union (WAEMU) to support its Members;
27. Takes notes that the Spanish Government will finalize its plans for the new UNWTO headquarters in Madrid in 2024;
28. Requests the UNWTO Secretariat to support the work of the working group assigned to design the objectives and projects of the Pan-African Fund;
29. Requests members to actively promote the UNWTO Affiliate Membership as its representation from Africa currently stands at only 18% and welcomes the Hospitality and Tourism Association of Eswatini and the Johannesburg Tourism Company from South Africa that became UNWTO Affiliate Members since the 65th Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) during the 117th Session of the UNWTO Executive Council, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, 23-25 November 2022.
30. Congratulates the UNWTO Secretary-General for his leadership in promoting tourism in Africa and beyond.

CAF/CR/4 (LXVII)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK 2022-2023:

**-REGIONAL AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES
- RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON REDEFINING THE UNWTO AGENDA FOR AFRICA-TOURISM
FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Agenda item 4

The Commission,

Having heard the report presented by the Director of the Regional Department for Africa on the key activities conducted in the region since the last commission meeting,

1. Thanks her for the detailed and valuable presentation that highlights the key work done since the previous commission namely on the implementation of the Programme of Work in Africa 2022-2023 and the re-definition of the Agenda for Africa-Tourism for Inclusive Growth;
2. Notes with great interest that a strong area of the work delivered by UNWTO in the region, in its capacity of an executing agency, relies on technical assistance based on member's needs and priorities with currently 17 ongoing technical assistance projects amounted of 4.5 million EUR in 15 countries, funded by key partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the African Union Development Agency (AU-NEPAD), the European Bank for Restructuring and Development (EBRD) and the Western African Economic Monetary Union (WAEMU) among others.
3. Welcomes the work conducted by UNWTO to collaborate with member states on the development of national tourism academies, the support for the establishment of a pan-African Tourism Fund, support to the 1st national Travel and hospitality Tourism Education Summit hosted by Zambia in May 2023 with a second edition to be open to other members scheduled in 2024, and the dynamic collaboration for the last two consecutive years with the Affiliate member Africa Tourism Partners on a establishment of an African Tourism Innovation Hub in Namibia;
4. Agrees on the Mauritius Declaration on a New Path for Africa Tourism through Investment and Global Partnerships together with detailed actions to be driven by member states;
5. Appreciates the findings of the December 2022 survey, for the redefinition of the *UNWTO Agenda for Africa - Tourism for Inclusive Growth*, whereby 33 Member States actively participated and put forward their recommendations on the following main areas of focus listed below in alignment with the UNWTO Programme of Work:
 - a. Promoting Innovation and Technology;
 - b. Advocating Brand Africa;
 - c. Promoting Travel Facilitation (Air Connectivity / Visa),
 - d. Unlocking Growth through Investment Promotion and Public Private Partnerships.

In addition to the four main priorities of the *UNWTO Agenda for Africa – Tourism for Inclusive Growth* that the Member States require to redefine to advance with the next steps of the recovery process of the African tourism sector, new specific focus areas came out from the survey:

- a. Tourism Governance,
- b. Human Capital Development:

- c. Niche Markets / Product Diversification;
 - d. Tourism Infrastructure Development / Rehabilitation / Conservation.
6. Appreciates the significant and continuous efforts made through the implementation of the UNWTO Agenda for Africa-Tourism for Inclusive Growth to share knowledge and build capacity through several activities, including:
- a. UNWTO Global Conference on Linking Tourism, Culture and Creative Industries: Pathways to Recovery and Inclusive Development (14-16 November 2022, Lagos, Nigeria)
 - b. Online Briefing Sessions on the 3rd edition of the Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO (April 2023)
 - c. Virtual Meetings of the UNWTO Women in Tourism Leadership for Africa Committee (April 2023)
 - d. Informative and Onboarding Sessions for Africa's UNWTO Focal Points (May 2023)
 - e. UNWTO Media Training Workshop (Harare, Zimbabwe, 13-15 November 2023)
 - f. 1st Africa Tourism Education Forum (Algiers, Algeria, 30 November – 1 December 2023 – TBC)
 - g. UNWTO Brand Africa Think Tank Dialogue with CEOs of Africa's National Tourism Organizations (TBC)
 - h. 3rd Global Tourism Investment Forum for Africa (TBC)
 - i. UNWTO Brand Africa Dialogue with CEOs on Africa's National Tourism Organizations (TBC)
 - j. 1st Africa Tourism Education Forum, (TBC)
 - k. UNWTO Workshops on Tourism Statistics for African SIDS and LDC (TBC)
 - l. Africa Tourism Governance Convention (TBC)
 - m. African Gastronomy Forum (TBC)
 - n. UNWTO/UEMOA joint Ministerial Conference / Implementation of the White Paper on Safety and Security in Tourism and two key upcoming activities developed by Africa Tourism Partners (ATP), UNWTO Affiliate Member, that UNWTO continues to support, which will happen in the continent:
 -6th Africa Tourism Leadership Forum (ATLF), Gaborone, Botswana, 6-8 October 2023
 -6th Africa Youth in Tourism Innovation Summit & Challenge, Namibia, 28-31 May 2024
7. Notes with satisfaction that activities of the UNWTO Agenda for Africa-Tourism for Inclusive growth reflect the priorities of the flagship projects of the African Union Agenda 2063, such as The [Single African Air Transport Market](#) (SAATM), [the African Continental Free Trade Area \(AfCFTA\)](#), the endorsement of the [African passport related to the AU Protocol on Free Movement of Persons](#). These activities contribute to boost tourism, trade and economic growth, better access to new markets, increased intra-African travel and local economies.
8. Recommends member states to advocate for open skies agreements and improved air travel connections. The need for enhanced connectivity, both within Africa and with other regions to facilitate tourism growth and that UNWTO facilitates dialogue with civil aviation authorities to promote better connectivity and make intra-Africa travel more accessible. They also encouraged other nations to adopt measures like those implemented by Botswana, such as visa exemptions for certain countries, to boost tourism. Air connectivity and visa facilitation regimes represent a critical issue still preventing tourism from fully unlocking its potential in the Africa region. In alignment with the flagship initiatives of the Single Air African Travel Market (SAATM) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) promoted by the African Union, Members request to put emphasis on the project of creating a single, unified and harmonized air transport market for Africa in order to boost social, economic and political integration which will maximize benefits from tourism and other business sectors.
9. Encourages the Regional Department for Africa to continue its efforts the implementation of the re-defined Agenda for Africa-Tourism for inclusive Growth with a series of different initiatives, services, projects and activities in conformity with the needs and priorities of the members of the region
10. Commends UNWTO for its partnership in the organization of the 5th Africa Youth in Tourism Innovation Summit & Challenge, 31 May – 2 June 2023, Swakopmund, **Namibia** under the leadership of UNWTO's Affiliate Member Africa Tourism Partners (ATP) assembled experts, African start-ups, young entrepreneurs, and key stakeholders as well as

mentors, innovators, academics, and funders in tourism, travel and cross-cutting industries high-level partners to address the needs of youth participation in tourism in Africa.

11. Welcomes the 6th Africa Tourism Leadership Forum (ATLF), to be hosted by Botswana, in Gaborone, 6-8 October 2023, and invite therefore all member states to participate.
 12. Welcomes the International Tourism Fair, to be hosted by Mozambique, Maputo, 26-28 October 2023, and invite therefore all member states to participate.
 13. Welcomes Namibia's initiative and leadership role to host the 6th edition of Africa Youth in Tourism innovation challenge Summit in May 28th -31st in 2024 to support and contribute to Africa youth empowerment in tourism and encourages therefore ministers responsible for tourism, natural resources, entrepreneurship and youth to participate
 14. Commends the Republic of Zimbabwe for the upcoming Communication, Media, and Tourism Training in Africa workshop to take place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 13th to 15th November 2023 and invite therefore all member states to participate.
 15. Thanks, the Regional Director, for her comprehensive and invaluable presentation, which illuminates the significant progress made since the previous commission. This encompasses the diligent implementation of the Programme of Work in Africa for 2022-2023 and the redefinition of the Agenda for Africa - Tourism for Inclusive Growth.
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CAF/CR/5 (LXVII)

Survey Findings on Members' Priorities for the UNWTO Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 and the long-term vision

Agenda item 5

The Commission,

Having heard the report presented by the Executive Director on the Survey Findings on Member's Priorities for the UNWTO Programme of Work (Pow) 2024-2025 and the long-term vision;

1. Notes that only 30 full members (61%) responded to the survey;
2. Takes note that the planning and implementation of the survey included extensive consultations with the Programme and Budget Committee on the methodological aspects of the survey and overall with the Organization's members;
3. Recognizes the significance of the robust qualitative data derived from the survey, allowing to channel member and non-member states' primary needs and viewpoints into the UNWTO Programme of Work and the sector's development vision for the next decade;
4. Appreciates the importance of the survey results to define, in close coordination with the governing organs and their subsidiary bodies, the required reforms to ensure better governance and services of the Organization;
5. Acknowledges that members' priorities in the region are centred 1. marketing positioning and promotion of the destinations, 2. Investment and infrastructure. 3. Product development and diversification, 4. sustainability, green transformation and climate change, 5. Innovation and digitalization and technology, 6. Domestic tourism, 7. Connectivity, 8. Statistics, 9. Safety and security
6. Notes with concern the main challenges for the members in the region, as identified by the members in the region, being 1. human capital shortage and retaining talent, 2. Limited infrastructure, and 3. economic recession and inflation; 4. Lack of funding and investment and 5. Poor connectivity.
7. Takes note of the most common opportunities for the Programme of Work, as identified by the members in the region, improving tourism infrastructure, notably in climate resilient infrastructure, being a reform of tourism legal and policy framework and/or governance model, and strong potential on natural and cultural assets and rich biodiversity.

8. Acknowledges the sector's long-term development patterns in Africa as identified by the members in the region, being sustainability (shift in consumers demand), nature and pristine environment, and digitalization along the entire tourism value chain;
 9. Recognizes the need for the private sector to join more the UNWTO affiliate member programme for more collaboration and enhance public-private partnerships aiming at reshaping business models.
 10. Acknowledges the process of transformation of the organization in line with transformed tourism ministries in the region.
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CAF/CR/6/(LXVII)

Discussion on the UNWTO Programme of Work 2024-2025

Agenda item 6

The Commission,

Having heard the presentations on the UNWTO Programme of Work and the results of the survey on members' priorities,

1. Appreciates the survey's clarity in identifying priorities, challenges, and opportunities in Africa;
2. Proposes a strategic approach to the identified priorities by clustering priorities by sub- region to provide a clearer direction for each area. An example is given where closer cooperation with Zambia along the Zambia Sea could lead to a special relationship. This thematic and regional approach, they argue, will facilitate a more targeted and effective response to the challenges and opportunities in each region.
3. Suggests a practical approach where member states utilize the information gathered to create their own action plans. These action plans, they argue, should serve as a basis for making evidence-based decisions and future planning and therefore suggests a structured feedback mechanism where member states share their experiences and progress in implementing the survey's findings during future UNWTO or CAF meetings. This approach would facilitate mutual learning among member states and allow the UNWTO and CAF to monitor and evaluate the impact of the valuable information provided by the survey. In essence, it's a call for proactive engagement with the survey data, ensuring that it leads to tangible actions and outcomes for the benefit of the entire African tourism sector.
4. Highlights the significance of certain issues like gastronomy development linked to agriculture and sustainability. For instance, the SADC Traditional Tourism Gastronomy competition held in the Masvingo Province in Zimbabwe on 25 May 2023, spearheaded by H.E. Mrs Dr. Auxillia Mhangawa, First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe , shows the great value of gastronomy in promoting African tourism destinations and therefore reveals the importance of culinary experiences in tourism. They further stressed the urgency of addressing issues like sustainability and greening in the face of climate change. Additionally, they suggested leveraging regional tourism events as platforms for advancing product development.
5. Encourages all member states to actively participate in future surveys. They emphasize the importance of marketing and promoting destinations, citing the example of the iconic Victoria Falls. Infrastructure investment, especially in areas with limited access, is highlighted as a critical need. Zambia, with its vast arable land and abundant water resources, invites potential investors, emphasizing the unique opportunities the country offers for tourism development.
6. Underscores the pivotal role of human capital in the tourism sector and the necessity of investing in training within local communities. They assert that neglecting to prepare the local workforce for the hospitality industry may hinder the benefits of tourism investments.
7. Expresses its eagerness to engage more in future surveys and to get more insights of the tourism sector for better decision making.

CAF/CR/7(LXVII)

Nominations and elections to statutory organs and their subsidiary bodies

Agenda item 7.1 & 7.2

The Commission,

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

1. Recommends that UNWTO consider establishing an African Priority initiative, akin to UNESCO's focused efforts on the continent. Recognizing the diverse challenges faced by African countries, such an initiative could prove instrumental in addressing these issues effectively. To achieve this, the implementation of the redefined Agenda for Africa - Tourism for Inclusive Growth, which reflects the priorities of member states, is of paramount importance."
2. Notes the fact that the Africa region comprises 51 member states, yet the current engagement level is relatively low with only 33 countries participating in this regional commission meeting. While we appreciate that 60% of ministers are attending this meeting, we emphasize that such engagement should not be limited to this specific occasion but should continue to persist in the future.
3. Urges members, including those nominated, to enhance their involvement in advancing Africa's interests. This commitment should extend to ensuring sustained representation and full engagement of ministers upcoming regional commission meetings. This collective effort will enable the continent to speak with a unified voice and effectively address the shared challenges it faces.
4. Nominates **Algeria and Tanzania** as the Vice-Presidents of the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly,
5. Nominates **Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo** as members of the Credentials Committee;
6. Nominates **Mauritius** as Chair of the UNWTO Commission for Africa for the period 2023-2025;
7. Nominates **Nigeria as the 1st Vice-Chair** and **Kenya** as the second Vice-Chair of the UNWTO Commission for Africa for 2023-2025;
8. Recommends **Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Namibia, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania** as members of the UNWTO Executive Council for the period 2023-2027, following a vote by ballot;
9. Nominates **Kenya** as member of the Programme and Budget Committee for the period 2023-2025;
10. Nominates **Kenya** and **Zimbabwe** as members of the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability for the period 2023-2027;
11. Nominates **Kenya** and **Zambia** as members of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness for the period 2023-2027;
12. Nominates **Morocco** and **Seychelles** as members of the Committee on Statistics for the period 2023-2027;
13. Recommends **Algeria** as members of the Committee on Matters related to the Affiliate Members for the period 2023-2027;
14. Recommends **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Senegal** as members from the Region of Africa of the Task Force on "Redesigning Tourism for the Future".

CAF/CR/8 (LXVII)

**RECALL VENUE OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING
OF THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN 2024**

Agenda item 8

The Commission,

Having heard the report of the Chair on the consensus achieved,

1. Welcomes with great pleasure and accepts the invitation by the authorities of **the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to hold its sixty-seventh meeting in Algeria in 2024**, on a date to be fixed by mutual agreement by the UNWTO Secretariat and the authorities of the country.

CAF/CR/9 (LXVI)

PREPARATION FOR THE 25TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER 2023

Agenda item 9

The Commission,

Having heard the information provided by the Director for the Regional Department for Africa on the preparation for the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly,

1. Thanks UNWTO and the Republic of Uzbekistan for the preparations underway for the hosting of the 25th session of the UNWTO General Assembly in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 16 to 20 October 2023;
 2. Takes note that the decision on the venue of the 26th session of the UNWTO General Assembly will be taken at the 25th session in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
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OTHER MATTERS

Agenda item 10

The Commission,

Having heard the presentation by the CAF Chair on the proposal of three working groups to be managed at the level of CAF member states namely on the Pan-African Tourism Fund, Responsible Tourism and Eco-tourism, and on Education, Training in the Hospitality and Catering Industry and Tourism:

1. Nominates for the working group on the Pan-African Fund on the Development of Tourism; Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal, Zambia;
2. Nominates for the working group on Responsible Tourism and Eco-tourism; Botswana, Burkina Faso, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles and Zimbabwe
3. Nominates for the working group on Training in the Hospitality and Catering Industry and Tourism; Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE HOST COUNTRY

The Commission,

Addresses its deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Mauritius for their remarkable hospitality throughout the Commission Meeting of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Commission and the Conference on **Conference on “Rethinking Tourism for Africa: Addressing global challenges; Promoting investment and partnerships”**, Le Méridien Ile Maurice, Pointe aux Piments, Republic of Mauritius, from 26 to 28 July 2023.

The Commission conveys its gratitude to H.E. Mr Louis Steven Obeegadoo, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning, Minister of Tourism for his tireless dedication and efforts for the successful meeting of the Commission and related events.

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María Aranzazu Priede Leza
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