3rd Meeting of the

Interinstitutional Working Group on

Tourism and Climate Action

07 and 08 October 2026 | online

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome remarks

The 3rd Meeting of the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action was convened online in two sessions, on 7 and 8 October 2026, to accommodate different time zones and facilitate participation from all regions. The meetings were opened on behalf of UN Tourism by Mr. Dilyor Khakimov, Director, Institutional Relations, Partnerships and Advocacy Department (IRPA). Opening remarks were also delivered by Mr. João Viegas, Chief of International Office, Ministry of Tourism of Brazil, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group, on 7 October; and by Dr. Abdullah Niyaz, Minister of State for Tourism of the Maldives, in his capacity as Vice-Chair, on 8 October.

The Chair and Vice-Chair welcomed the approval of the Working Group's Work Plan 2026–2027 by the UN Tourism Executive Council and called for its translation into concrete activities. Brazil emphasized continuity with the progress achieved at COP30 and the importance of coordinated contributions to COP31. The Maldives highlighted the particular exposure of tourism-dependent island destinations to climate change and the need for practical mitigation and adaptation solutions.

The following 18 Member States attended the meeting:

Africa	Americas	Asia and the Pacific	Europe	Middle East
Cabo Verde	Brazil	Malaysia	Spain	Syria
Gambia	Colombia	Maldives	Switzerland	
Ghana	Costa Rica	Pakistan	Türkiye	
Kenya		Philippines	Ukraine	
Nigeria				
South Africa				

Peru communicated that, due to previous commitments, they were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda, circulated in advance, was adopted. The main objectives were to coordinate preparations and contributions for the Tourism Thematic Day at COP31 and review progress in implementing the Working Group's approved Work Plan, and discuss the timeline and next steps for the remainder of 2026 and early 2027.

3. Tourism Thematic Day at COP31 – 18 November 2026

Representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye and the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA)presented preparations for the Tourism Thematic Day at COP31, scheduled for 18 November 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye.

Mr. Enis Uğur, Multilateral Relations Branch Coordinator, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, outlined the proposed high-level programme in the Blue Zone, focusing on policy and partnerships for zero waste, electrification, resilience and investment. He explained that the application for the proposed programme was awaiting final approval from the COP31 Presidency at the time of the meetings. The Turkish representatives indicated that Green Zone activities would provide a further opportunity for participation.

Ms. Neliz Çetiner, Sustainability and Competitiveness Manager, Turkish Tourism Board, outlined plans for eight panel discussions in two parallel Green Zone rooms, addressing international cooperation and practical solutions from tourism businesses and destinations. Proposed topics included decarbonization, zero waste and circularity, gastronomy and destination resilience. The detailed programme and speakers remained subject to internal review and confirmation.

The Secretariat also reported preparations for an official side event in the Blue Zone, intended to strengthen links between tourism climate action and the implementation of national climate policies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Secretariat indicated that the final Tourism Day programme would be shared with members as soon as the necessary confirmations were received.

The Secretariat outlined possible ways for Working Group members to contribute to COP31, including participating in Tourism Day events through their national delegations, sharing ministerial video messages, and jointly developing a Working Group statement for delivery at COP31 events. It was clarified that access to the Blue Zone would require accreditation through the respective national delegations. The Chair also enquired whether such a statement could be presented to the next UN Tourism Executive Council. The Secretariat would clarify the relevant internal procedures and inform accordingly.

As a potential substantive outcome, the Secretariat introduced an initial Tourism Climate Solutions Framework to help identify, assess and replicate effective solutions. The proposed approach would cover a theory of change, a practical taxonomy, assessment criteria and replication potential, with a first regional pilot envisaged in Latin America and the Caribbean and scope for subsequent application in other regions.

4. Round of interventions from members on COP31 participation

Mr. Richard Kämpf, Head of Tourism Affairs, Promotion Activities Directorate of State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland, provided an update on the report developed under the project entitled “Climate Change and the Future of Mountain Tourism Destinations”, undertaken within the framework of the UN Tourism Agenda for Europe. The report, in its final stages of preparation for publication, examines climate-related challenges, adaptation strategies and practical experiences from different destinations, including Türkiye. He proposed presenting its findings at COP31 Tourism Day to further advance discussions on climate adaptation in mountain and snow-based tourism destinations. The Secretariat and representatives of Türkiye welcomed the proposal and agreed to further explore the possibility of presenting the report at one of the Green Zone panel discussions during COP31 Tourism Day.

The Chair announced that Brazil would present its ongoing work on Regenerative Approaches to Climate Action in Tourism at the Brazilian Pavilion in the Blue Zone on 19 November 2026. He also encouraged Working Group members to share information on their planned COP31 activities to facilitate coordination and the wider dissemination of these initiatives.

Ms. Natalya Tabaka, Chairperson of the State Agency for Tourism Development of Ukraine, expressed Ukraine’s interest in contributing to COP31 Tourism Day. She highlighted the impacts of the ongoing war on the country’s natural resources and environment, and referred to national initiatives exploring tourism as a means of recovery, including its contribution to physical and mental well-being. She indicated that Ukraine would further explore opportunities for participation and share specific proposals with the Secretariat.

5. Work Plan implementation: Status and next steps

Ms. Virginia Fernández-Trapa, Programme Coordinator, Climate Action and Circularity, Institutional Relations, Partnerships and Advocacy (IRPA), UN Tourism, reviewed the main activities under the Work Plan 2026–2027, approved at the 126th session of the UN Tourism Executive Council. She recalled its voluntary and collaborative nature and encouraged members to contribute to its implementation and exchange practical experiences. The main activities and next steps included:

- The Secretariat would recirculate the materials for the free online courses developed by Booking.com in collaboration with UN Tourism, which had been presented at the second Working Group meeting. Covering energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, water efficiency and sustainable food management, the courses were recommended for dissemination among the tourism industry associations and universities.
- An online webinar led by Brazil is scheduled for 5 November 2026 to share experience in developing a national inventory of tourism-related greenhouse gas emissions, drawing on work with the University of Queensland and the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism.

- The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism is undergoing a review aimed at facilitating greater engagement by National Tourism Administrations, businesses and civil society. The Secretariat would share relevant documentation with members for review, followed by materials to support wider engagement.
- The 2040 Impact Roadmap for Sustainable Food Systems in Tourism is under development through the Tourism Food for Good initiative, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and enabled by the TUI Care Foundation. The initiative aims to map destination food systems and identify practical interventions, including food waste reduction, stronger links with local producers and circular approaches. Cabo Verde was identified as the location for an initial pilot in 2027.
- A report on climate adaptation for snow-based tourism destinations is being finalized at the initiative of Switzerland and other European countries. A dedicated technical exchange was proposed to share its findings and explore their relevance to other mountain destinations.

6. Round of interventions from members – updates on national climate action in tourism

Members shared updates on national initiatives and practical experiences in advancing climate action in tourism, highlighting opportunities for further cooperation and knowledge exchange within the Working Group.

Mr. Kilian Bunuso Gyader, Deputy Director, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Ghana, expressed support for the Working Group and interest in contributing to its activities. He requested clearer guidance on areas where members could provide inputs and emphasized the importance of sharing practical experiences and successful approaches to climate action in tourism.

Mr. Siaka Fadera, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Technical), Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of The Gambia, outlined ongoing efforts to promote renewable energy and resource efficiency in the tourism sector. These include encouraging hotels to adopt solar energy, energy-efficient equipment and water-saving measures, alongside improved water monitoring, rainwater harvesting and the reuse of greywater. He also highlighted initiatives to reduce food waste and promote locally produced and seasonal food, emphasizing the value of exchanging practical experiences among countries.

Mr. Francisco Martins, Advisor to the Minister of Tourism and Transport of Cabo Verde, reiterated the country's commitment to sustainable tourism and expressed support with commitment forits participation in the Tourism Food for Good initiative, including preparations for the planned pilot in 2027. He highlighted national efforts to expand renewable energy, strengthen local food production and reduce dependence on imports, as well as cooperation with Portugal on climate-related initiatives. He emphasized the importance of addressing climate change across tourism and other interconnected economic sectors.

Ms. Mariana Garita, Head of Tourism Sustainability, Costa Rica Tourism Institute (ICT), presented a financing initiative launched in July 2026 to support tourism micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in implementing climate action measures. Developed incollaboration with Banco de Costa Rica, the initiative provides access to financing for sustainability-related investments. She highlighted the importance of enabling tourism businesses, particularly smaller enterprises, to access financial resources for climate action.

Ms. Lorna Nyamweya, Deputy Director, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya, highlighted national efforts to promote sustainable practices in tourism, including the adoption of electric vehicles in protected areas, water conservation, renewable energy and climate-resilient infrastructure. She also referred to initiatives involving carbon credits and green financing.

Mr. Fhatuwani Muronga, Tourism & Environmental Efficiency Department of Tourism , South Africa, presented national initiatives supporting resource efficiency and climate action in tourism. These included the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Programme, which provides training and helps tourism establishments improve energy, water and waste management, and the Green Tourism Incentive Programme, which supports investments in resource-efficient technologies. He highlighted the solar microgrid on Robben Island as an example of reducing dependence on diesel-generated electricity and expressed willingness to share further experiences with Working Group members.

Ms. Jem Turla, Supervising Tourism Operations Officer, Policy Formulation and International Cooperation Division, Department of Tourism of the Philippines, suggested that COP31 Tourism Day could provide an opportunity to highlight the forthcoming International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027, reinforcing the importance of sustained international cooperation and practical action in the tourism sector.

Dr. Abdullah Niyaz, Minister of State for Tourism of the Maldives and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, shared an overview of the Maldives' national efforts to advance climate action in tourism. He highlighted the Fifth Tourism Master Plan, which integrates climate resilience, renewable energy, waste management and ecosystem conservation into tourism development. He also outlined government initiatives to expand solar energy and strengthen the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. At the industry level, he highlighted the growing involvement of tourism resorts in solar energy, coral restoration, waste reduction and marine conservation, including cooperation with local communities. He emphasized the importance of combining national policies with practical action by tourism businesses to strengthen the sector's resilience to climate change.

7. Closing remarks and next steps

The Chair and Vice-Chair thanked members for their participation and encouraged their continued engagement in the implementation of the Work Plan 2026–2027. The forthcoming activities and key milestones under the Work Plan were reviewed, with the following indicative timeline:

- 23 October 2026: Members to inform the Secretariat of their planned contributions to COP31 Tourism Day, including in-person participation, video messages, potential inputs to a joint statement or other proposed contributions.
- 31 October 2026: Members to disseminate the online courses developed by Booking.com and UN Tourism to national tourism industry associations and universities, if not already done.
- 5 November 2026: Online webinar led by Brazil on measuring tourism-related greenhouse gas emissions at the national level, with a recording to be made available for members in other time zones.
- 18 November 2026: Tourism Thematic Day at COP31, Antalya, Türkiye.

- 23 November 2026: Documentation related to the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism and its revised operating arrangements to be circulated for members' feedback.
- 30 November 2026: Documentation related to the 2040 Impact Roadmap for Sustainable Food Systems in Tourism to be circulated for members' feedback.
- 15 December 2026: Engagement package to mobilize the private sector and civil society under the Glasgow Declaration to be made available for dissemination at the national level.
- Date to be confirmed: Proposed online webinar on climate adaptation for snow-based tourism destinations, led by Switzerland.
- First quarter of 2027: Next meeting of the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action.

The Chair also suggested organizing a follow-up webinar after COP31, potentially in the first quarter of 2027, to share the briefing paper on Regenerative Approaches to Climate Action in Tourism more widely with Working Group members.