



Aviation & Tourism



Hand in Hand for Sustainability

Air transport and tourism are major contributors to global economic prosperity. In 2012, more than one billion tourists crossed international borders, more than half by air. The total number of international tourists, which includes both business and leisure travellers, is expected to reach 1.8 billion by 2030. This will further increase the demand for air transport services, with overall annual aircraft departures forecast to grow from today's 30 million to 60 million in 2030.

The symbiotic relationship between aviation and tourism is reflected at the global level in the respective mandates of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). While ICAO sets standards and policies for aviation safety, security, efficiency, environmental protection and the economic development of air transport, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth and

sustainable development, offering leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

Accordingly, ICAO and UNWTO have decided to strengthen their collaborative efforts towards building a more sustainable future in all of the three pillars of the United Nations definition of sustainability – social, environmental and economic – and to position air transport and tourism as strategically interrelated sectors that benefit the global society they both serve.

To that end, the two Organizations – hereinafter referred to as “we” – affirm their common understanding and shared intent through the following Joint Statement on Aviation and Tourism, symbolically signed on the occasion of the official opening of the ICAO Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference, convened under the theme of “Sustainability of Air Transport”.

A solid track record

ICAO and UNWTO are designated inter-governmental bodies responsible for aviation and tourism respectively. As sister agencies within the United Nations system, we together contribute to securing the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainability.

In 1978, we entered into a Working Arrangement for consulting each other on questions of common interest, so as to ensure optimal coordination of activities and avoid duplication of efforts.

In 2010, we signed a Memorandum of Co-operation to strengthen collaboration in several areas of strategic importance to air transport and tourism:

- Security and facilitation for travellers.
- Promotion of investments in aviation infrastructure and safety.
- Crisis management.
- Health issues, including those pertaining to the spread of communicable diseases through travel.
- Sustainable development, including environmental protection, mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
- Liberalization of international air transport.
- Economic studies on aviation and tourism, and their impacts on the economy.

A firm intention

Looking ahead, we intend to further optimize the benefits of aviation and tourism through:

- Maximizing synergies between air transport and tourism, while finding ways to continually enhance collaborative endeavours.
- Cooperating for the modernization of the air transport regulatory framework.
- Enhancing air transport connectivity further through cooperation:
 - Regarding visa and other travel document formalities and issuance, including the simplification of visa processing and the development of multi-State regional visas and e-visas;
 - For the improvement of air passenger flow management at airports;
 - For the implementation of the Essential Service and Tourism Development Route (ESTDR) concept.
- Contributing to the emergence of globally convergent rules on the protection of passengers, tourists and tourism service providers, within our respective mandates and the framework of existing or future international bilateral or multilateral agreements.
- Contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from aviation and tourism.
- Giving due consideration to the particular importance of air transport for tourism development in long-haul destinations and landlocked or island countries.
- Assessing the impact of taxes, charges and other levies on aviation and tourism, and thus on global economic growth and jobs.

Working together on common issues will more effectively position aviation and tourism as leaders in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Signed in Montréal on 18 March 2013:

ICAO:

UNWTO: