

HRCT Trade Group

Board meeting



Sao Paulo, December 11th-12th, 2014

Item 9: IUF Policies on Tourism

(i) UNWTO and WCTE

In recent years HRCT members have asked the IUF to re-affiliate to UNWTO to best represent workers' voice from within. The IUF is also a member of the World Committee of Tourism Ethics (WCTE), the "*impartial body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the [UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#)*", which is "*a set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development*". *In signing the commitment, companies pledge to uphold, promote and implement the values of responsible and sustainable tourism development championed by the Code. The code is not legally binding and consists in a voluntary implementation mechanism. They further undertake to report on their implementation of the Code's principles in their corporate governance. All companies and associations which have signed the Code are allowed to use the logo in all their communication materials. At the moment 364 companies and associations have signed the *Private Sector Commitment to the Code of Ethics*.*

Earlier this year the UNWTO has sent to its members a "*Questionnaire for Signatories of the Private Sector Commitment to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*" with the aims of: *a) to help UNWTO record progress on the implementation of the Code by signatory private companies; and b) to promote ethical and socially responsible (CSR) practices of signatory companies*".

The self-evaluation process allows companies which violate human rights to be included in the “Private Sector Signatories” list and IUF presence in the WCTE’s Board risks legitimizing this and thus damaging the image and the reputation of the IUF.

(ii) Presentation of the project SAFEHOST by Filcams Cgil

A Campaign against sexual exploitation of underage children in the tourism industry.

FILCAMS has been the leader of the European [Safe Host Project](#), producing a multi-language training manual for workers in hotels, restaurants, travel agencies and tourist guide offices (click [here](#) for the English version). Safe Host ended in December 2013, and Filcams have presented phase 2 to the EU Commission, consisting in an enlargement of the involved sectors (e.g. transport) and of the languages of the training course: for example Portuguese, keeping in mind the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in August 2016. Major sports events are one of the riskiest situations in terms of sexual exploitation of underage children.

If the project receives EU commission approval, Phase 2 will be a long haul. In order to connect the two projects and guarantee their continuity, FILCAMS wishes to develop a self-funded campaign for the promotion of a multi-language course for tourism workers, in particular those employed in high risk areas.

The campaign symbol would be a hotel reception desk bell to highlight the specific nature of Safe Host. There is a proposal for an online course for those working in the sector rather than a generic course for tourists, NGOs, institutions, etc.

FILCAMS asks IUF/UITA/IUL to:

- *support the campaign through the use of its logo;*
- *promote the campaign amongst affiliates.*



IUF Hotels Chains Steering Group
Comité de pilotage de l'hôtellerie de l'UITA
Grupo Director de Cadenas Hoteleras – UITA

Geneva, April 1, 2014

***Ron Oswald's intervention at UN WCTE
held on February 26, 2014***

Request for a discussion at the WCTE:

The UNWTO is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. (from UNWTO website)

As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. (from UNWTO website)

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism is a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development. Addressed to governments, the travel industry, communities and tourists alike, it aims to help maximise the sector's benefits while minimising its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe. This mandate surely includes the degree to which any country respects the broad human rights of its citizens and others.

Over 120 delegations from UNWTO Members States gathered in August 2013 at Victoria Falls - Zambia/Zimbabwe - for 20th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly.

According to human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, the government of Zimbabwe systematically violates the rights to shelter, food, freedom of movement and residence, freedom of assembly and the protection of the law. There have been highly credible allegations of assaults on the media, the political opposition, civil society activists, trade unionists and human rights defenders.

By late 2008, social, economic and human rights issues in Zimbabwe reached crisis proportions notably in the areas of living standards, access to nutrition and public health.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs states in its 2012–2013 planning document that the "humanitarian situation has improved in Zimbabwe since 2009, but conditions remain precarious for many people.

In part as a consequence of this deteriorating human rights and socio-economic situation and the instability related to it, tourism in Zimbabwe has steadily declined since 2000. After rising during the 1990s (1.4 million tourists in 1999), industry figures show a 75% fall in visitors to Zimbabwe in 2000. By December 2010, less than 20% of hotel rooms were occupied and thousands of jobs were lost in the industry due to companies closing down or simply being unable to pay staff wages due to the decreasing number of tourists. Much of this the result of the form of "government" and all that went with it that Zimbabwe suffered during this period.

IUF and its affiliates are concerned about the UNWTO giving international credibility to systematic human rights abusers like the present Zimbabwe government, a government led by Robert Mugabe who was honoured as a 'Global Leader for Tourism' in a special UNWTO General Assembly ceremony at Victoria Falls.

We have heard that for example Norway will be pressed to withdraw from UNWTO membership if the UNWTO fails to fulfil its original mandate to promote "economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability" which in our view and the view of many others cannot exist without full respect for human rights.

Against that background the IUF would ask that the UNWTO WCTE examine the ethical impact of its choice of venue for significant and prestigious UNWTO events and offer appropriate advice to the UNWTO in this regard.



IUF Hotels Chains Steering Group

Comité de pilotage de l'hôtellerie de l'UITA

Grupo Director de Cadenas Hoteleras – UITA

Geneva, April 1, 2014 – Genève le 1 avril 2014 – Ginebra, 1 de abril de 2014

World Committee on Tourism Ethics to focus on the exploitation of children, trafficking, poaching and accessible tourism

The protection of children from all forms of exploitation, the fight against trafficking, anti-poaching and accessible tourism for all are among the work priorities defined by the newly formed World Committee on Tourism Ethics (WCTE). The Committee met at UNWTO headquarters to identify the major challenges facing responsible tourism and define its Action Plan for the coming four years (Madrid, Spain, 26 February 2014).

Under the chairmanship of Pascal Lamy (former Director-General of World Trade Organization - WTO), the World Committee on Tourism Ethics met for the first time in its new constitution as appointed by the UNWTO General Assembly in August 2013.

“The World Committee on Tourism Ethics is not destined to solve major political and economic issues at the global level; it will be a useful instrument in interpreting a frontier area, which is tourism ethics, by binding people together in an operational way”, said Pascal Lamy.

“One billion tourists crossing international borders every year can mean one billion opportunities but also one billion catastrophes; it is up to us to decide. Governments, companies and tourists themselves need to ensure tourism works as a force of good and I am convinced that the new Committee on Tourism Ethics will assist greatly in this endeavor”, said UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai.

The Action Plan of the Committee for the coming four years will focus on:

- the exploitation of children in all its forms;
- trafficking;
- poaching and the illegal trading of wildlife;
- accessible tourism for all;
- promotion of fair models of all inclusive holidays; and
- unfounded ratings on travel portals which may impact the reputation of companies and destinations

The World Committee on Tourism Ethics is an impartial body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

Note to editors:

The UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) is a set of principles designed to guide the development of tourism in a way that maximizes the socio-economic benefits of the sector, while minimizing any negative impacts. It was adopted in 1999 by the UNWTO General Assembly and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001.

The World Committee on Tourism Ethics, a subsidiary organ of the UNWTO General Assembly, reports directly to the Assembly. Members are elected in their personal capacities and not as officials of governments or representatives of their countries.

Members: Mr. I Gede Ardika (Former Minister of Tourism of Indonesia), Mr. Yoshiaki Hompo (Former Commissioner of Japan Tourism Agency), Ms. Fiona Jeffery (Former Chair of the World Travel Market), Mr. Khelil Lajmi (Former Minister of Tourism of Tunisia), Mr. Jean Marc Mignon (President, International Organisation for Social Tourism), Ms. Tanja Mihalic (Head of Institute of Tourism, University of Ljubljana), Mr. Ron Oswald (General Secretary, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association), Mr. Eugenio Yunis (Executive Vice President, Federation of Tourism Enterprises of Chile); alternate members: Mr. Hiran Cooray (Chairman, Jetwing), Ms. Suzy Hatough (Director of Dar Al-Diafa for Tourism Human Resources Development Consultancy) and Ms. Gunnur Ozalp (Secretary-General, Association of Turkish Travel Agents).