

Tourism Law and Legislation

Assignment 2

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1. Subsidiary bodies in international tourism governance

Subsidiary bodies in international tourism governance are institutional mechanisms created to support the effective functioning of international organizations by providing expertise, specialized knowledge, and regional representation. In the context of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), these bodies play a crucial role in shaping global tourism policy and ensuring that decisions reflect diverse regional and thematic perspectives. They operate under the authority of UNWTO's main organs, including the General Assembly and the Executive Council, and contribute to informed and inclusive decision-making. One of the most important subsidiary bodies within UNWTO is the Regional Commissions. These commissions represent different geographical areas such as Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and the Middle East. Their primary role is to identify region-specific tourism challenges, promote cooperation among neighboring states, and support the implementation of UNWTO policies at a regional level. Through regular meetings, they allow member states to exchange best practices and coordinate development strategies. In addition to Regional Commissions, UNWTO has several functional committees and expert groups that focus on specialized areas of tourism governance. These include committees on tourism statistics, sustainability, education, digital transformation, and ethics. For example, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics oversees the promotion of responsible and ethical tourism practices, while the Committee on Statistics develops international standards for tourism data collection and measurement. Overall, subsidiary bodies strengthen UNWTO's governance structure by ensuring technical accuracy, regional balance, and stakeholder participation. They enable UNWTO to respond effectively to global challenges such as climate change, crisis management, and sustainable development, thereby enhancing the organization's capacity to guide international tourism responsibly.

References:

- UNWTO (2023). Basic Documents of the World Tourism Organization.
- UNWTO (2022). Tourism Governance Framework.
- Hall, C. M. (2011). Tourism and Global Environmental Change. Routledge.

2. Manila Declaration on World Tourism (1980)

The Manila Declaration on World Tourism (1980) was adopted during the World Tourism Conference organized by the World Tourism Organization in Manila, Philippines. This declaration is widely recognized as one of the earliest and most influential policy documents in international tourism governance. It provided a comprehensive vision of tourism by recognizing it as a social, cultural, and economic activity with significant implications for human development and international relations. A key principle of the Manila Declaration is the recognition of tourism as a fundamental aspect of human life, closely linked to the right to rest, leisure, and freedom of movement. The declaration emphasized that tourism should contribute to mutual understanding, peace, and respect among peoples and cultures. It also highlighted the responsibility of tourists to respect the customs, traditions, and social values of host communities. The declaration further stressed the role of governments in planning and regulating tourism development. It called on states to adopt tourism policies that promote economic growth while protecting the environment, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring that local communities benefit from tourism activities. This approach laid the groundwork for sustainable tourism development long before sustainability became a central global concern. The Manila Declaration is considered a milestone in tourism policy because it influenced later international instruments, including the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (1999) and the integration of tourism into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Its principles continue to guide tourism law and policy, making it a foundational document in the evolution of responsible and sustainable tourism governance.

References:

- UNWTO (1980). Manila Declaration on World Tourism.
- Dredge, D., & Jenkins, J. (2007). Tourism Planning and Policy. Wiley.
- Sharpley, R. (2009). Tourism Development and the Environment. Earthscan.