

The Secretary-General

*Ref: OFSG/ZY/2020
Madrid, 4 June 2020*

Subject: Package of resources prepared by UNWTO

Dear Affiliate Member,

I have the honour to update you on the developments at the Organization since my initial communication when the whole world was locked down due to the unprecedented global health emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak. On my part, I truly hope that you and your loved ones are safe and in good health.

As you are well aware, tourism has been among the hardest hit of all the major economic sectors. The decline in global tourism has already taken a heavy toll on national economies, people's livelihoods, and on our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the past weeks the world has been slowly opening up again, with destinations cautiously easing travel restrictions introduced in response to COVID-19. However, at this time, 100% of destinations worldwide continue to have some form of COVID-19-related travel restrictions in place.

From the very beginning of this tragic situation the World Tourism Organization has never stopped working in order to assist its Member States and Affiliate Members to restart tourism, to rebuild confidence in travelling and to enhance tourism's contribution to wider socio-economic recovery.

UNWTO formed the **Global Tourism Crisis Committee (GTCC)** to guide the sector as it responds to the COVID-19 crisis and to build the foundations for future resilience and sustainable growth. The Committee is comprised of representatives of UNWTO's Member States and Affiliate Members, alongside major UN organizations (WHO, ICAO, ILO, IMO), the OCDE and World Bank, as well as other international institutions (ACI, CLIA, IATA, WTTC). After several interactive virtual meetings, the GTCC approved the Global Guidelines to reopen tourism, which provide governments and businesses alike with a comprehensive set of measures designed to help them open tourism up again in a safe, seamless and responsible manner.

I also have the honour to share with you other UNWTO initiatives:

- [Global Guidelines to Restart Tourism](#)
- [Priorities for Tourism Recovery](#)
- [Supporting Jobs and Economies Through Travel & Tourism](#)
- [Technical Assistance Package](#)
- [COVID-19 and Vulnerable Groups](#)
- ["Healing Solutions for Tourism" Challenge](#)
- [UNWTO Global Tourism Dashboard](#)

- [Four UNWTO Reports on Travel Restrictions](#)
- [“Stay Home, #TravelTomorrow” communication campaign](#)
- [Partnership with CNN](#)

All of these resources are available on the UNWTO website at: <https://www.unwto.org/restarting-tourism>

I trust the attached documents and initiatives will be able to assist your government and the private sector to effectively tackle all the immense challenges our sector is facing. We want to ensure that tourism continues to be a major economic and development driver and that it emerges even stronger from this global challenge.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.



Zurab Pololikashvili

<https://www.unwto.org/restarting-tourism>

