

6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue
1-3 May 2024 - Baku, Azerbaijan

UN Tourism Session

Opening eyes and building contact:

Tourism connecting *people and its role in building intercultural dialogue*

2 May – 11:30 – 13:00

Venue: Baku Convention Centre – Room A7

Tourism, often highlighted for its role in economic development, also plays a significant role in fostering peace. On a global level, where nations are interconnected and interdependent, Tourism, an industry made by people and for people, emerges as a compelling and dynamic force to defy stereotypes and challenge prejudices.

According to UN Tourism data, international tourist arrivals worldwide has reached 1286 million in 2023, recovering 88% of pre-pandemic levels. This number is expected to witness a 2% growth above 2019 level in international tourist arrivals.

This sector can be perceived as the epitome of intercultural dialogue; it allows meeting the "other", learning about different cultures, hearing foreign languages, tasting exotic flavours, bonding with other human beings, and building tolerance. In essence, it is a mind-broadening educational and spiritual experience.

Guided by the [UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#), particularly *Article 1 focusing on tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies*, this UN Tourism special session aims to explore the role of tourism in broadening perspectives and fostering connections between tourists and local communities.

Objectives:

The session seeks to integrate both theoretical and practical dimensions of tourism's significant influence on peacebuilding through human interactions. Its objective is to shed light on the need to appreciate diversity, and a myriad of lifestyles, faiths, and cultures practiced by people across the globe, when we travel.

By stimulating discussions on the conditions under which sustainable tourism can contribute to enhancing mutual understanding and promoting peace in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET).

The featured multisectoral examples will provide an overview of the concept of *tourism as a catalyst for peace* and showcase various good practices from Azerbaijan, Colombia, and Rwanda. With a specific focus on bottom-up initiatives led by private stakeholders, civil society, and international organizations, the interactive one-and-a-half-hour panel discussion will draw particular attention to how the featured examples were originally set up, the key enablers of their success, as well as the challenges and lessons learned.

Speakers:

<i>Opening Remarks</i>	Mr. Fuad Naghiyev Chairman the State Tourism Agency, Republic of Azerbaijan
<i>Scene-setter and Moderator</i>	Dr. Jafar Jafari Founding Editor, Annals of Tourism Research Special Advisor to the UN Tourism Secretary-General on Education and Research
<i>Speakers</i>	Ms. Rosette Chantal Rugamba Founder and Managing Director, Songa Africa, Rwanda
	Ms. Daniela Otero Interim Chair, World Committee on Tourism Ethics
	Mr. Miguel Carvajal Co-founder and General Director, Get up and Go, Colombia
	Ms. Lucy Garner Senior Expert, Youth and Talent Development, UN Tourism
	Local Speaker from Azerbaijan TBC by host
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	Ms. Zoritsa Urosevic Executive Director, UN Tourism

**speaker tbc*