

BHIS Fairgaze MUN

Background Guide

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

***Agenda: Restoring the tourism sector with Covid 19
protocols***

Letter From the Executive Board:

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to this simulation of **United Nations World Tourism Organization (WTO)** at BHIS Fairgaze MUN 2021. I, Ashwath Sharma who would be serving as the Chairperson along with Aashman Sharma, the Vice Chairperson, hope that this simulation turns out to be an experience worth cherishing for all of us.

We, throughout the conference, will be addressing the agenda **“Restoring the tourism sector with Covid 19 protocols”**. This simulation shall be adhering to the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure with a few necessary amendments, required for the easy functioning of the committee. The sole purpose of preparing this background guide is to deliver an insight about the committee as well the agenda, to the delegates. However, this guide by no means is the end of the research. The Executive Board will be delighted to hear delegates, bringing in solid argumentations while incorporating several new realms to the agenda. In addition, its necessary to understand that being in such a competitive environment, we don't look out to hear what statistics or legislations you have read while researching. Rather, we will recommend the delegates to analyse the facts and present their perceptions over the relevancy of the implementation of these laws. This guide will entail a few expectations on how the Executive Board would wish the committee to conclude, though we wouldn't want you to consider that burdening, in any manner. It's a part and parcel of the learning process.

Having said that, kindly feel free to reach out the Executive Board for any further assistance or clarifications. We will be happy to solve your queries.

All the best!

Regards,
Ashwath Sharma – Chairperson
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Committee Mandate

The World Tourism Organization is an agency within the United Nations that is tasked with the “promotion of responsibility, sustainability and universally accessible tourism” (UNWTO). As an intergovernmental organization, the UNWTO has 159 nation states as well as other affiliate members. The specialized agency was formed officially in 1974, but it stemmed from the crisis after World War II. Apart from advocating for responsible sustainable and universally accessible tourism, the UNWTO also prioritizes: “mainstream tourism in the global agenda, improving tourism competitiveness and promoting sustainable tourism development (UNWTO). This committee is essential to the globalized climate and most of all the increased use of travel, exchange and its influence on the climate and communities. The UNWTO General Assembly met for the first time in 1975 in Madrid, Spain, by invitation of the Spanish government. Here, the Assembly decided to establish its headquarters in Madrid, which still holds true today. Since then, the specialized agency has met at least twice every year, debating topics essential for the tourism section. In recent years, the UNWTO has focused more specifically the sustainable development of tourism, looking to mitigate its effects on the environment and to help eliminate poverty.

UNWTO’s vision acknowledges the most pressing challenges facing tourism and identifies the sector’s ability to overcome them and to drive wider positive change, including the opportunities responsible tourism offers for the advancement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNWTO’s work is based around five distinct pillars:

1. making tourism smarter through celebrating innovation and leading the digital transformation of the sector;
2. making tourism more competitive at every level through promoting investment and promoting entrepreneurship;
3. creating more and better jobs and providing relevant training;
4. building resilience and promoting safe and seamless travel; and
5. harnessing tourism’s unique potential to protect cultural and natural heritage and to support communities both economically and socially.

Accepted and Credible Sources

The committee shall be restricted to consider a few sources as acceptable. The following sources can be provided as evidences during this simulation of UNWTO, if required.

1) State Operated News Agencies

These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if substantial enough, can be accepted or denied while the formal proceedings of the committee, depending upon the circumstances. A few examples are:

- RIA Novosti (Russia)
- IRNA (Iran)
- Xinhua News Agency (China)
- Al Jazeera (Qatar)

2) Government Reports

These reports can be used similarly in the committee while presenting argumentations, and in all circumstances, can be denied by another country. Still, the Executive Board might consider the information as credible. Some examples are as follows:

- **Government Websites** like the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation or the State Department of the United States of America
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** of the country
- **Permanent Representatives to the United Nations** reports
- **Multilateral Organizations** like NATO, etc

3) United Nations Reports

All UN reports will be considered as credible by the Executive Board.

- **UN Bodies** like United Nations Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Council, etc.
- **UN Affiliated Bodies** like the UNICEF, UN Women, World Bank, International Monetary Fund etc.
- **Treaty Based Bodies** like the Antarctic Treaty System, International Criminal Court etc.

NOTE: By no means, sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, The Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted in the committee. These sources can help the delegates understand the issue in a better way, but won't be considered as a credible PROOF/EVIDENCE, as they are dependent on individual beliefs.

Background:

A massive pandemic is hard to be accounted for when it becomes a crisis hard to control. Nevertheless, the United Nations along with the World Tourism Organization were some of the few organizations that were tasked with providing aid, solutions, and plans for the revitalization of nations. In March 2020, after the pandemic was officially declared, the UNWTO Global Tourism Crisis Committee was created. This committee was charged with implementing a crisis plan to reactivate tourism after the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, at the end of December, the committee met to discuss the acceleration of “international cross-border travels principles and protocols in view of a safe and seamless restart to tourism” with the aid of the WHO and ECDC (UNWTO).

The year of 2020 and its events proved to be the most challenging to tourism worldwide. With the emergence and explosion of the COVID-19 virus, health measures and political restrictions halted tourism and placed limitations on what people could do. Millions of people missed chances to explore different cultures and customs. But more importantly, there was a clear loss of opportunities to create jobs, support businesses and kick-start development in underdeveloped areas. Tourism is a vital part to the overall world economy both at a micro and macro level. Many countries such as the Maldives, Cambodia, Montenegro and Belize depend highly on tourism to fuel the countries' economy (Quartz). Evermore, small communities are also dependent on tourism for jobs and income. Think about the museum operators, the agencies, the transportation services and the artisans whose clientele are mostly tourist exploring and learning about their distinct community and history. With the pandemic bringing global tourism to a complete standstill, there is a necessity to restart world tourism while accounting for the impacts of COVID-19.

Recent Developments:

- In the beginning of the emergence of the pandemic, the UNWTO came out with a detailed plan summary of the impacts and necessary procedures to respond to the pandemic. In this publication, the UNWTO stated that the virus outbreak represents an added downside risk in the context of a weaker world economy, geopolitical, social and trade tensions, as well as uneven performance among major outbound travel markets' ' (UNWTO). Additionally, the committee also estimated that the global international tourist arrivals would decline between 20%-30% down from the estimated 3% growth.

The UNWTO, through the publication, called for:

1. “Financial and political support for recovery measures targeting the tourism sector in the most affected countries;
 2. Recovery measures and incentives to be planned and implemented in coordination with international development and donor organizations; and
 3. Tourism support to be included in the wider recovery plans and actions of affected economies.”
- There are currently several vaccines being introduced to the public, however with very limited dispersion and availability. With the emergence of the vaccine, there are limitations to the availability of these vaccines in lower developed countries and minority populations. The emergence of the vaccine must be taken into account when discussing the revitalization of tourism. The vaccine, as well as advance medical care and investigation about the virus is essential to assure safe and healthy travel in the future.

Impact on Employment and the Tourism Industry due to Covid 19:

The pandemic is characterised by an almost unprecedented increase in unemployment, disguised somewhat by government support measures in some countries. For this reason, the labour market is modelled assuming fixed wages for unskilled workers with all the adjustment occurring in the quantity of labour employed. For skilled workers, it is assumed that the adjustment occurs in wage rates, the standard closure.

Further, there is a net loss to the economy due to unemployed labour and capital. Due to the dramatic contraction in the tourism industry, many workers may become unemployed or displaced. Displaced workers can move to other sectors within countries, but it may be difficult to find employment in other sectors or industries during the economic downturn. Employment can increase in sectors not closely linked to tourism, absorbing some of the displaced workers from the tourism industry.

Tourism is a major economic sector and has a particular socio-economic importance, as it employs many women and young people and provides a livelihood to many informal workers in developing countries. The current pandemic has a devastating effect for the tourism sector. It is estimated that millions of direct tourism jobs are at stake. Taking the impact on closely linked sectors into account, the drop in international arrivals has caused an estimated loss of about \$2.4 trillion in GDP. The recovery will depend to a large extent on the uptake of vaccines, the removal and coordination among countries of travel restrictions and the rebuilding of travellers' confidence.

When WHO declared, Covid-19 to be a pandemic then the Tourism Industry was one of the first sectors to be deeply impacted by the pandemic, as measures introduced to contain the virus led to a near-complete cessation of tourism activities around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the tourism economy hard with unprecedented effects on jobs and businesses. Destinations that rely heavily on international, business and events tourism are struggling. This sector also risks being among one of the last to recover with the ongoing travel restrictions and the global recession. This has consequences beyond the tourism economy, with many other sectors that support and are supported by tourism also significantly impacted.

The impacts of COVID-19 on tourism threaten to increase poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10) and reverse nature and cultural conservation efforts. The pandemic also risks slowing down progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Tourism is directly referenced in three goals: SDG 8 on —"decent work and economic growth", SDG 12 —"responsible consumption and production" and SDG 14 —"life below water".

References: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/ersd202011_e.htm
<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/policy-brief-covid-19-and-transforming-tourism>

What to do now:

Significant changes in the construction of movement and the travel industry interest and supply are required to reshape the area in the fallout of Coronavirus. The vulnerability in regards to the advancement of the infection, its wellbeing impacts and the repercussions in the economy render basic elective ways to deal with the same old thing by people, organizations, governments and global associations. Gaining from past major primary changes ought to inspire partners to accept an essential methodology, in light of current proof, what's more, cautious situation examination. Practically speaking, it implies that administrations need to think about more than one situation, and work on numerous fronts all the while. This considers fast reflexes in policymaking.

Suggested Topics and Aspects that can be discussed in the committee or one can research on:

Throughout the conference and in the resolution writing process, we would like to see debate centred around multiple topics, including:

- The implementation of safety and sanitation regulations to ensure safe and limited tourism during and shortly after the passing of the pandemic
- The possibility of lifting or easing restrictions on tourism as a way to continue economic growth
- Details surrounding how aid will be given to different countries or areas economically suffering due to the decline of tourism
- The effects of mass COVID-19 vaccinations on global tourism
- How the UNWTO or individual governments will promote tourism in the future, both later throughout the pandemic and after it is over

Questions To Consider:

1. The rhetoric, mostly examined in the US context, of anti-mask and anti vaccines may become a challenge when looking at the necessary procedures to revitalize global tourism. How can UNWTO address the ignorant rhetoric?
2. While the use of masks and PPE have become a new normal for most of the world, many countries lack the infrastructure to have accessible protective gear for all of their citizens. What can the UNWTO do to increase accessibility? (feel free to branch out of the committee and look at different supranational organizations)
3. How might anti-vaccination sentiments in your country hinder its ability to directly contribute to the challenge of reactivating tourism?
4. How has your country dealt with the pandemic? Were there political lockdowns? Closing of borders? Make sure you are aware of your country profile and the implications to the topic.
5. There are many workers that make up the tourism sector workforce. This includes people working at airline companies, hotel staff and managers, and other stakeholders. How can governments support these workers during the pandemic?