

Executive Council

126th session
Toledo, Spain

10-11 June 2026

Supplementary agenda item 1**Proposal by Colombia: Inter-Institutional Working Group
on Tourism for Peacebuilding**

CE/126/Supp/1
Madrid, 4 June 2026
Original: Spanish

UN Tourism is going green. All Executive Council documents are available on the UN Tourism website at www.untourism.int or use the Quick Response code here.

**Executive Summary**

Colombia proposes the establishment of an inter-institutional working group aimed at strengthening and consolidating tourism for peacebuilding.

DRAFT DECISION¹

Supplementary agenda item 1

Proposal by Colombia: Inter-Institutional Working Group on Tourism for Peacebuilding
(documents CE/126/Supp/1 and CE/126/1 prov. suppl. rev.1)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the proposal of Colombia to create a working group aimed at strengthening and consolidating tourism for peacebuilding,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal; and
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work with Colombia on the preparation of a report defining the objectives, terms of reference, and necessary resources to ensure the viability and proper functioning of the Working Group, within the Organization's legal framework and Programme of Work.

¹ This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Executive Council, please refer to the Decisions document issued at the end of the session.

Proposal by Colombia: Establishment of a working group aimed at strengthening and consolidating tourism for peacebuilding

1. Background and rationale

Globally, various communities have demonstrated that tourism can become a powerful tool for rebuilding the social fabric, recognizing cultural and social diversity, and creating spaces for dialogue to promote processes of inclusion, territorial development, and peaceful coexistence. These experiences, led by local actors, supported by governments, and strengthened by social organizations and the business sector, demonstrate tourism's potential to actively contribute to building a culture of peace and post-crisis recovery.

Historically, nations have shown an interest in leveraging tourism as a mechanism for social transformation and the construction of a culture of peace. Recently, in 2024, the celebration of World Tourism Day featured the theme "Tourism and Peace", reaffirming, once again, the sector's role as a catalyst for transformation, reconciliation, and sustainable development, positioning peace as a cross-cutting theme in contemporary tourism agendas.

Building on this long-term vision, the global stage is set for a new milestone with the 7th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, to be held in October 2026 in Baku, Azerbaijan. In this forum of high-level political engagement, UN Tourism will participate decisively as a strategic partner alongside UNESCO, UNAOC, and ICESCO.

However, we must also undertake more pragmatic efforts with a high positive impact on the communities of tourism destinations that have been severely affected by conflict; as the challenge remains to consolidate these destinations as regional reference points, by interconnecting their practices, narratives of peace, and lessons learned on a common platform that gives them visibility, sustainability, and international recognition.

Recognizing the strategic value of tourism as a tool for building a culture of peace, we propose the creation of a Working Group as a formal mechanism within the framework of UN Tourism, conceived as a global initiative subsidiary to the Executive Council.

This Working Group will enable the coordination of multilateral actions and the promotion of studies, systematizations, and analytical frameworks on how tourism is contributing to the building of a culture of peace, thereby strengthening the conceptual, methodological, and operational foundations of these destinations.

Likewise, it seeks to consolidate a space for global cooperation focused on the design, implementation, and monitoring of strategies that position tourism as a driver of peace in destinations, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals

and the principles of socioeconomic inclusion, reparation, and recognition of cultural diversity.

2. Objective

To establish a Working Group subsidiary to the Executive Council that coordinates, promotes, and raises awareness of actions aimed at building a culture of peace through tourism, by means of knowledge exchange, capacity building, the development of public policies, and the articulation of the experiences of tourism destinations.

3. Scope of work

The Working Group will carry out the following functions:

- (a) Identify, systematize, and highlight tourism experiences through intercultural dialogues that contribute to building a culture of peace, by protecting and interpreting cultural and natural heritage as essential components for the development of narratives, stories, and the interpretation of symbols for peace and intercultural dialogue.
- (b) Promote technical exchange and the sharing of lessons learned among government institutions, communities, academia, and other stakeholders to design inclusive public policies and consolidate tourism governance frameworks that recognize tourism as a tool for building a culture of peace
- (c) Promote broad community participation by women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and people affected by conflicts; as well as populations from resilient local economies that promote social cohesion.
- (d) Develop social, economic, and environmental impact indicators to assess the extent to which tourism contributes to the construction of a culture of peace.

4. Composition

The composition of the Working Group shall be open to the designated representatives of the Organization's Full Members and shall ensure the broadest possible geographical representation. The representatives of the Associate Members and of the Affiliate Members may participate in the Working Group's meetings as observers.

Subject to the approval of the Executive Council, the following may be invited to participate in the Working Group's deliberations as observers:

- (a) Representatives of international organizations, cooperation agencies, academic institutions, and research centres specializing in tourism for a culture of peace. Community leaders and representatives of destination experiences that promote tourism as a tool for building a culture of peace.

- (b) Technical observers may be invited on an ad hoc basis, depending on the topics under discussion.

5. Governance and functioning

- (a) The Working Group shall be subject to the authority of the Executive Council.
Meetings shall be held at least twice a year, in person or virtually, without prejudice to extraordinary sessions when required by urgent or strategic matters.
- (b) The Working Group shall draft its own rules of procedure and implementation protocol, upon a proposal from the UN Tourism Secretariat, in line with the regulations of similar working groups within the Organization, establishing operational guidelines, decision-making mechanisms, membership criteria, and evaluation procedures.
- (c) At its first meeting, the Working Group shall elect a chair and a vice-chair from among its full members.
- (d) The participation of community representatives, academics, technical experts, and international cooperation representatives will be encouraged in an advisory or observer capacity, depending on the topics under discussion.
- (e) The Working Group may be established only after all the documentation required has been approved and adopted by the Executive Council.

6. Results and deliverables

It is anticipated that the Working Group will generate, progressively and in accordance with the priorities defined by its members, the following results and deliverables, subject to review and validation by the UN Tourism Secretariat, provided that approved resources are available for such activity, as there is no budget allocation designated for this purpose in the Programme of Work adopted for the period 2026–2027:

- (a) Annual work plan with goals, a timeline, and strategic lines of action for building a culture of peace through tourism.
- (b) Technical and progress reports that systematize experiences, best practices, impact indicators, and public policy recommendations.
- (c) Guidance documents for governments, communities, and sector stakeholders on how tourism contributes to a culture of peace and territorial development.
- (d) Communication and visibility strategies for tourism destinations committed to peace, including digital platforms and information materials.
- (e) Proposal for common indicators to monitor the social, economic, environmental, and symbolic impact, highlighting how tourism contributes to a culture of peace in member countries.

- (f) Inputs for coordination, dialogue, and coordinated participation with other specialized agencies within the United Nations system, regional forums, and international conferences.
