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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

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# OFFICIAL BULLETIN

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## **Agreement between the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO)**

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the International Labour Organization, represented by the International Labour Office (ILO), both organizations being specialized agencies of the United Nations,

Recognizing the fundamental role of decent work in tourism activities in bringing about social development and assisting in the eradication of poverty, and promoting prosperity and international understanding,

Considering that tourism industries are particularly labour-intensive and have the capacity to generate employment,

Sharing the common objectives of ensuring that tourism activities: generate decent work; respect fundamental principles and rights at work concerning freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, and freedom from child labour, forced labour and discrimination; and provide for adequate social protection and social dialogue,

Bearing in mind that collaboration between the two organizations is mutually desirable with a view to:

- Attaining internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals established following the Millennium Summit (2000) and the commitments made at the World Summit of 2005 and within the framework of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC),
- Contributing to the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002),
- Implementing the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (UNWTO, 1999; United Nations, 2001), in which specific references are made to international labour Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the ILO, and which requires the capacities of both organizations to help implement especially the provisions of its Article 5 (Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities) and Article 9 (Rights of the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry),
- Promoting the Decent Work Agenda,
- Promoting the ratification and application of the international labour Conventions underlying the fundamental principles and rights at work, namely, the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),
- Recalling the relevance of the following other instruments: the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), the Working Conditions (Hotels and Restaurants) Convention, 1991 (No. 172), as well as the Working Conditions (Hotels and Restaurants) Recommendation, 1991 (No. 179), the Job Creation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Recommendation, 1998 (No. 189), and the resolution concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 96th Session (June 2007),
- Giving effect to the recommendations made by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization in 2004,

- Reinforcing the labour dimension in the implementation of the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (TSA: RMF, 2000),
- Striving to promote greater coherence between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development policies and practice, with specific reference to employment and labour issues in tourism, and

Desirous of enhancing effective working relations with a view to the attainment of their respective mandates and avoidance of duplication,

The parties agree as follows:

### *I. Context for collaboration*

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, the term “tourism” is defined by the scope established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (March 2000) through the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (TSA: RMF), which states that tourism comprises “the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes”.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “decent work” is used as in the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration of 2006, which refers to “opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity”.

### *II. Areas and means of collaboration*

1. Within the limits of available resources, the UNWTO and the ILO will strengthen their collaboration primarily in the areas of strategic mutual interest to both organizations. At the time of signature of this Agreement, these include: statistics; education and training; employment; occupational safety and health, support to entrepreneurship and competitiveness, especially in relation to peasant, indigenous and tribal communities as tourism destinations; combating trafficking in human beings, child labour and sexual exploitation of children; improving respect for employers’ and workers’ rights in tourism, especially the rights of migrant workers and gender equality; and quality standards and ethics in the context of the tourism industry, as well as the promotion of social dialogue between governments and organizations of employers and workers in tourism. Collaboration may be developed in other areas in which labour and tourism issues coincide, as may be mutually identified by the secretariats of the UNWTO and the ILO.

2. Collaboration in the areas mutually identified may be pursued by means of information sharing, joint research, technical cooperation, capacity building, publications and other means as deemed appropriate and as mutually agreed.

### *III. Procedures for cooperative activities*

1. Each organization shall designate and communicate to the other organization details concerning a focal point, or changes of the focal point, entrusted with the overall coordination and implementation of this Agreement. At the time of signature, the focal points are the following:

For the ILO:

Director, Sectoral Activities  
Department  
International Labour Office  
4 route des Morillons  
1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland  
sector@ilo.org  
Tel. + 41 22 799 7501

For the UNWTO:

Director, Programme and Coordination  
Department  
World Tourism Organization  
Capitán Haya 42  
28020 Madrid  
eyunis@unwto.org  
Tel. + 34 91 567 8100

2. Within the framework of this Agreement, detailed working arrangements for cooperative activities in specific areas may be developed by the technical units concerned.
3. Use of the logos of each organization shall be subject to the respective procedures governing their use.
4. The implementation of this Agreement shall be reviewed periodically.

#### *IV. Reciprocal representation*

1. The ILO shall be invited to be represented and to participate as an observer at meetings of the UNWTO General Assembly. The ILO may also, whenever appropriate and subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon, be invited to participate in other meetings of the UNWTO dealing with subjects which fall within the competence, activities and expertise of the ILO.

2. The UNWTO shall be invited to participate in sessions of the International Labour Conference with the status of a public international organization. The UNWTO may also, whenever appropriate and subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon, be invited to participate in meetings organized by the ILO in which the UNWTO has expressed an interest.

#### *V. Entry into force*

1. Following notification of ECOSOC and approval by the governing organs of each organization, this Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the executive heads of the two organizations. It may be amended by mutual written agreement. The Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by either party, which shall give to the other six months' written notice of termination, or by mutual consent.

For the International Labour Organization:  
(Signed) Juan Somavia  
Director-General  
International Labour Office

For the World Tourism Organization:  
(Signed) Francesco Frangialli  
Secretary-General

Place and date: Madrid, 4 December 2008