



*2013 St. Bonaventure University  
Model United Nations Conference*

*United Nations World Tourism Organization*

**March 22 to March 23, 2013**

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This is a committee responsible for the sustainability and universal accessibility of global tourism. As the UNWTO delegates are expected to use their debate skills in order to promote economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability as it implements ethical business practices. As a part of the United Nations General Assembly this body is also used to help achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it works to alleviate poverty while using tourism as a way in which to promote sustainable development through socio-economic conditions. As you begin doing research please keep in mind that this body has many components involving economic, social, and political issues that each country has a hand in on the global scale. Good luck!

### **Protection of Children in Tourism**

An estimated 218 million children are said to be child laborers; pursuant to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism set forth by the World Tourism Organization, the tourism industry has the moral obligation to combat this problem. Child laborers are prone to working long hours for low pay, and are incredibly vulnerable, both physically and psychologically. The tourism industry is uniquely placed to curtail this terrible abuse. Between 10 and 15 per cent of workers or 13 to 19 million workers in tourism are under the age of 18. In the country of India it has the largest number of working children in the world today as between 60 and 100 million of children are in fact laborers especially in the tourism sectors of industry. The Indian government even with putting a ban on the employment of children as domestic servants and workers in restaurants, teashops, and hotels it does not cover other number of jobs in the tourism sector. Even with such bans children also suffer from physical violence, psychological trauma, and even sexual abuse according to the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of India. In other countries such as Mexico many children who are employed by beach restaurants to bring in customers are between the ages of 7 and 12 are only being paid commission based on the customers drinks. In Kenya children are selling crafts and food among other items as well as partake in beach work. Though this is not always enough for them to live off of and have to resort to taking up other jobs at night where they have to entertain tourists for money.

Many children working in tourism are susceptible to being trafficked and sexual exploitation if unregulated and unaccountable during development of the industry. Most children working in the tourism industries are selling curios and trinkets, beach attendants, rag pickers, tourist guides, hawkers, golf caddies or beggars for the rich tourists. Other children work in hotels as bell-boys, waiters and waitresses, maids, housekeeping workers, and in catering as they are also kitchen helpers, dish washers, and servers. The children working in these industries often times come from poor families as they are seen as a productive resource for revenue in the family. Industries also attract children to their labor force because it is cheaper for them to employ children instead of adults as they charge less in production costs. As a result of child labor in tourism many of these children end up remaining poverty stricken, uneducated, and are forced to work in similar industries even as they get older leading to a poor quality of life. As these children face adulthood they will not only be illiterate, but they will also be unemployed as many face physical and emotional stress from such an early age. As the World Tourism Organization it is our job to be the key players in both governments and the tourism industry to

prevent, uncover, isolate, and eradicate ill practices of businesses partaking in illegal child labor practices with the help of international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

***Questions:***

- How does child labor in the tourist industries of your country affect its economy and the global market?
- What measures, if any, has your country taken in order to eradicate child labor in tourism?
- How effective are child labor laws in your country? Is there a better way that they can be reinforced?
- Are there any NGOs or IGOs helping to alleviate poverty among children in your country?

***Helpful Links:***

[http://www.unwto.org/ethics/full\\_text/en/pdf/Codigo\\_Etico\\_Ing.pdf](http://www.unwto.org/ethics/full_text/en/pdf/Codigo_Etico_Ing.pdf)

[http://www.unwto.org/protect\\_children/pdf/en/task\\_force\\_objectives.pdf](http://www.unwto.org/protect_children/pdf/en/task_force_objectives.pdf)

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/30280163/Child-Labour-An-Ugly-Face-of-Tourism>

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_publ\\_9221124169\\_en.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms_publ_9221124169_en.pdf)

<http://www.ptc.nsw.edu.au/SiteMedia/w3svc361/Uploads/Documents/25.CHILD%20LABOUR%20TOURISM%20DEVELOPING%20COUNTRIES.pdf>

***Tourism and Poverty Alleviation***

Tourism has the particular ability to aid in the elimination of poverty, yet poorer countries do not always benefit from the economic force of it. Given that the alleviation of poverty is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) delineated by the United Nations, it is crucial that the World Tourism Organization provide the means for which tourism can aid developing nations lift themselves out of their disadvantaged states. Industries built around tourism are one of the strongest drivers of world trade and prosperity as it focuses on the wealth of creating the power of tourism on people. At current tourism makes up 5% of the world's GDP as it accounts for 6% of the world's exports in services. It is the fourth largest sector next to automotive products, chemicals, and fuels for it generates 235 million jobs as it continues to expand. For developing countries and least developed countries tourist sectors has various affects on different social groups as it would benefit the poorest in any nation through the employment of local people. Enterprises in tourism often provide goods and services to tourists especially those businesses that are community based. For developing islands tourism can account for over 25% of the country's GDP. As for women, young people, and disadvantaged groups that are the ethnic minorities tourism can be well suited to give these groups income that they would otherwise find impossible.

***Questions:***

- Is there a large tourism sector in your country?

- What positive and negative effects has tourism had on your countries economy?
- How impoverished has your country become and why?
- Is your country capable economically of implementing a tourist sector?

***Helpful Links:***

<http://step.unwto.org/>

<http://dtxtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/docpdf/declaration.pdf>

<http://step.unwto.org/en/content/seven-st-ep-mechanisms>

***Tourism, Sustainability and Biodiversity***

Tourism can have a detrimental impact on the environment; for instance, a village of 700 in a developing nation consumes an average of 500 liters of water per month, whereas an average luxury hotel room guest uses approximately 1800 liters of water per day. This sort of disproportionately excessive use of limited resources has prompted the World Tourism Organization to encourage the creation of guidelines on ecotourism. Biodiversity is a large component in its role in tourism as clean water, food supplies, and vegetation all contribute to the attractiveness of destinations.

In countries such as Australia that have suffered from extreme weather that has caused bushfires, droughts, cyclones, floods, and heat waves have been the cause for their implementation of a strategic 5 year program to create sustainable tourism in their Northern most territory that has allowed for businesses to reduce costs by saving energy, water, fuel, waste management costs, and work to improve environmental protection.

In New Zealand emissions have been cut down as the nation has created more sustainable public transportation networks making it carbon neutral through the use of 170 coach services and 3 ferry services that connect a large range of communities. As for Asian nations Vietnam has attracted large numbers of tourists each year by engaging local people to work as guides, rent home-stays, and create modes of transportation to transport tourists around the country. Many of the ecotourism attractions consist of national parks, nature reserves, lowland forests, wetlands, islands, coral reefs, etc. instead of using man made attractions.

There are loads of other businesses that have provided sustainable and biodiversity in tourist sectors, but there are still numerous other locations that need guidance on how to create such tourist attractions and a biodiversity mutual framework. Biodiversity is under pressure worldwide as there becomes less land that is being used for human functionality that has become more intensive as 60% of the world's land surface is now being put to human use in one way or another.

***Questions:***

- How can your country work to create more eco-friendly tourist businesses? Or if you country already has sustainable tourist sectors how was it able to do so?
- Does your country have the economic means to support sustainable tourism?
- Is your country suffering from environmental impacts that need to be addressed?

***Helpful Links:***

<http://biodiv.unwto.org/en/content/applying-guidelines-biological-diversity-and-tourism-development>

<http://media.unwto.org/en/press-release/2013-01-03/un-general-assembly-ecotourism-key-eradicating-poverty-and-protecting-envir>

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CEIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpub.unwto.org%2FWebRoot%2FStore%2FShops%2FInfoshop%2F4C97%2F6CB3%2FB8B6%2F56A0%2F9C50%2FC0A8%2F0164%2FD7CF%2F100921\\_tourism\\_and\\_biodiversity\\_excerpt.pdf&ei=5GfwUJ6JHMyWkgXxag&usg=AFQjCNGtZ3rqZ5V4PgT8yLLJA42OFofhNA&sig2=6DWz1CdMQvsjhQwGu3nH-g&bvm=bv.1357700187,d.dGI](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CEIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpub.unwto.org%2FWebRoot%2FStore%2FShops%2FInfoshop%2F4C97%2F6CB3%2FB8B6%2F56A0%2F9C50%2FC0A8%2F0164%2FD7CF%2F100921_tourism_and_biodiversity_excerpt.pdf&ei=5GfwUJ6JHMyWkgXxag&usg=AFQjCNGtZ3rqZ5V4PgT8yLLJA42OFofhNA&sig2=6DWz1CdMQvsjhQwGu3nH-g&bvm=bv.1357700187,d.dGI)

[http://www.academia.edu/297688/Tourism\\_and\\_biodiversity\\_More\\_significant\\_than\\_climate\\_change](http://www.academia.edu/297688/Tourism_and_biodiversity_More_significant_than_climate_change)