

Tourism Law and Legislation

Assignment 2

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Subsidiary bodies in UN Tourism (formerly UNWTO) are organs established by the General Assembly or in some cases the Executive Council to assist in specific areas of work, ensuring that specialized knowledge and regional perspectives are brought into global tourism policy. They are formally recognized bodies designed to facilitate technical cooperation, policy development, and communication between member states and the Secretariat between General Assembly sessions.

Some of the general Roles within UN Tourism are as follows:

- **Regional Commissions:** UN Tourism has six regional commissions (Africa, Americas, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and South Asia). They enable member states to maintain contact, convey concerns, and discuss regional issues directly with the Secretariat.
- **Technical Committees:** These bodies, such as the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness or the Committee on Sustainability, provide specialized advice, develop standards, and propose definitions (e.g., for maritime or rural tourism).
- **Advocacy & Implementation:** They help translate global goals-such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - into actionable tourism policies, particularly by addressing challenges like climate change, tourism safety, and digital transformation.
- **Networking:** They serve as forums for public-private cooperation, often involving Affiliate Members from the private sector, academia, and tourism associations.

The Manila Declaration on World Tourism (1980)

Adopted at the World Tourism Conference in Manila, Philippines, in 1980, the Manila Declaration is a foundational document that recognized tourism as a vital force for world peace and international understanding. It affirmed that tourism is an activity essential to the life of nations, impacting economic, social, cultural, and educational sectors.

Milestone in Tourism Policy are as follows:

- **Right to Tourism:** It was the first international instrument to establish that access to tourism and leisure is a fundamental right, linking it to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **Holistic Approach:** It moved tourism policy beyond solely economic benefits, emphasizing that moral and human elements must take precedence over technical, material, and commercial aspects.
- **Sustainability Precursor:** It highlighted the need to control the use of natural and cultural resources to prevent their destruction, laying early groundwork for sustainable tourism policies.
- **Guidance for Development:** It recognized that tourism development should be in harmony with national, social, and economic realities, calling for the protection of local environments and communities.

References

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