

Holhuashi Dialogue 4
“The Decade of Recovery – What’s Next?
Looking at sustainable recovery through tourism”
Friday, 3 December 2021, 8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Dag Hammarskjöld Library Reading Room

SUMMARY

On 3 December 2021, the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, convened the fourth Holhuashi Dialogue on the theme “*The Decade of Recovery – What’s Next? Looking at sustainable recovery through tourism*”.

A brief summary of the main points highlighted at the meeting is as follows:

Vaccine roll-out in developing countries critical for economic recovery

- Need for greater collaboration, harmonization, coordination, and solidarity among countries.
- Tackling vaccine equity is critical to the global economic recovery.
- Promoting joint production and partnerships with developed and developing countries is important.
- COVID-19 vaccination in developing countries, especially in Africa, needs to be ramped up.
- Mutual recognition of vaccine certifications is necessary to promote safe, seamless, and non-discriminatory travel.

Rebound of the tourism sector is strategically important

- Tourism is among the sectors most severely impacted by the pandemic as well as by climate change.
- The sector is a significant source of livelihoods for women and youth. It provides added value for local communities and protecting local eco-systems. For some countries highly dependent on tourism, it is the main driver of employment and revenue generation.
- Tourism is cross-cutting, impacting culture, trust among peoples and cultures, people-to-people contact, conservation, inclusion, and mental wellbeing.
- The sector should be a focus of strong, actionable recovery efforts given its strategic importance for many countries, including LDCs and SIDS, and to the global economy.
- The new strain of the COVID-19 virus is causing setbacks for some countries where the sector was just starting to show signs of a rebound.

- Both developed and developing countries have shared stakes in a global rebound in the tourism sector, with emphasis on sustainability. Progress on global vaccination is central to a rebound of the sector.

Suggested actions to boost tourism recovery:

- While recognizing the importance of safety first, travel restrictions should be a last resort. Strengthening health and safety protocols, such as vaccination and enhancing cleaning and sanitation procedures, are important.
- Tourism trends are shifting towards activities involving families, smaller groups, domestic tourism, and such trends should be embraced. The pandemic is an opportunity to view tourism through different lens. There is elevated importance of risk management throughout the entire industry chain.
- Industry certification and recognition of COVID-safe practices can help boost confidence in the sector. Such industry certifications should be promoted.
- Opportunities to boost climate-friendly, green initiatives in tourism recovery should be harnessed.
- Sharing of examples and best practices, including through countries working together, driven by shared objectives, to promote seamless travel and tourism activity.
- GA to strengthen advocacy for equitable access to vaccines. Civil society and the private sector should also be engaged in advocacy for vaccine equity. Participants welcomed PGAs timely hosting of the high-level multi-stakeholder event on vaccination on 13 January 2022.
- PGA to consider convening a high-level meeting at the General Assembly during the resumed part of the 76th session to facilitate a dialogue among Member States and all other stakeholders to ensure the tourism sector is given due consideration as a key driver of a sustainable and green recovery. Such an event should have actionable outcomes, which are also supportive of climate-friendly transformation of the tourism sector.