

Réunion : 21eme session de la Commission pour la prévention du crime et la justice pénale

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Durée : 6'54" (130 mots/minute)

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Difficulté : *

Éléments à fournir :

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, CCPCJ	Commission pour la prévention du crime et la justice pénale
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC	Office des Nations Unies contre les Drogues et le Crime, ONUDC

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our goal is to make travel and tourism a true driving force for growth and sustainable development, in pursuance of UN aims for a fairer and better world, to turn it into a force for good. Tourism today is a very central and unique global phenomenon. It's an important socio-economic sphere of human activities, representing more than 5% of world GDP direct, more than 10% indirect, 30% of world trade in services, and employing one out of twelve people around the world. Tourism open doors for some of the most vulnerable groups, such as young entries into the labor market, and women. The connection between travel and tourism and development is very well established. This year, in 2012, there will be one billion - one billion ! - international tourists crossing borders in one single year. Four and a half more billion will be doing domestic trips in their own countries. This gigantic movement - one seventh of the people of the world in this time and age are

traveling and crossing borders... There is little doubt that the incredible expansion of this human phenomenon in the last decades has brought with it countless positive employment, empowerment, development and mutual understanding opportunities.

But, like any other sector, like any other growing and lucrative human activity, tourism has been marred by negative sides and negative effects - and we must bravely admit that and confront it. Crime, ladies and gentlemen, is a problem from which no sector is immune. Too often, tourism infrastructure has been involved in notorious ends, in activities like forced labor, like sexual exploitation - particularly of children - and trafficking in humans. Trafficking, migration and exploitation are all interconnected, and it's a crime that is not acceptable by any means.

Too grave is the damage to natural and cultural environment as well, and to societies, when tourism grows without being managed in a responsible way. Only an ethical foundation, and a commitment to responsible attitudes that foster sustainability, can harness tourism's enormous capacity to do good, and to impede its potential to do harm.

It is this conviction that - it is in this conviction that UNWTO's core policy document, the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism, was anchored. It is in this same spirit that, later in this afternoon today, I will be delighted to sign, with my very good friend the Executive Director of UNODC, a memorandum of understanding of collaborations in areas of mutual respect. They will include : the unlawful acquisition of cultural artifacts as well, the enhancement of the private sector and anti-corruption policies, and crucially, very importantly, the prevention of human trafficking within the tourism sector. The central topic of trafficking is subject also to a side event that will take place tomorrow afternoon - and I would be very to see all of you tomorrow afternoon - which is jointly organized by our two organizations. At this meeting tomorrow, we will set out to raise awareness of trafficking in the context of tourism, calling for an enhanced collaboration between all actors, from

all spheres, from the public sector, from the private sector, NGOs, academic institutions, as well as consumers, the tourists themselves, to eradicate this very horrible form of modern-day slavery. This is a matter where there can be no complicity, no room for complicity. Human trafficking constitutes an unequivocal, an unacceptable...- insult to human dignity. It is a crime which affects millions of human beings across the world today, happening in front of our eyes, and particularly in every country around the world. No country is immune. Countries of origin are as guilty as countries of transit and countries of destination, in generating billions of revenues for criminals all over the world.

It is this that we must fight fearlessly, in every sector of human activities, and with every resource that we have at our disposal. We have to admit the infrastructure of tourism can and is being used today - accommodation establishments, hotels, transportation networks, airplanes, trains, cars, ships... - are being misused by traffickers to victimize the vulnerable. Tourism has the potential and is firmly committed to reclaim this very infrastructure and to use it to fight against trafficking.

Tourism is reaching today every spot under the sun. It reaches the most remote, rural areas, and brings with it - must bring with it opportunities for local development, decent jobs. The poverty alleviation and socio-economic empowerment it affords to the disadvantaged people can help to lessen their vulnerability and risks for victimization at the hands of organized crime. It is today, ladies and gentlemen, the largest transfer of voluntary funds, from those that have it to those that welcome it and need it. Tourism today is generating 1.3 trillion US dollars per year in terms of transfers of money from people to people. Through coordinated efforts we can ensure that awareness travels with us, and that tourism authorities, travel companies and tourists themselves join us in this fight. Through active cooperation between the public and the private sector we can forge new alliances, we can ensure that every hotel room, every seat on an airplane and every site on the Internet is an awareness message medium. This is our

infrastructure that we must reclaim. UNWTO is very proud to be here today, and on the behalf of the international tourism community, globally, we would like to show that we have the will and the courage to act.

FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY