COMMITTEE: Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Development of sustainable tourism in tropical regions

MAIN-SUBMITTER: Russia

CO-SUBMITTERS: Germany, Sri Lanka, South Africa

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Reaffirming* the significance of tourism towards the attainment of the principles of sustainable development, especially in developing countries where a large portion of the economy depends on tourism and tourism-related industries,

*Appreciating*that sustainable tourism embraces the concept of stewardship – a responsibility to care for the environment in a way that will preserve and enhance its well-being for residents and its appeal for the future visitors,

*Having*in mind that sustainable development pertains to progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and that it should be responsive to the constraints of the natural and cultural environment,

*Recognizing* the importance of the tourism sector in generating employment and income thereby improving the living standards of the people and thus, help reduce poverty and narrow the development gap among member states,

*Realizing*the effectiveness of engaging various stakeholders – government, local authorities, civil societies and the private sector - into programs on tourism development,

*Noting* that The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) represents a diverse membership including U.N. agencies, leading travel companies, hotels, country tourism boards and tour operators,

1. *Endorses*member states to enhance planning for sustainable tourism development by means such as but not limited to:

1. Establishing community-based tourism circuits and supply chains between production villages and tourism markets,
2. Accelerate actions towards improvement of tourism-related social services;

2**.** *Suggests* that all member states establish a localised regulatory body whose responsibility is as follows:

1. To monitor and supervise all tourism-related industries and to initiate competition among tourism-related industries,
2. To certify these institutions in accordance with their level of congruence to the principles of sustainable tourism;

3. *Recommends* all member states to organise a chain of communication that enhances co-operation between countries to promote sustainable tourism development in particular lesser developed countries, in ways such as but not limited to:

1. Exchange of information and experience of tourism-related industries as well as in areas of marketing, training and research,
2. Co-ordination of tourism policies and programs;

*4. Trusts* all member states to pursue cooperation between the Government, private sector and local communities in order to support the development of sustainable tourism and prevent the degradation of cultural resources;

*5. Encourages* all member states to implement appropriate mechanisms to combat and prevent the negative effects of tourism-related activities on the environment and to the local community by means such as but not limited to:

1. Implementing strict legislations and subsequent enforcement of these legislations to prevent the illegal destruction of tropical rainforest in ways such as but not limited to:
2. Placing heavy fines and imprisonment sentences on commercial logging companies who carry out damaging logging practices,
3. Ensuring strict enforcement by endorsing the efforts of established regulatory bodies such as but not limited to the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO),
4. Investing in and utilising effective technology to reduce the hazardous effects of non-sustainable tourism-related activities;

*6. Recommends* all nations to encourage tourists to choose from tourist destinations that hold a certified sustainable certificate from the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC);

7. *Stresses* the importance of raising public awareness of sustainable tourism in ways such as but not limited to:

1. Implementation into educational systems around the world with aims to educate future generations on topics such as but not limited to conservation
2. Launching national awareness campaigns supporting sustainable tourism simultaneously involving local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s) such as but not limited to Greenpeace Russia with the aim of educating a wider target audience;

*8. Urges* member states to embolden tourism businesses in their country to take increased primary responsibilities in achieving a more sustainable business outlook by means such as but not limited to:

1. Taking social factors into account in their investment and pricing decisions by paying close attention to local culture and heritage,
2. Ensuring that employment policies are equitable and fair regardless of race, gender or social class,
3. Minimising energy consumption and encouraging the use of renewable sources and improved technology in business practice,
4. Applying sustainability considerations in reviewing supply chains and procurement activities including travel packages,
5. Efficient treatment of sewage and avoiding any possible discharge into marine and river environments,
6. Providing government funded compensations for maintaining sustainability in business practices measurable in proportion to their level of adherence to the principles of sustainable tourism;

9. *Wishes* to be actively seized on the matter.