UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

Greetings delegates!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations World Tourism Organization at the New Millennium Model United Nations 2020-21.
I am Krish Sharma the Chair of the council UNWTO and I am here to guide you throughout your preparation and the council itself. I expect all the delegates to go through this guide so that you can have a basic idea of the topic at hand. The agenda of the council is an open ended one so I would be looking forward to seeing creative solutions for the same.

The main objective of this guide is to just give you a basic idea and is not your entire research. Do not hold yourself back when it comes to your research.
It is highly recommended that you go way beyond this guide as it is just here to provide you with a base for the topic at hand and does not contain everything that might be related to the topic. Please start your research as early as possible and keep it well structured so that you can have great points during the debate.

This is to all the delegates that the main objective of an MUN is to not win awards, but it is the experience you get from it. I personally believe that MUN's help students to become much more confident individuals and it also makes students aware about global issues. It enhances creativity by making you think about solutions that have not been made yet, doesn't it sound great?

Since an MUN is an event that is a very formal and rule focused one, Delegates must read the Rules of Procedure prior to the conference and must abide by it as it helps to bring about a sense of diplomacy in the conference. I hope that all the delegates would be well versed with the ROP before the MUN.

I hope that this guide will help you, but it is not intended to replace your individual research. You must go through your state's policies about the topic at hand and must know important rules and regulations about the same for other countries to bring about a fruitful solution. This guide is only intended to give you a global view about the topic!

I am looking forward to seeing all the delegates virtually and hope that the debates in the council would be really good and would help the council land a really fruitful solution.

Best wishes
Krish Sharma
Chair of UNWTO

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Brief history of the council

The UNWTO actually dates back to 1925, in a roundabout way. In this year, the first international congress of official tourist organizations was held at The Hague. After annual meetings, they formed the International Union of Official Tourist Publicity Organizations known as IUOTPO. This was in 1934. A few years later, this was restructured to form the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO).

In 1970, the IUOTO became the World Tourism Organisation (WTO). This was in order to further enhance the group's role on an international level. Only in 2003 did it become a specialised agency of the UN, known as UNWTO.

MANDATE

World Tourism Organisation is the United Nations agency who exist to promote 'responsible, sustainable and universally accessible' tourism. They are the leading international organisation within the tourism industry.

UNWTO has 158 member states from around the world. The organisation encourages these member states to implement the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. There are 10 principles within this code, which each cover something different:

1. Tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies.
2. Tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfilment.
3. Tourism, a factor for sustainable development.
4. Tourism, a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement.
5. Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities.
6. Obligations of stakeholders in tourism development.
7. Right to tourism.
8. Liberty of tourist movements.

9. Rights of the works and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry.
10. Implementation of the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

The main objective of this council apart from sustainable tourism is to maximize the socio-economic contribution of tourism, while minimizing its possible negative impact.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

ISSUE- *Prevention of regional infectious diseases spread through transit and travelling*

OVERVIEW

Since the world has now become connected due to technological advancements and air transport that was once a luxury is now just a means

of transport for a common man, air transport being a really fast one and the one which connects distant places and makes them feel just a couple of hours away has a lot of pros such as booming the economy of any nation by bringing in tourists, settlers, emigrants etc.,

This does mean that the probability of the spread of infectious diseases increases and thus any infectious disease now has a potential to become a widespread "Epidemic" or even a "Pandemic".
In today's world the best example would be the coronavirus or covid-19 which was started in just a small district in China but now after a whole year, has crippled down several economies and caused lockdowns in many countries across the globe. Any virus which has the potential to spread like the Sars cov-2 has the potential to cause similar effects on tourism and economies of several countries.

Tourism is not something that only people who love travelling do. There are several types of tourisms in the modern world such as domestic, Inbound, outbound etc. These may get further divided into leisure, business, medical, adventure etc.

Now that the common areas of the topic have been covered, a few key terms and their definitions will be given below.

KEY TERMS, DEFINITIONS and CONCEPTS

Tourism: Tourism essentially refers to the activities undertaken by visitors, also known as the visitor economy. The tourism industry encompasses all activity that takes place within the visitor economy.

Domestic Tourism: Taking Holidays and Trips in your own country. An example of domestic tourism for UK residents would be, a family from Birmingham in the Midlands taking a short break to the seaside resort of Blackpool.

Inbound Tourism: Visitors from overseas coming into the country. Generally, when we use the term inbound tourism in the UK, we are referring to the people from different countries travelling to UK. E.g. a tourist coming from the USA to the UK.

Outbound Tourism: Travelling to a different country for a visit or a holiday. Generally, when we use the term outbound tourism in the UK, we are referring to the UK residents travelling out of the UK. For example, you are an outbound tourist from the UK if you go to Spain on holiday.

Independent means of travel: controlled by individual tourists who book them on their own. This mainly involves the private automobile, but also mass conveyances that are booked to travel on an individual basis such as regularly scheduled flights, rail connections, ferries, and even cruises.

Mass travel: It is where tourists travel in organized groups. The most common form involves chartered buses and flights used for this single purpose.

Country of residence: The country of residence of a household is determined according to the center of predominant economic interest of its members. If a person resides (or intends to reside) for more than one year in

a given country and has there his/her center of economic interest (for example, where the predominant amount of time is spent), he/she is considered as a resident of this country.

<u>IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</u>:

Sustainable tourism development guidelines and management practices are applicable to all forms of tourism in all types of destinations, including mass tourism and the various niche tourism segments. Sustainability principles refer to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.

Thus, sustainable tourism should:

1. Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological processes and helping to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity.
2. Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their built and living cultural heritage and traditional values, and contribute to inter-cultural understanding and tolerance.
3. Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders that are fairly distributed, including stable employment and income-earning opportunities and social services to host communities, and contributing to poverty alleviation.

Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as strong political leadership to ensure wide participation and consensus building. Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process and it requires constant monitoring of impacts, introducing the necessary preventive and/or corrective measures whenever necessary.

Sustainable tourism should also maintain a high level of tourist satisfaction and ensure a meaningful experience to the tourists, raising their awareness about sustainability issues and promoting sustainable tourism practices amongst them.

CASE STUDIES

COVID-19

Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, which began in Wuhan, China, has expanded to almost everywhere. World Health Organization declared this outbreak a global pandemic. The number of infections and deaths has increased rapidly. This has forced governments to implement several restrictions such as travel controls, school closures, limitations on internal movement to contain the spread in the country. The tourism industry will be the most affected, as there are travel bans (both external and internal) and border closures. forecasts a decrease of 20% to 30% (300 to 450 US$ billion) in tourist arrivals (in international tourism receipts) in 2020. These numbers are likely to increase as the spread of coronavirus increases.

AVIAN FLU

Avian influenza virus (H5N1) emerged in Hong Kong in 1997, causing severe human disease. In recent years, several outbreaks have been reported in different parts of Asia, Europe and Africa, raising concerns of dissemination of a new and highly lethal influenza pandemic. Although H5N1 has not been capable of sustaining human-to-human transmission, the ability of the virus to undergo variation due to mutations and reassortment, clearly poses the possibility of viral adaptation to the human species. For this reason, the World Health Organization has established that we are now in a phase of

pandemic alert. Preparing for an influenza pandemic involves a great deal of awareness necessary to stop initial outbreaks, through the use of case recognition, sensitive and rapid diagnostic methods, appropriate therapeutic and preventive measures to reduce spread. Influenza pandemic preparedness involves coordinated pharmacologic and vaccinal strategies, as well as containment measures such as travel restrictions and quarantine approaches.

HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

First identified in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, HIV/AIDS has truly proven itself as a global pandemic, killing more than 36 million people since 1981. Currently there are between 31 and 35 million people living with HIV, the vast majority of those are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 5% of the population is infected, roughly 21 million people. As awareness has grown, new treatments have been developed that make HIV far more manageable, and many of those infected go on to lead productive lives. Between 2005 and 2012 the annual global deaths from HIV/AIDS dropped from 2.2 million to 1.6 million.

EXISTING PROBLEMS IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRIES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES DUE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This information is related to the covid 19 pandemic and what steps major countries have taken to improve tourism even in the situation of a pandemic.

Since the pandemic is common for all countries, the solutions are also very similar that is

- Lifting travel restrictions and working with businesses to access liquidity supports, apply new health protocols for safe travel, and help to diversify their markets.
- Restoring traveler confidence and stimulating demand with new safe and clean labels for the sector, information apps for visitors and domestic tourism promotion campaigns.
- Preparing comprehensive tourism recovery plans, to rebuild destinations, encourage innovation and investment, and rethink the tourism sector.

Countries have even started air bubble systems to promote outbound tourism during a pandemic so that there is at least some influx in the tourism industry the key challenge is to make sustainable travel happen in these times as sustainable tourism includes proper fuel use and and other environmental factors it also includes cheap travel but since people are not flying, when the demand gets high and there is a shortage of pilots to fly or drivers to drive, the prize increases. But governments of many nations have taken steps to not hurt someone financially for travel as affordable tourism is one of the main objectives of the council.

In order to prevent the spread of diseases from animals after the suspected outbreak of covid 19 from the wet markets of China, many states have taken steps towards closing down markets where proper's sanitation is not present and also improving the overall policies regarding the domestication of animals as bird flu has hit some places again, governments do not want famines in their state and take the health and well-being of its citizens and residents very seriously.

SUGGESTED MODERATED CAUCUS TOPICS

1.How can the tourism sector be brought back from the economic downfall it suffers due to a pandemic?

2.How to make sure that the transport of animals would be well tested and sanitized?

3. How do tourism dependent countries fight a war like the covid 19 pandemic

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED DURING RESEARCH

Q1) What is the tourism sector and how do infectious diseases effect it?

Q2) What kinds of tourism are present in the modern world?

Q3) What is your nations policies to prevent any outbreaks via tourism or transit?

Q4) If one has a broader aspect, is it possible that infectious diseases only spread due to humans travelling from one place to another. If so, then how does it affect the tourism sector?

Q5) How does tourism and travel serve people in a non-pandemic/epidemic world?

Q6) What role does the UNWTO play during an Epidemic/Pandemic?

Q7) How can sustainable tourism be attained at the time of a Pandemic?

Q8) Are there any countries whose economies are heavily dependent on the service and tourism sector, if yes then what policies have, they made to fight infectious diseases?