
16th Session

Agenda item: Advancing the Efficient Use of Energy and Natural Resources in Tourism

The United Nations World Tourism Organization,

Recalling that Article 9 of the Paris Agreement stipulates that developed Member States shall provide financial support to developing Member States,

Acknowledging the need to promote equitable access to renewable energy in rural and tourism-dependent communities, and strengthening community resilience while preserving the natural environment,

Realizing the introduction of a solar power grid that enables developing areas to strengthen their infrastructure within the tourism sector,

Highlighting the need for regular evaluation and reporting mechanisms to assess the progress of Member States in achieving renewable energy targets in the tourism sector,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and institutional training in supporting the transition to sustainable and energy-efficient tourism practices,

Emphasizing the need for a multilateral knowledge-sharing platform that enables Member States to exchange best practices, technical expertise, and renewable energy technologies relevant to the tourism industry,

Affirming that a globally recognized certification program focused on resource use per tourist can incentivize sustainable operations and encourage broader participation by both public and private tourism stakeholders,

Acknowledging past and current efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme's Climate Finance Unit in mobilizing public and private financing for sustainable development initiatives such as energy efficiency projects, particularly in support of developing countries' climate adaptation efforts,

Recalling the Member States' efforts to promote the solar energy projects, which are to ensure a sustainable and reliable energy supply that supports development and the quality of life for all citizens,

Acknowledging that greenhouse gas emissions in January 2025 decreased by 0.59% compared to January 2024, due to stronger national commitments and the implementation of more effective climate policies,

Deeply alarmed by the situation that the composition of global energy resources used for power generation in 2023 is still dominated by fossil fuels, accounting for 60%, and that tourism is further worsening this situation due to its heavy reliance on electricity produced by primary energy,

- a. *Recommends* the enhanced cooperation between UN Tourism and Member States in contributing to collaborative climate financing for developing Member States, as is mentioned in Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, to support sustainable development across various sectors, such as the tourism industry, by:
 - Recommending the reconvening of Member States to allow regional blocs to negotiate on the expectations for their annual contributions to the sustainable development of developing countries, whether those contributions be financial or otherwise;
 - b. Suggesting that willing Member States pay a specific percentage of their GDP to promote equity, while also allowing them to suggest alternatives to or a balance of financial assistance with other valuable assets, such as expertise and training for sustainable development projects within developing Member States;
2. *Calls for* the establishment of the Solar for Sustainable Tourism and Rural Development Initiative, supported by the Tourism for Rural Development Small Grants Program, to promote equitable access to renewable energy in tourism-dependent and rural communities, by:
- a. Providing financial assistance through grants and low-interest loans for the installation of solar energy systems in tourism zones, rural areas, and remote Indigenous communities;
 - b. Offering technical training and education programs for local technicians and community members to maintain solar infrastructure, reducing dependency on external energy sources;
 - c. Supporting regional renewable energy pilot projects that integrate sustainable tourism development with rural electrification and environmental conservation;
 - d. Collaborating with the private sector, NGOs, and nonprofit organizations to co-develop and implement renewable energy projects in line with community needs;

3. *Encourages* Member States to increase the use of renewable energy sources such as wind power in the tourism sector, including transportation, accommodation, and public infrastructure, by:
 - a. Supporting the installation of, wind turbines, and other renewable systems in hotels, resorts, national parks, airports, and major tourist hubs, so that local people can get green jobs in the future;
 - b. Offering incentives such as tax reductions or subsidies to tourism businesses that adopt certified renewable energy technologies;
 - c. Collaborating with the private sector to develop eco-friendly public transportation systems, including electric buses, solar-powered ferries, and clean energy taxis in high-traffic tourist areas;
4. *Recommends* UN Tourism to strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to publish an annual Global Renewable Energy Progress Report, assessing Member States' transition toward renewable energy and offering tailored recommendations, by:
 - a. Establishing a standardized protocol for monitoring and evaluating Member States' progress in renewable energy integration across tourism-related sectors;
 - b. Convening annual or biennial evaluation meetings, under the joint coordination of UNEP and UN Tourism, for Member States to share data, best practices, and challenges;
 - c. Setting measurable, region-specific renewable energy goals for sustainable tourism, adapted to each region's development level and environmental conditions;
5. *Encourages* the creation of Global Training Hubs coordinated by the UN Tourism body, in partnership with academic institutions and national tourism boards, to build capacity on sustainable tourism practices by:
 - a. Organizing annual training sessions for Member States to exchange technical knowledge and effective practices in sustainable tourism;
 - b. Facilitating training session tailored to energy-efficient solution in the tourism sector including solar-powered accommodations and low-emission tourism services;
 - c. Providing Member States' capacity specialized training modules such as environmental conservation, climate adaptation in tourism, and the circular economy in travel by UN Tourism and other Member States;

6. *Calls upon* UN Tourism for the establishment of a multilateral knowledge-sharing platform focused on renewable energy integration in tourism business which will provide updates on renewable-energy initiatives, case studies and international agreements and for operational efficiency and requests:
 - a. Cooperation with relevant UN programs such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to leverage existing expertise and resources;
 - b. Sharing of technology and knowledge of the operation of the facilities that produce renewable energy, such as windmills and solar panels;
 - c. Creating an online platform hosted by UN Tourism to make training resources, toolkits, and case studies from Global Training Hubs publicly accessible in multiple languages, ensuring equitable access for Member States;
7. *Expresses* the integration of an internationally recognized certification program that evaluates and rewards reduction in non-renewable energy and water usage per tourist, and which:
 - a. Encourages the convening of a biennial meeting of Member States to review progress, share best practices, and promote the adoption of such certification standards;
 - b. Requests all the Member States to conduct public awareness campaigns to promote this certification program;
8. *Suggests* Member States to implement requirement guidelines of eco-certifications in official tourism establishments such as hotels, tour agencies, hostels, and resorts by:
 - a. Having agreed-upon regulations and criteria among participating Member States that fit each of their specific situations;
 - b. Requiring eco-certifications to include, for Member States, a general baseline level of sustainability measures such as LED lighting, effective insulation, smart heating and cooling, and regular energy monitoring with implementation support provided through regional and national partnerships facilitated by UN Tourism;
 - c. Establishing a Green Tourism Transition Fund, coordinated by UN Tourism, to offer financial and logistical support to small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, financed through contributions from developed Member States;
 - d. *Suggests* Member States to continue supporting and participating in the publishing of the public annual report by One Planet Sustainable Tourism Platform, a UN

Tourism and UNEP-led initiative, demonstrating each willing Member State's financial contributions to sustainable development in developing Member States and yearly emissions history to the Paris Agreement by: Excluding private sector and NGO financial contributions to ensure state accountability;

- e. Requesting the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Platform to lead the investigations, research, and creation of the annual reports;
 - f. Releasing each willing Member State's climate finance contributions to developing Member States in comparison to their GDP;
 - g. Including metrics such as per capita greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, waste production, material footprint, and so on, to increase transparency;
 - h. Sharing the information of the reports with various other media sources, such as news outlets, to guide public opinion as a means of encouraging Member States to meet contribution expectations to the Paris Agreement;
9. *Calls upon* Member States to provide knowledge, technology, and expertise for eco-friendly transportation and infrastructure by:
- a. Offering technological expertise to install solar-powered vehicles and to maintain the major highways and urban roads, especially tourist attraction places and economic zones;
 - b. Facilitating the exchange of environmentally friendly technologies and best practices among Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and promote the adoption of clean transportation alternatives;
10. *Suggests* Member States to promote awareness of sustainable resource consumption through educational initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and the use of social media platforms to engage communities at all levels;
11. *Recommends* Member States to enact a law to allocate a portion of the profit from the local tourism industries to make a budget so that local power companies can purchase renewable energy instead of primary energy to produce electricity.