



**SEKMUN**

## **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**

Topic 2 Managing and developing sustainable tourism

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**Moderator: Evan Brondel**

## WELCOME LETTER

Welcome delegates! Our names are Ana Johnson and Evan Brondel and we are glad to be the President and Moderator of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) committee. We are both IB students at SEK El Castillo, and we cannot wait for SEKMUN 2023!

As you may already know, SEKMUN is a debate model which simulates the structure of the United Nations. This means that each member represents and speaks on behalf of a delegation and must accurately portray their nation's views on the particular issues that are being discussed.

UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organisation), is the committee concerned with tourism, and its purpose is to promote sustainable, accessible, and responsible tourism for all. UNWTO was established in 1975, and its headquarters are located in Madrid, Spain.

In our committee the two topics that delegates will talk about are 'Creating safe tourism in Hostile environments' and 'Managing and developing sustainable tourism' We consider both topics to be highly interesting and to have a great potential to create fruitful debate. Therefore, we expect to see the most out of each and very delegate in this committee and hope to see various resolutions get passed.

Please contact us if you have any question:

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## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

As more regions and countries develop their tourism industry, it produces significant impacts on natural resources, consumption patterns, pollution and social systems. The need for sustainable/responsible planning and management is imperative for the industry to survive as a whole.

Sustainable Tourism refers to sustainable practices in and by the tourism industry. It is an aspiration to acknowledge all impacts of tourism, both positive and negative. It aims to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive ones.

Sustainable tourism is defined by the UN Environment Program and UN World Tourism Organization as “Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.” Additionally, they consider that sustainable tourism «refers to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability”

## ECOTOURISM

Ecotourism is a segment of tourism in natural areas. The term emerged in the late 1980s. It consists of a sustainable form of natural resource-based tourism that focuses primarily on experiencing and learning about nature, and which is ethically managed to be low-impact, non-consumptive, and

locally oriented. It typically occurs in natural areas and should contribute to the conservation or preservation of such areas.

Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and creates knowledge and understanding through interpretation and education of all involved.

## RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Responsible Travel refers to the behavior of individual travelers aspiring to make choices according to sustainable tourism practices. The behaviors usually align with minimizing the negative impacts and maximizing positive ones when one visits a tourism destination. These practices can and should be regulated by governments through policies.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Tourism is widely recognized as a key sector for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given its major potential to contribute to jobs and wealth in the developing world.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, tourism explicitly features as a target in Goals 8, 12 and 14 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, sustainable consumption and production, and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources, respectively.

## (Subtopic) TOURISM IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Tourism sector has shown significant resilience, despite recent slow economic growth and geopolitical tension in some regions of the world.

Tourism has, in recent years, received increasing attention as a low-impact, non-consumptive development option, for developing countries. LDCs recognize tourism as a sector with significant potential for stimulating growth, promoting development, job creation, poverty reduction and improving their international reputation.

This positive view contrasts with the fact that major parts of the tourist industry have remained harmful to the environment and that some aspects, like the use of energy and its global consequences have virtually been excluded from the discussion on sustainable tourism development.

### HELPFUL LINKS

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/what-sustainable-tourism-means>

<https://sustainabletravel.org/>

<https://sustainabletourism.net/>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabletourism>

<https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/epdf/10.18111/9789284415496>

<https://www.unwto.org/sustainable-development>

<https://www.iisd.org/mission-and-goals/sustainable-development>

<https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284418848>