

## The Djerba Declaration on Climate Change and Tourism (Extract)

The World Tourism Organization made an important initial step to address the complex relations between climate change and tourism by convening the **First International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism**, in **April 2003**, in Djerba, Tunisia. The conference brought together over 140 delegates from 53 countries, drawn from representatives of the scientific community, various United Nations agencies, the tourism industry, NGOs, national tourism administrations and environment departments and local governments. The main outcome of the aforementioned conference was the "Djerba Declaration on Climate Change and Tourism", which provides a basic reference and framework for further action by the major stakeholder groups. The Declaration recognizes the two-way relationship between climate change and tourism: that tourism is both impacted by climate change and contributes to the causes of this phenomenon.

*Having listened to the presentations by the representatives of the:*

- Tunisian Government
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) – UNESCO
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Tourism Organization (WTO)

and by representatives from the private and public sectors, as well as the points of view of a number of national governments, tourism companies, academic institutions, NGOs and experts;

*Having carefully considered* the complex relationships between tourism and climate change, and particularly the impacts that the latter are producing upon different types of tourism destinations, while not ignoring that some transport used for tourist movements and other components of the tourism industry, contribute in return to climate change;

*Aware* of the importance of water resources in the tourism industry and of its links with climate change;

*Recognizing* the existing and potentially worsening impact of climate change, combined with other anthropogenic factors on tourism development in sensitive ecosystems, such as the drylands, coastal and mountain areas as well as islands, and

*Taking into consideration* that the right to travel and the right to leisure are recognized by the international community, that tourism is now fully integrated in the consumption patterns of many countries, and that WTO forecasts indicate that it will continue to grow in the foreseeable future,

*Agree* the following:

1. *To urge* all governments concerned with the contribution of tourism to sustainable development, to subscribe to all relevant intergovernmental and multilateral

agreements, especially the Kyoto Protocol, and other conventions and similar declarations concerning climate change and related resolutions that prevent the impacts of this phenomenon from spreading further or accelerating;

2. *To encourage* international organizations to further the study and research of the reciprocal implications between tourism and climate change, including in the case of cultural and archaeological sites, in cooperation with public authorities, academic institutions, NGOs, and local people; in particular, *to encourage* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to pay special attention to tourism in cooperation with WTO and to include tourism specifically in its Fourth Assessment Report;
3. *To call upon* UN, international, financial and bilateral agencies to support the governments of developing, and in particular of least developed countries, for which tourism represents a key economic sector, in their efforts to address and to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and to formulate appropriate action plans;
4. *To request* international organizations, governments, NGOs and academic institutions to support local governments and destination management organizations in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures that respond to the specific climate change impacts at local destinations;
5. *To encourage* the tourism industry, including transport companies, hoteliers, tour operators, travel agents and tourist guides, to adjust their activities, using more energy-efficient and cleaner technologies and logistics, in order to minimize as much as possible their contribution to climate change;
6. *To call upon* governments, bilateral and multilateral institutions to conceive and implement sustainable management policies for water resources, and for the conservation of wetlands and other freshwater ecosystems;
7. *To call upon* governments to encourage the use of renewable energy sources in tourism and transport companies and activities, by facilitating technical assistance and using fiscal and other incentives;
8. *To encourage* consumer associations, tourism companies and the media to raise consumers' awareness at destinations and in generating markets, in order to change consumption behaviour and make more climate friendly tourism choices;
9. *To invite* public, private and non-governmental stakeholders and other institutions to inform WTO about the results of any research study relevant to climate change and tourism, in order for WTO to act as a clearing house and to create a database on the subject and disseminate know-how internationally; and
10. *To consider* this Declaration as a framework for international, regional and governmental agencies for the monitoring of their activities and of the above mentioned action plans in this field.

Djerba, Tunisia, 11 April 2003