

UCLG-MEWA COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

For developing common tourism policies and the establishing standards by understanding the roles and duties of local governments in tourism together; common sense and cooperation are important factors that accelerate both local and country development.

In the third chapter of the Local Agenda 21, which is an important focus point for defining the importance and role of settlements in sustainability, a number of responsibilities have been envisaged for local governments; and they were evaluated under three main titles, namely participatory processes, operation and management processes, and actions for sustainable tourism.

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, which is a basic framework for sustainable tourism covering the economic, social, cultural and environmental components of travel and tourism, has been put forward as the main component of sustainable tourism by the General Assembly of World Tourism Organization. Sustainable tourism and ethical principles, which have the potential to contribute to the overall goals of the next Sustainable Development Agenda directly and indirectly, are firmly placed within the year of 2030. However, it is necessary to have a clear implementation framework and adequate financing and technology together with a need to invest in infrastructure and human resources. Established on 13 November 2015 during the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and the Council Joint Meeting; the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism recognizes these principles as the basic operating principles of the Committee; supports creating the working areas of its members on the basis of these standards and presents new recommendations to the decision makers for the sustainable development of tourism, by emphasizing the importance of the decisions and practices of local governments on achieving the sustainable development of tourism.

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism seeks to undertake the advocacy of the main messages of the cities by taking into consideration the needs of local governments and cities in the region regarding tourism, to develop projects among its members by analyzing problems globally, to encourage experience-sharing by establishing communication networks, and to promote mutual learning.

Program of Activities

1. Incorporating Global Codes of Ethics for Tourism into strategic action plans of local governments
2. Organizing awareness-raising activities to localize Sustainable Development Goals on sustainable tourism
3. Organizing local activities specific to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 among the committee members
4. Mobilization of committee members on preparations for the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018
5. Research by Co-Presidents of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism on the impact of the following types of tourism on urban development, and reporting and presenting all research during the next meeting,
 - Faith Tourism
 - Health Tourism
 - Geothermal Tourism

- Culture Tourism
 - Urban Tourism
 - Social Inclusion Tourism
 - Nature Tourism
 - Convention Tourism
 - Sport Tourism
6. Compilation and publication of good practices on sustainable tourism in the MEWA region
 7. Preparation of information booklets on "intelligent destinations" in the MEWA region
 8. Contribution to activities among members by following national and international days (World Tourism Day-27 September etc.)
 9. Mobilizing committee members to actively participate in or to present papers during the 1st International Sustainable Tourism Congress to be held on 2-4 November 2017, under the auspices of Kastamonu University
 10. Following the international activities of the World Tourism Organization, informing members on the related news and actively participating in the events:
 - Conference on Regional Tourism in MENA (Middle East and North African) Cities: Competitiveness in Sustainable Growth, Amman-Jordan, 13-14 November 2017
 - UNWTO & UNESCO 2nd World Conference on Culture and Tourism: Promoting Sustainable Development, Muscat/Oman Kingdom, 11-12 December 2017