



## **Djerba Declaration on Tourism and Climate Change**

The participants gathered at the First International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, held in Djerba, Tunisia, from 9 to 11 April 2003, convened by the World Tourism Organization, upon an invitation of the Government of Tunisia,

*Having listened to* the presentations by the representatives of the:

- Tunisian Government
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) – UNESCO
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Tourism Organization (WTO)

and by representatives from the private and public sectors, as well as the points of view of a number of national governments, tourism companies, academic institutions, NGOs and experts;

*Acknowledging* that the objectives of this Conference are fully in line with the concerns, pursuits and activities of the United Nations system in the field of climate change, and more generally, in that of sustainable development;

*Recognizing* the key role of the Kyoto Protocol as a first step in the control of greenhouse gas emissions;

*Taking into consideration* that in convening this Conference WTO did not intend a purely science-based debate, neither to cover all the well-known social and environmental implications that climate change can have on societies, but rather to put emphasis on the relationships between climate change and tourism, given the economic importance that this sector of activity is having on many countries, especially small island and developing states, and with a view to raising awareness of these relationships and strengthening cooperation between the different actors involved;

*Having carefully considered* the complex relationships between tourism and climate change, and particularly the impacts that the latter are producing upon different types of tourism destinations, while not ignoring that some transport used for tourist movements and other components of the tourism industry, contribute in return to climate change;

*Aware* of the importance of water resources in the tourism industry and of its links with climate change;

*Recognizing* the existing and potentially worsening impact of climate change, combined with other anthropogenic factors on tourism development in sensitive ecosystems, such as the drylands, coastal and mountain areas as well as islands, and

*Taking into consideration* that the right to travel and the right to leisure are recognized by the international community, that tourism is now fully integrated in the consumption patterns of many countries, and that WTO forecasts indicate that it will continue to grow in the foreseeable future,

*Agree* the following:

1. *To urge* all governments concerned with the contribution of tourism to sustainable development, to subscribe to all relevant intergovernmental and multilateral agreements, especially the Kyoto Protocol, and other conventions and similar declarations concerning climate change and related resolutions that prevent the impacts of this phenomenon from spreading further or accelerating;
2. *To encourage* international organizations to further the study and research of the reciprocal implications between tourism and climate change, including in the case of cultural and archaeological sites, in cooperation with public authorities, academic institutions, NGOs, and local people; in particular, *to encourage* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to pay special attention to tourism in cooperation with WTO and to include tourism specifically in its Fourth Assessment Report;
3. *To call upon* UN, international, financial and bilateral agencies to support the governments of developing, and in particular of least developed countries, for which tourism represents a key economic sector, in their efforts to address and to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and to formulate appropriate action plans;
4. *To request* international organizations, governments, NGOs and academic institutions to support local governments and destination management organizations in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures that respond to the specific climate change impacts at local destinations;
5. *To encourage* the tourism industry, including transport companies, hoteliers, tour operators, travel agents and tourist guides, to adjust their activities, using more energy-efficient and cleaner technologies and logistics, in order to minimize as much as possible their contribution to climate change;
6. *To call upon* governments, bilateral and multilateral institutions to conceive and implement sustainable management policies for water resources, and for the conservation of wetlands and other freshwater ecosystems;
7. *To call upon* governments to encourage the use of renewable energy sources in tourism and transport companies and activities, by facilitating technical assistance and using fiscal and other incentives;

8. *To encourage* consumer associations, tourism companies and the media to raise consumers' awareness at destinations and in generating markets, in order to change consumption behaviour and make more climate friendly tourism choices;
9. *To invite* public, private and non-governmental stakeholders and other institutions to inform WTO about the results of any research study relevant to climate change and tourism, in order for WTO to act as a clearing house and to create a database on the subject and disseminate know-how internationally; and
10. *To consider* this Declaration as a framework for international, regional and governmental agencies for the monitoring of their activities and of the above mentioned action plans in this field.

The participants expressed their thanks to the Tunisian Government and people for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities provided to host this Conference in the island of Djerba.

**Djerba, Tunisia, 11 April 2003**