

General Assembly

Nineteenth Session

Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 8 - 14 October 2011

A/RES/606(XIX)

Report on the World Committee on Tourism Ethics

(b) Accessible Tourism for All

Agenda item 14
(document A/19/14 Part I)

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its resolution A/RES/492(XVI) adopted in 2005, approving a set of recommendations on accessibility under the title “Accessible Tourism for All”, and the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities of 30 March 2007,

Deeply committed to enhancing access to tourism for all, including persons with special needs and, in particular, persons with disabilities, and convinced that this is a unique opportunity to respect the human rights of the persons concerned while, at the same time, giving a new impetus to the tourism sector,

Recalling its Declaration on the facilitation of tourist travel A/RES/578(XVIII), in which it declared itself “deeply convinced that the facilitation of tourist travel by persons with disabilities is a major element of any responsible tourism development policy”,

Having taken cognizance of the recommendation adopted by the World Committee on Tourism Ethics during its tenth meeting, held in Bali in June 2011,

1. Notes with particular appreciation the progress made in the consultation of the representative non-governmental organizations active in the area of assistance for persons with disabilities;
2. Approves the trilateral framework agreement between UNWTO, Fundación ONCE and ENAT (European Network for Accessible Tourism), and encourages its expeditious and full implementation;
3. Is convinced that this agreement will enhance the capacity of UNWTO and its partners to contribute more fully to the objectives set by the resolution on Accessible Tourism for All, and encourages UNWTO, in cooperation with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in this field, to adapt the principles adopted in the 2007 Convention to the particular conditions and requirements of tourism;
4. Recognizes that the Action Plan adopted by the UN System Interagency Support Group (IASG) created for the application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

constitutes the basis for the concerted and coordinated work of the United Nations system on disability issues;

5. Requests the UNWTO Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of this Action Plan and in cooperation with the other competent Agencies, concrete and specific guidelines applicable to the various areas of tourism activities, such as access to adapted facilities for transport and accommodation, or proper information on accessible services and facilities, and takes due note in this respect of the suggestion made by Fundación ONCE, during the consultations between that organization and the UNWTO, to give priority to the aspects of accessibility of air transport not covered by Annex 9 to the Statute of the ICAO, especially in view of the difficulties faced by the persons with disabilities in relation to low-cost companies;
6. Encourages UNWTO to enhance the efforts and resources it devotes to activities concerning tourism accessibility for all, in particular for persons with disabilities, and to reinforce its cooperation with the other competent international organisations, whether governmental or nongovernmental, in this field; and
7. Decides to remain seized of the question and requests the Secretary-General to report to its next session on the follow-up of the present resolution.