

## 1998/40. Declaring the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in which the Council recognized the contribution of international years to the furtherance of international cooperation and understanding,

*Recalling also* Agenda 21,<sup>119</sup> which was adopted by one hundred and eighty-two Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), on 14 June 1992, and the conclusions of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session relative to sustainable tourism,<sup>132</sup>

*Stressing* that the implementation of Agenda 21 requires the full integration of sustainable development into the tourism industry in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that travel and tourism provide a source of income for many people, that travel and tourism contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of the Earth's ecosystem, that international trade in travel and tourism services takes place on a sustainable basis

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<sup>130</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 14 (E/1998/34), chap. IV, sect. A.*

<sup>131</sup> E/1998/89, annex.

<sup>132</sup> General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex, paras. 67-70.

and that environmental protection is an integral part of tourism development,

*Stressing also* the need to promote the implementation of international conventions on environment and development, including those on biodiversity and climate change,

*Bearing in mind* the need for international cooperation in promoting tourism within the framework of sustainable development so as to meet the needs of present tourists and host countries and regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future, managing resources to fulfil economic, social and aesthetic needs and maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems,

*Recognizing* the support of the World Tourism Organization for the importance of ecotourism and, in particular, of the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of world peace,

*Considering* that the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism will encourage the intensification of cooperative efforts by Governments and international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to achieve the aims of Agenda 21 in promoting development and the protection of the environment.

1. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it declare the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism;

2. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and pertinent intergovernmental and governmental organizations to exert all possible efforts on behalf of the success of the Year, in particular regarding ecotourism in developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development, within the framework of its discussion of tourism during its seventh session, to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, supportive measures and activities which will contribute to a successful Year;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in accordance with the guidelines for future international years as contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, the necessary support to ensure the success of the Year, including the widespread dissemination of pertinent information;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the World Tourism Organization, and the World Travel and Tourism Council, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report containing:

(a) Information on programmes and activities undertaken by Governments and interested organizations during the Year;

(b) An assessment of the results achieved in realizing the aims and objectives of the Year, in particular in terms of encouraging ecotourism in developing countries;

(c) Recommendations to advance further the promotion of ecotourism within the framework of sustainable development.

*46th plenary meeting  
30 July 1998*