



# IAEG-SDGs Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators

13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of [IAEG-SDGs](#)

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, 8.00-10.00 am EST



# Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism



Peter Laimer



Chair of the Working Group of Experts  
on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

# What is sustainability in tourism?

- Making optimal use of environmental resources, maintaining essential ecological processes
- Respecting the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities, conserve their living cultural heritage
- Ensuring viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all stakeholders

Source: UNWTO, [Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism](#) (consultation draft, October 2018); UNEP/UNWTO, [Making Tourism More Sustainable: A Guide for Policy Makers](#), Madrid 2005

## Tourism

... is a **social, cultural and economic phenomenon** related to the movement of people outside their usual place of residence

... has an **impact** on the economy, the natural and built environment, the local population at the places visited and the visitors themselves

# Role of UNWTO

*“...to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system”*

*Source: [Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, General Assembly resolution 58/232 \(Article 13\), March 2004](#)*

Manila Call for Action on Measuring Sustainable Tourism  
G.20 Leaders Declaration - Alula Framework  
EU strategy for sustainable tourism

UNWTO General Assembly

UNWTO Executive Council

UNWTO Committee on Statistics  
*Secretariat: UNWTO Department of Statistics*

Working Group of Experts on MST  
(Austria)

Sub-groups:

- Employment (ILO)
- Social (Italy)
- Sub-national (France)
- SDGs (Austria)
- Implementation (Canada)

MST Editorial Board  
(The Philippines)

United Nations Statistical Commission  
(decision-maker statistical standards)

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

UN General Assembly

Regular reporting to UN Statistical Commission & Committees of Experts

High Level Discussion on Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism

International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress

Global Consultation

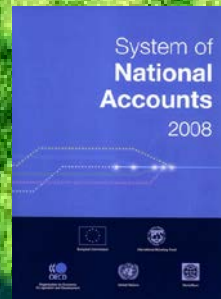
# Frameworks

## Basic tourism statistics



Visitors and their characteristics  
Tourism expenditure  
Tourism industries

## Economic contribution



Tourism Direct GDP  
Tourism GVA  
Tourism employment



## Sustainability



Environmental: emissions, water, energy, waste, land  
Social: decent work, health, education, culture, heritage  
Economic: industries, establishments, employment

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Previous

**8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP** as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate (**Tier I**)

**8.9.2: Number of jobs** in sustainable industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex (**Tier III**)

Current

**8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP** as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate (**Tier I**)

Based on intl  
statistical  
standards

Data collection



**PROPOSED**



... by the tourism statistics community aligned with Target/Goal, based on established statistical frameworks, with data availability

### 8.9 Progress towards sustainable tourism:

- a) Tourism direct GDP (**Tier I**)
- b) Employment in the tourism industries (**Tier I**)
- c) Energy use by the tourism industries (**Tier II**)

**Based on intl  
statistical  
standards**



# Decision (draft) 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission

## DECISION 1:

- *(p) Noted that the CARICOM countries expressed concern that indicator 8.9.2 was deleted as a result of the 2020 comprehensive review*
- *(q) Requested the IAEG-SDGs to work in close coordination with the custodian agency on a proposal for indicators on sustainable tourism to better monitor target 8.9 and report on progress on this to the 54th session of the Statistical Commission*
- *(r) Approved the proposed work programme of the Group and requested the inclusion of the work on sustainable tourism.*

## DECISION 15:

- *(j) Encouraged the finalization of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism for future submission to the Commission and, noted the strong interest from countries in this work.*

# Way forward

- What could be the working arrangements between UNWTO Committee on Statistics and IAEG-SDG?
- What opportunities do we have for exchanging with the IAEG-SDG?





# Thank you!

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For further information,  
please go to [MST-Website!](#)