



“Policy Coherence for Sustainable Tourism Development. Selected Country Assessments”

Information Seminar

Geneva, 26th April 2011, 14h30 – 18h00, Room B, WTO



This Information Seminar is organized as a follow-up action to last year’s successful Round Table titled “Sustainable Tourism, Green Jobs and Climate Change Mitigations: Possible Linkages?”, co-organised with the LDC Group in the WTO and COMDEV on 19th October 2010. Recommendations made by the Roundtable speakers and participants were adopted by the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries and Council for Trade in Services (WT/COMTD/LDC/18, S/C/W/328 on 21st December 2010).

Tourism is a labour intensive sector and a key source for employment creation and revenue generation in many developed and advanced developing countries. Yet, it is also vulnerable to external shock factors and trends. Therefore the flow of international tourists exhibits a sea-saw

pattern which could cause the loss of livelihood when the flow is disrupted due to man-made or natural disturbances.

Many developing countries have failed to transform their tourism potential into a viable industry and have not been able to generate quality jobs that can lift substantial parts of their population out of poverty. Instead many suffer from unplanned and unregulated tourism development which depletes resources and degrades the environment.

This Information Seminar will present the preliminary research findings conducted by the CSEND research team concerning policy coherence across various international development instruments and trade agreements, e.g.,

DTIS, PRSP, GATS tourism, RTA/FTA and IPR in the context of enabling the development of sustainable tourism and livelihood in the LDCs.

This Seminar highlights the need for policy leadership and coordination for better utilisation of the available development investment. Selected countries have been reviewed according to 9 criteria which capture aspects of the policy options presented in each of these instruments and their inherent coherence, or lack of it, which enhance the likelihood for strengthened competitiveness in tourism products and services and the

This research aims also to explore the risk and potential negative impact of increased production of tourism sector in the LDCs. Questions were raised whether greening measures have been promoted in the key development documents examined in order to maintain a balance between environmental viability, productivity improvements and scaling up the tourism sector.

Finally, this research examines the policy making mechanism needed to devise national tourism development strategies and in engaging the private sector actors in a policy dialogue concerning tourism development.

Preliminary findings show the discordant policy coordination between key international development instruments and an underutilisation of existing potentials due to:

creation of employments in related sectors. Linkages have also been made to regional tourism development strategies and to WTO GATS commitments in order to identify existing gaps for future utilisation.

A selected number of countries have been included in the initial phase of study. They are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Specific country profiles and comparative analyses will be presented.



- Incongruence between agreed trade regime and on-ground practice;
- Fragmentation of tourism development strategies;
- Disconnection between various investment policies proposed by DTIS and PRSP.

This Seminar invites policy makers, analysts and members of think tanks from within and outside Geneva to come together to discuss and reflect together with representatives of Geneva-based Permanent Missions of developed, least developed and developing countries. The discussions will focus on strategies for developing sustainable tourism that responds to environmental, social and economic objectives in a holistic manner and options in enhance policy coherence between key development instruments. Cases will be presented during the Seminar to map out the “negotiation space” when devising various capacity building and poverty reduction strategies/plans.

Venue: WTO Secretariat - Room B, Rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva, Switzerland
Date: 26th April 2011
Time: 14h30 to 18h00

Programme

Welcome and Opening

Presentation of preliminary findings and country assessment

Discussion by Panellists

Floor Discussion

Closing

Speakers:

Prof Raymond Saner, Director of Diplomacy Dialogue, Geneva

Prof Lichia Yiu, President of Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development, Geneva

Panellists

H. E. Amb. Mothae Maruping, Permanent Mission of Lesotho, Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development and Chair of the Board of the Enhanced Integrated Framework

H. E. Amb. Darlington Mwape, Permanent Mission of Zambia, Chair of the Council for TRIPS Special Session

Dr. Magdi Farahat, Head of UNECA Geneva

Mr. Dale Honeck, Counselor, Trade in Services, WTO

Pre-Registration Form

Registration to be sent by e-mail to filadoro@csend.org or by fax: +41-22-738 1737, by **20th April 2011**.
For information, please call Mario FILADORO at CSEND, Tel. +41-22-906-17-20.

Conference

I would like to join the Information Seminar on the 26th April 2011

“Policy Coherence for Sustainable Tourism Development. Selected Country Assessments”*

Name
First Name
Profession
Organisation
Phone Nr
Fax/E-mail

*Please note that invitees who do not hold a badge for entry to the WTO building need to bring with them a passport photo for registration with security office at WTO.