



Original: English

16th Session

Agenda item: Minimizing Disaster Impact Through Sustainable Risk Reduction Initiatives for Tourism Areas

The United Nations World Tourism Organization,

Recognizing the serious impact of disasters caused by climate change and progress made under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and as well as efforts by the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in promoting information sharing,

Contemplating the global lack of comprehensive emergency response protocols in tourist areas, accessible disaster information noted by the United Nations Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the absence of multilingual support, which hinders effective risk communication and safety,

Recognizing that many tourist destinations are situated in disaster-prone regions, where poor urban planning and environmental degradation increase vulnerability, and highlighting the need for standardized preparedness measures to ensure safety and sustainability within crowded tourism sites,

Noting with concern that tourists and local residents face heightened risks during natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, and earthquakes due to unsafe buildings, a lack of disaster-resilient infrastructure and other conditions that can hinder emergency response efforts and lead to severe economic consequences, including the destruction of tourism assets and high reconstruction costs,

Recognizing the serious rise in sea levels and erosion in coastal areas, and emphasizing the vital role of ecosystem-based and community-based approaches in enhancing coastal resilience and promoting sustainable risk reduction,

Concerned that tourists may venture into areas prone to natural disasters such as flash floods caused by sudden heavy rains without sufficient knowledge, such as the case with the landslide that occurred in Machu Picchu in 2010,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to promote regional cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction by information sharing:
 - a. Create the UN Tourism Resilience Network, which provides the information for rescue and aid immediately;
 - b. Hold a regional platform and session regularly in order to exchange information, strategies, and data;
2. *Recommends* the development of a UN-endorsed multilingual early warning system accessible to both residents and international tourists by:
 - a. Designing an official UN Tourism safety Application with:
 - i. Real-time alerts based on geolocation and hazard type;
 - ii. Evacuation maps with offline access;
 - iii. AI-based user interface offering multilingual, visual, and audio alerts;
 - iv. QR codes available at airports, hotels, and tourist attractions;
 - b. Developing heat maps and risk assessment tools, featuring color-coded categories and scenario-specific matrices to visually communicate risk levels and support informed decision-making for governments, developers, and tourists;
 - c. Establishing cross-border data-sharing agreements between Member states, particularly in disaster-prone regions, to enable real-time hazard tracking and mutual assistance during peak tourism seasons;
 - d. Supporting participation in Disaster Risk Reduction training programs for city planners and emergency managers;
3. *Encourages* the creation of the UN Tourism Certification of Preparedness in the tourism sector by:
 - a. Establishing a preparedness certification program for tourist destinations and facilities, assessing their readiness based on safety protocols and infrastructure;
 - b. Mandating a clear indication of evacuation routes and emergency signage at key tourism sites;
 - c. Support training programs for tourism sector employees and stakeholders to respond effectively during emergencies;

4. *Encourage* Member States to strengthen coastal resilience through community-based disaster reduction in collaboration with national tourism ministries, local authorities, and private sector stakeholders by:
 - a. Promoting the Sendai Framework and the International Code for the Protection of Tourists through joint initiatives with UN Tourism and UNDRR, including training, awareness campaigns, and policy integration;
 - b. Supporting NGOs in Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) activities based on natural resources;
5. *Recommends* the establishment of an official UN Tourism communication outlet via social media, TV channel and radio, in collaboration with UNDRR and national authorities, to disseminate verified, multilingual information following natural disasters;
6. *Requests* the establishment of a centralized data-sharing mechanism under UN Tourism to collect, verify, and disseminate real-time statistics and data on climate change impacts and natural disasters affecting tourism-dependent regions;
7. *Encourages* Member States, particularly those most vulnerable to disasters to build more disaster-resistant infrastructure and replace unsafe buildings with newer and safer structures, especially in major tourism areas, with the support of national government, regional bodies and international partners such as UN Tourism, development banks, and climate finance mechanisms;
8. *Encourages* national tourism authorities and travel agencies to develop and distribute informational materials, such as videos and digital guides, highlighting local risks, safety protocols, and cultural considerations, in collaboration with local tour guides and tourism facilities, to better prepare visitors before and during their stay;
9. *Considers* the creation of a UN Tourism Global Recovery Program, focused on empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in disaster-hit tourism areas to promote resilient and inclusive recovery;
10. *Requests* Member States in collaboration with the UN Tourism and UNDRR, to organize joint training programs for tourism-related ventures, local authorities, community leaders, and cultural institutions on disaster management and sustainable tourism models by:
 - a. Developing inclusive emergency plans for the tourism sector, which include clear emergency procedures for hotels, tour companies, and local governments as well as special support for people with disabilities, elderly people, and other vulnerable groups, and improving cooperation among emergency services;

- b. Implementing annual training programs in disaster-prone tourism regions, with a particular focus on wildfire prevention, early detection systems, and evacuation planning, while also addressing other hazards such as floods, earthquakes, and storms through collaboration with local emergency services and tourism operators;
- c. Conducting these programs at least once per year in high-risk tourism areas such as coastal zones, national parks, and heritage sites with a minimum of 1,000 participants, including tourism workers, government staff, and other stakeholders, and incorporating evacuation drills, and localized hazard maps.