



पर्यटन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
TOURISM



## One Planet Sustainable Tourism

### Side-Event

#### 4<sup>th</sup> TOURISM WORKING GROUP AND MINISTERIAL MEETING INDIA G20 PRESIDENCY

#### ‘Towards a circular economy of plastics in tourism – the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative’

19 June 2023 from 2PM – 4.15 PM

Place: Grande Sala, Cidade de Goa, Goa, India

#### **Rationale**

Plastic pollution is one of the major environmental challenges of our time. Rising levels of plastics are accumulating in the environment, with the flow of plastic into the ocean projected to nearly triple by 2040. Mismanaged plastic waste alters habitats, harms wildlife, and can damage ecosystem function and services. Plastic pollution from tourism can easily end up in oceans and waterways. Much of the plastic used in the sector is made to be thrown away and often cannot be recycled and unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic drastically increased the use of single-use plastics. Plastic pollution also contributes to GHG emissions. Research shows that in 2015 greenhouse gas emissions from plastics were 1.7 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e) and are projected to increase to approximately 6.5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2050, or 15 per cent of the global carbon budget.

The shift to a circular economy of plastics is key for tourism destinations which rely on healthy environments to remain internationally competitive. Engaging with tourism stakeholders, including tourists, brings opportunities to export knowledge and best practices and scale-up change. The One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme launched the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) to unify the sector behind a common vision for a circular economy of plastics and to collaborate with tourism businesses and destinations to develop concrete solutions to tackle plastic pollution.



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## **Objective**

In alignment with the priorities of the G20 Tourism Working Group during India's G20 Presidency which include a focus on the green transformation of the tourism sector for sustainability and resilience, as well as to complement the recommendations that will be provided in the Goa Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving the SDGs, the side-event will focus on encouraging further engagement of tourism stakeholders to address plastic pollution through circular approaches across tourism value chain

Building on the CEO round table on sustainable tourism organized on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 by the Ministry of Tourism (Government of India), Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) country office, that introduced the GTPI to major Indian tourism stakeholders, the side-event aims at further disseminating the framework of action proposed by the GTPI to accelerate a circular economy of plastics in tourism, across G20 countries. The side-event will provide tourism stakeholders with practical guidance to integrate circular economy principles and practices, to address plastics pollution in tourism operations and will support the implementation of "Lifestyle For Environment" campaign as proposed by H. E. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to accelerate an environmentally conscious lifestyle.

## **Target Audience**

The audience to the side event will include delegations from G 20 countries, Government of India officials (from national and subnational level), industry groups, , representatives from major tourism business (accommodation and tour operators) associations in the country as well as select destinations, part of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, of the Government of India, The side event would also enhance the understanding of destination managers, on tools and solutions for plastic waste management in tourist destinations. To encourage a global uptake of plastic waste management in tourism sector, in line with 'Green & Sustainable Tourism', prioritized by G 20 under India's Presidency, this could be a landmark event, with the Central Nodal Agency for Sustainable Tourism (Government of India), along with select destinations signing and joining the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, during the side event.

## **Programme**

The side-event will last 135 minutes and will encompass high-level introductory remarks and a keynote presentation on the action framework proposed by the GTPI. These interventions will be followed by a panel discussion with tourism stakeholders and a signing ceremony to welcome the adherence of several organizations to the GTPI.



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TOURISM

सत्यमेव जयते



14:00 – 14:10 hrs.	<p><b>Address by</b></p> <p>Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India</p>
14:10-14:20 hrs.	<p><b>Special Remarks</b></p> <p>Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General, <b>UNWTO</b></p>
14:20 – 14:30 hrs.	<p><b>GTPI Signing Ceremony</b></p>
14:30 – 14:40 hrs.	<p><b>Context setting by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Zoritsa Urosevic, Executive Director, UNWTO</li> <li>• Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India Country office &amp; Head of delegation UNEP</li> </ul>
14:40 – 14:55 hrs.	<p><b>Keynote presentation</b> - Virginia Fernández-Trapa, Programme Coordinator Sustainable Development of Tourism, UNWTO</p> <p>Global Tourism Plastics Initiative: its vision, commitments and recommendations for action on eliminating problematic and unnecessary plastics, the integration of reuse models and collaboration with suppliers and waste managers.</p> <p>The keynote will cover, among other aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to identify and prioritize problematic and unnecessary plastics to be eliminated?</li> <li>- What are sustainable and reusable alternatives to plastics?</li> <li>- Which aspects need to be considered when procuring plastics?</li> <li>- How to involve tourists to take action?</li> <li>- How to become a signatory of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative?</li> <li>- Travel for LiFE campaign- a potential tool to bring behavioral change for addressing plastic pollution in tourism sector</li> </ul>



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14:55 – 14:05 hrs.	<p><b>A short video on plastic pollution followed by Panel discussion</b> involving destinations and tourism businesses illustrating the policies and solutions they implemented to eliminate single-use plastics, promote the uptake of reusable alternatives, as well as increase recycling of plastics and communicate to tourists. The panel would also include representatives from select member countries of G20 on their views and sharing of best practices of plastic waste management in tourism sector.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Atul Bagai, UNEP, Head of Country Office</p> <p><b>Panel Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Speaker 1</i> – Mr. Arvind Singh, Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism</li> <li>• <i>Speaker 2</i> – Mr. Fransiskus Xaverius Teguh, Senior Advisor to the Minister on Sustainable Development and Conservation, Indonesia (Troika)</li> <li>• <i>Speaker 3</i> – Mr. Nakul Anand, Executive Director, ITC Hotels</li> <li>• <i>Speaker 4</i> – Mr. Anuraag Bhatnagar, CEO, Leela Palaces Hotels &amp; Resorts</li> <li>• <i>Speaker 5</i> – Mr. Amitabh Khosla, Country Director – India, International Air Transport Association (IATA)</li> <li>• <i>Speaker 6</i> - Ms. Sireesha Chandana, Vice President - Learning and Development &amp; Sustainability at The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL)</li> </ul>
16:05 – 16:15 hrs.	<p><b>Concluding remarks and way forward</b></p> <p>Ms V. Vidyavathi, Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Government of India</p>