Template[i] for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization:** 10YFP Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)[ii] that the initiative will contribute to):**

   Support Pan-European countries with the implementation of circular economy of plastics in the tourism sector

3. **Description of the action:**

   The One Planet Network is a global community of practitioners, policymakers and experts, including governments, businesses, civil society, academia and international organizations that implements the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). In December 2021, the UN General Assembly in resolution A/RES/76/202 extended the mandate of the 10YFP to 2030 and encouraged its implementation, recognizing that unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are key drivers of natural resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and malnutrition, and recommitted to making fundamental changes in the way that societies produce and consume goods and services. Within this framework, the One Planet network's Sustainable Tourism Programme has the mandate to support tourism destinations and businesses in transition toward more circular and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

   One Planet network Sustainable Tourism Programme will provide support to Pan-European tourism policy makers, companies, and other relevant stakeholders with regards to the implementation of circular economy of plastics in the tourism sector.

   More specifically, the Programme will provide support through its Global Tourism Plastics Initiative with:

   - capacity building activities targeting policy makers and tourism businesses

   - establishment of coordination mechanisms on destination level

   - establishment of measurement and monitoring frameworks.

   The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GPTI) is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF).

   The Initiative works across the tourism value chain with relevant stakeholders including suppliers and waste management platforms, accommodation (large multinational companies and SMEs), tour operators, cruise lines, online booking platforms and of course, tourism destinations (national and local governments) to take up the challenge of plastic pollution. The GTPI is aligned with the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment where it operates as tourism sector interface.

   Almost 50% of GTPI stakeholders are based in Pan-European countries[1], which demonstrates that the GTPI is well positioned in the region in order to support UNECE member states in scaling up their efforts towards transition to more circular patterns in the tourism sector.

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[1] Since the beginning of the initiative, 61 organizations (15 accommodation providers, 29 supporting organizations, 1 supplier, 1 destination, 14 tour operators, travel agents and platforms, 1 cruise line) from UNECE countries have joined GTPI, among which large tourism companies with Headquarters in Europe such as Accor, TUI Group, ClubMed, Ponnant, Booking.com

Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate: by 2025

4. **Type of action[iii]:** voluntary commitments, policy development support, knowledge management (development of tools, methodologies, and provision of trainings); destination-level coordination

5. **Economic sectors[iv]:** Tourism (accommodation, cruise lines, tour operators, online booking platforms); producers of amenities; waste management

6. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**

Guidance on how to become signatory: here

More information about the initiative: here

Latest resources:

Recommendations for the tourism sector to continue taking action on plastic pollution during COVID-19 recovery - GTPI, 2020

Addressing pollution from single-use plastic products: A Life Cycle Approach – Key messages for tourism businesses – GTPI, 2021,

Rethinking Single Use Plastic Products in Tourism: Impacts, Management Practices and Recommendations - UNEP and WTTC, 2021

During UNECE ministerial conference in Nicosia, on 5th of October, UNEP, UNWTO and France will jointly announce launch of 2 new GTPI publications on CE of plastics in tourism on procurement and measurement of plastics in operations of accommodation companies:

GTPI Plastics Measurement Methodology for Accommodation Providers and Recommendations
The methodology sets a common approach for the identification and measurement of weight of plastic packaging and items. It provides calculation tools to gather data on the level of a property and aggregate it on a company level.

Guidance on Addressing Plastic Pollution through Sustainable Procurement
The guidance provides practical support for procurement practitioners on the procurement of plastic items and packaging (and its alternatives.

7. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Reduction of plastic pollution induced by operations of tourism stakeholders; introduction of circular solutions (including promotion of reuse models) in tourism operations; improved coordination among tourism stakeholders, suppliers, waste management platforms and public authorities on destination and value chain levels. The Initiative also supports capacity building of tourism sector stakeholders by providing guidance, tools, and online trainings.

8. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG12, 12.b, and SDG 14**

9. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** not applicable

10. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:**

Tourism sector stakeholders across tourism value chains are committing to ambitious and actionable targets in line with CE principles to be implemented by 2025 latest. To ensure effective implementation of the targets, tourism stakeholders and compagnies, are also committing to an annual (and mandatory) reporting.

The Initiative uses following indicators of success:

number of destinations, companies and other stakeholders that committed to ambitious targets on CE of plastics and are annually reporting on their

implementations; weight of plastics in operations of tourism accommodation providers and cruise lines (annual reporting for GTPI signatories that are part of the category "large companies).

11. **Partners:** UNWTO, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Ministry of Environment of France. Since the beginning of the initiative, 61 organizations (15 accommodation providers, 29 supporting organizations, 1 supplier, 1 destination, 14 tour operators, travel agents and platforms, 1 cruise line) from UNECE countries have joined GTPI, among which large tourism companies with Headquarters in Europe such as Accor, TUI Group, ClubMed, Ponnant, Booking.com All 124 GTPI signatories can be consulted here.

12. **Contact points: Svitlana Mikhalyeva, 10YFP Secretariat, UNEP (svitlana.mikhalyeva@un.org)**

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

o **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: "Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure"? (NO)**
   ▪ *If yes, please indicate below to which "International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure[v]" does the action contribute:*

o **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: "Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism"? (YES)**

[i] Based on the "Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy" (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix). Webpage: https://unece.org/documents-and-materials

[ii] Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:
  1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
  2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
  3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
  4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
  5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
  6: Promote green and fair trade;
  7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
  8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
  9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

[iii] In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:
  (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
  (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
  (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.
Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

[iv] In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:
  (a) economy-wide;
  (b) cities; and
  (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

[v] The "International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure" (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:
  1. Strategic planning;
  2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
  3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
  4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
  5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
  6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
  7. Enhancing economic benefits;
  8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
  9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
  10. Evidence-based decision-making.
Web link: https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure