

NEPAD @ UNGA 2017

Theme

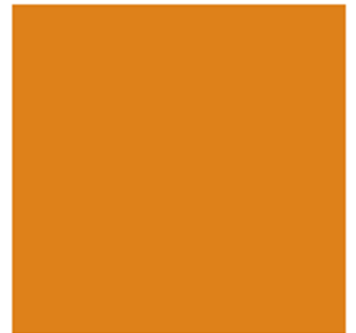
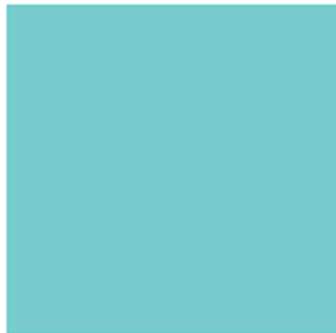
Sustainable tourism development in Africa: a transforming opportunity for inclusive growth and a diversified economy

Date: 21st September, 2017

Venue: UN Headquarters, New York, USA

Time: 10.00 am-12.00 noon

Concept Note and Agenda NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency



Introduction/rationale

In 2016, 1235 million international tourists travelled around the world. Travel and tourism represents nine percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and one out of every 11 jobs. Africa's aviation industry alone supports 6.9-million jobs and contributes \$80bn to GDP on the continent. Tourism has the potential to achieve the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) if well managed, given its linkages with other sectors of the economy. In the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development along with the 17 SDG's, three goals (8, 12 and 14) are directly linked to tourism, including economic growth; job creation, environmental preservation and effective resource management; the promotion and protection of cultural values and heritage. In addition, as tourism is a cross-cutting industry, it has the potential to contribute directly and indirectly to all the goals.

Africa remains one of the fastest-growing regions for the travel and tourism sector globally and in 2016 international tourist arrivals grew by 8% with a total of 58 million international tourists. In 2016, Africa and South –East Asia are the leading tourist destinations; experienced about 8% growth rate, according to the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) report of 2017.

Despite the progress made in the tourism industry, most African countries have yet to reach their full potential. A myriad challenges face the tourism sector: the urbanization of the continent is faster than anywhere else in the world and by 2025 half of the African population will live in cities. The issue of urbanization will bring serious challenges of integrated waste management, transport and pollution, which will impact touristic activities. Additionally, slow visa facilitation; low investment levels; the capacity gap in the hospitality service industry; poor connectivity and infrastructure are major impediments to tourism growth and sustainability.

The NEPAD Agency's contribution to sustainable tourism in Africa is guided by the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan (TAP). TAP is the continental framework for the implementation of sustainable tourism in Africa. It also supports the domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and AU 2063 Agenda.

At the margins of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly, the NEPAD Agency and partners are organizing a High Level Forum entitled “***Sustainable tourism development in Africa: a transforming opportunity for inclusive growth***”. **The High level forum will take place on 21st September 2017 at the UN Headquarters, New York.**

Side Event Overall Purpose

This High Level forum will be part of the Global Tourism Week, in celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017. It will focus on information sharing on how best to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 8 (to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all). It also provides opportunity to engage, discuss and exchange the experiences from various players and stakeholders on how issues of policies and investments can create opportunities for job creation, employment and sustainable tourism in Africa.

Expected panellists and participants

The Side Event will bring together a cross section of high profile leaders, champions and practitioners from both public and private institutions across the globe.

Side Event Structure and Outline

The Side Event will be a high profile panel session and interactive moderated plenary discussions for about Two hours.

| Time | AGENDA ITEM |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 10.00 am | <p><i>Introduction and Purpose of the Event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome and Introductory Remarks: HE. Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency ▪ Statement by: HE. Moussa Faki, Chairperson, African Union Commission ▪ Statement by: HE. Dr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary General, UNWTO ▪ Statement by: HE. Hon. Mrs. Tokozile Xasa, Minister of Tourism, South Africa ▪ Opening Address: HE. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Special Ambassador for the International Year of Sustainable for Development, 2017 |
| 10.30 am | <p>High-level Panel Session: Moderator, Mrs. Estherine Fotabong</p> <p><i>Issue paper: Harnessing Africa's Engine of Growth through Sustainable Tourism</i> (Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency)</p> <p><u>Panellists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HE. Mr. Mohamed Yehia Rasheed, Minister for Tourism, Egypt ▪ HE. Mr. Najib Balala, Cabinet Secretary of Tourism, Kenya ▪ HE. Hon. Lai Mohammed, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Nigeria ▪ Mrs Efeti Quan, High Delegate of Tourism, South West Region, Cameroon ▪ Mr. Boubacar Djibo, Director of Air Transport Bureau, International Civil Aviation Organization ▪ Ms. Florizelle Liser, President and CEO, Corporate Council on Africa ▪ Mr. Eddie Bergman, Former President of Africa Travel Association, USA ▪ Mr. Aaron Munetsi, Regional General Manager – Africa & Middle East, South African Airways |
| 11.30 am | Questions and Answers |
| 11.50 am - 12.00 noon | <p>Closing Session:</p> <p>Synthesis – HE. Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency</p> <p>Closing Remark - HE. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia</p> |

Participation

The Event is opened to all. For more information, please contact the Vincent Oparah [vincento@nepad.org] with copy to Tendai Sithole at [tendait@nepad.org]