

## **MANIFESTO FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

Bogotá, 7 June 2018

Gathered in Bogotá for the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, hosted by the Government of Colombia and with the participation of the Governments of Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Considering tourism as a crosscutting activity for the social and economic development for all countries;

Recognising that tourism is key for the development of the world's economy as a productive activity that contributes in promoting an inclusive and sustainable growth, and as an essential tool for the restoration and enhancement of the social fabric, through productive employment, decent work, mainstreaming gender equality, peaceful co-existence among people, safeguarding human rights and lobbying towards better living conditions for the recipient communities and a positive experience for those who visit them

Taking into account that, in order to comply with national and international laws, policies, programmes and projects related to tourism development, the cooperation and linkage between governments, the public and private sector, as well as the civil society and local communities is essential; so that future generations can also access and benefit in a sustainable manner from the virtues and benefits offered by this industry.

Understanding that the sexual exploitation of children overshadows the tourism industry,

Recognising that these illegal practices must be stopped with responsibility, ensuring that countries, day by day, strengthen their image as destinations that do not tolerate such crimes, through concerted actions at all levels, local, national and international,

Bearing in mind that the sexual exploitation of children is a violation of the fundamental rights of this population and is a form of coercion and violence,

EXPRESSING the will to establish cooperation and coordination mechanisms within the 17 goals framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

And acting in full accordance with each of the present institutions and signatory organisations, through its representatives.

We declare that:

1. Tourism must be promoted as a positive activity that boosts human rights, such as the right to work, to leisure and exchange local culture and diversity, decisively rejecting terms such as "sex tourism" and "child sex tourism", in order to avoid the mistaken perception of these terms as being licit or recognized by the sector,
2. Efforts must be joined among governments, international organisations, unions, tourism service providers and other key actors in the sector to offset the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism,
3. National policies that go beyond time and highlight the importance of working permanently must be promoted for the prevention and subsequent eradication of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism,
4. Fighting sexual exploitation of children is responsibility of States and family. Civil society also plays a vital role in the prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation,
5. A broader knowledge and better understanding of the current national and international regulations in regards to sexual exploitation must be achieved, for which the regulations and information shared need to be understood and correctly comprehended by the recipients, in conformity with the protection of their fundamental rights,
6. Monitoring and impact evaluations of tourism development plans aiming at protecting the rights of children and adolescents must be enforced,
7. Efforts involving the private sector must be developed and strengthened, participating them in the design and implementation of policies that prevent the sexual exploitation of children. While it is important to include large companies, efforts must be done to include small and medium-sized enterprises and establishments, as well as the various branches that conform the tourism industry -such as land, air and maritime transport, the food and beverage sector, travel agencies and recreational facilities, among others. This will lead to an enhanced cross sector and multi-stakeholder action across the entire industry supply chain, strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation,
8. Continuity must be given to the actions implemented against the sexual exploitation of children; the public and private sectors must act consistently with policies and laws, as well as in keeping with ethical values, especially those from the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,

9. ICT campaigns must be involved to collaborate with law enforcement agencies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children facilitated by the use of new technologies; and, in collaboration with the financial sector, put an end to the profits gained by exploiters, criminal networks and facilitators,
10. Create a joined strategy with the ICT regulatory body to control the content of web pages in which the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism can be facilitated,
11. Working groups/task force teams in the public and private sectors, and in civil society organisations must be created and strengthened. They are key in the research, monitoring and development of strategies that prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children at local level. Citizens and public servants must be empowered so that they actively participate in the prevention and reporting of those who are involved in this crime. Also, they are essential in the process of identifying best practices, and supporting the process of recovery and rehabilitation of victims,
12. Awareness-raising and training campaigns on responsible tourism aimed at various users and actors in the travel and tourism sector must be promoted; to provide information on the phenomenon of exploitation and sexual abuse of children; and for preventive measures that can be taken to reduce and eradicate all cases of exploitation and sexual abuse of children in the context of travel and tourism,
13. Local, national and international campaigns, designed to promote a zero tolerance attitude towards the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, aimed mainly at condemning and warning aggressors and those who facilitate or promote these crimes, must be developed,
14. Information systems must be strengthened and standardised in order to have accurate and up to date information of the figures that show the behaviour of the crime,

With these actions we will be giving continuity to the work that has been developed jointly as a region for the prevention and eradication of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, with the commitment to coordinate concrete and measurable actions aimed at complying with the international duty to combat the causes that generate and maintain these forms of violence; particularly, by developing social mobilization actions that place the focus on the discouragement of demand in the so-called tourists or travellers, and the naturalization of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children, women and other traditionally marginalised groups.

This letter is signed in Bogotá D.C on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June 2018, by the following representatives of the Governments that are part of the Regional Action Group of the Americas –GARA (Grupo de Acción Regional de las Américas):

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