

King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations



UN Tourism

UNITED NATIONS
WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION



UN Tourism

Aryan Suri
22 February 2024

Table of Contents

3 - Welcome Letter

4 - Key Terms

5 - History of the UN

6 - Intro to UN Tourism

7 - UN Tourism Timeline

8 - Issue at Hand

9 - Key Incidents

10 - SDG Connections

11 - Statistics + Maps

12 - Questions + Helpful Resources

13 - Works Cited

Welcome Letter

Dear King'sMUN 2025 delegates,

As this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, we are truly honoured to welcome you to our 11th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with various unique committees, experienced chairs, and a successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to various pressing issues that plague our current world. In most committees, students take on the positions of multiple countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for real and fictional issues and crises. We provide distinctive committees that delve into historical events, future scenarios, and fictional topics.

In our personal experience with MUN, we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we meet delegates who share similar passions in committee sessions. We genuinely believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (i.e. UNSC and the ICJ) and issues in sports (i.e. English Premier League and International Olympic Committee) to fictional committees, yet applicable issues (i.e. Pokémon) and issues set in our very own communities (i.e. Government of Ontario). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have attended many conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope you will engage in fruitful debate and have a fantastic time at King'sMUN 2025.

Sincerely,

Aryan Suri and Luciana Ilic

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2025

Key Terms:

Tourism: A social, cultural and economic event involving the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment (UN Tourism, n.d.).

UN Specialized Agency: An International organization working with the United Nations, in accordance with agreements between the organization and the UN (United Nations, n.d.).

Private Sector: A part of the economy run by individuals and companies for profit, and is not state-controlled (Chappelow, 2019).

Member State: A country that entirely belongs to a political, economic, or trade organization, such as the United Nations.

Associate Member: A country that is a member of a political, economic, or trade organization, with partial rights or limited privileges.

Ecotourism: Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education (TIES, 2015).

UNESCO Site: A place of cultural or natural significance that is designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having "outstanding universal value."

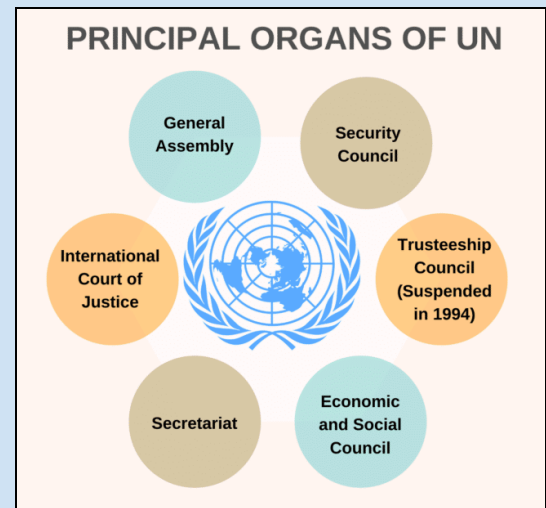
History of the United Nations

- The United Nations is an international organization that was created in 1945.

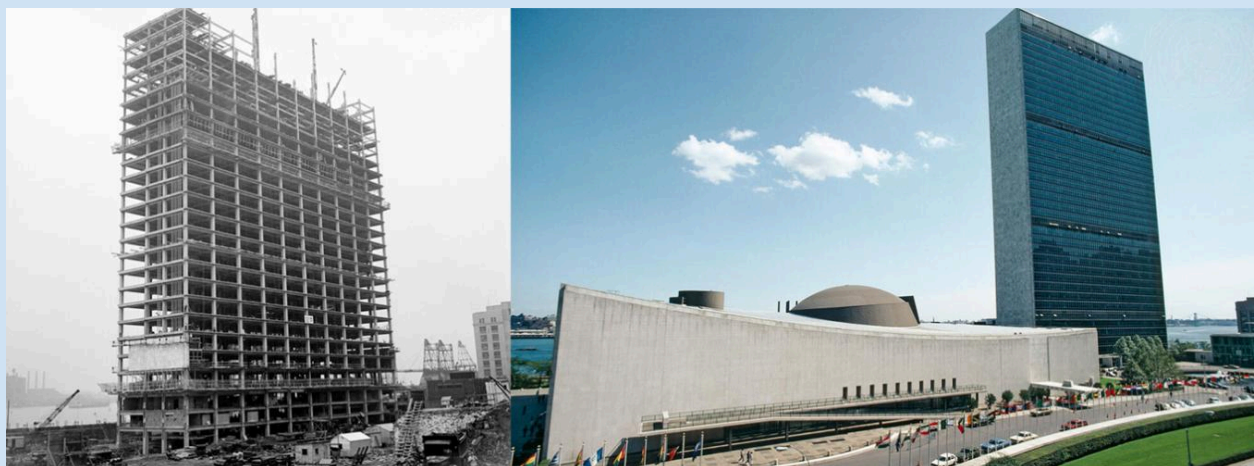
- Created to fill the demand for an organization to ensure peace, after WW2.

- The organization's goal is to uphold international peace and security, safeguard human rights, and promote sustainable development.

- It originally had 51 member states, but now has 193, and 2 observer states.



6 Organs: The **General Assembly** is a forum for all member states to discuss and make decisions on global issues, while the **Security Council** maintains international peace and security. The **Economic and Social Council** focuses on development and coordination, the **International Court of Justice** resolves legal disputes, the **Secretariat** handles the UN's day-to-day work, and the **Trusteeship Council** oversaw trust territories until its operations were suspended.



What is UN Tourism?

UN Tourism is a United Nations Specialized Agency created in **2003** to promote **responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism.**

(UN Tourism, n.d.).

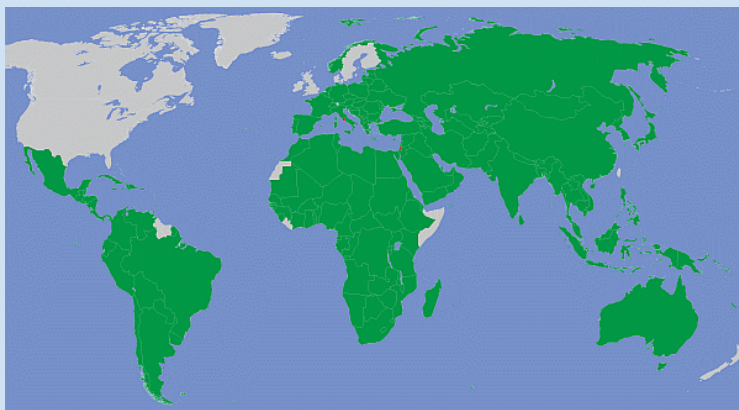


Figure 1: Member States of UN Tourism.
Green: Member State, Red: Associate Member,
Grey: Not a Member

The organization has 160 Member States, 6 Associate Members and over 500 Affiliate Members (UN Tourism, n.d.). These include countries, tourism associations, and private sectors.

Their work is based off of **five** pillars:

1. Making Tourism **Smarter**
2. Making Tourism **More Competitive**
3. **Creating Jobs** Through Tourism
4. Promoting **Safe & Seamless Travel**
5. Protecting **Cultural & Natural Heritage,** and **supporting communities economically & socially.**

Timeline of UN Tourism

1946: The First International Congress of National Tourism Bodies in London decides to create the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO).

1951: IUOTO moves its headquarters to Geneva, Switzerland, & gains United Nations consultative status.

1963: The United Nations Conference on Tourism and International Travel in Rome establishes key definitions for 'visitor' and 'tourist' & promotes tourism development and freedom of movement.

1970: The IUOTO Special General Assembly in Mexico City adopts statutes for the World Tourism Organization (WTO), later celebrated as "World Tourism Day" annually on September 27.

1975: The First WTO General Assembly convenes in Madrid, selecting the city as WTO's permanent headquarters.

1980: The Manila Declaration on World Tourism is adopted during the World Tourism Conference in the Philippines.

1995: The WTO, WTCC, & Earth Council develop "Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry" following the Rio Conference on sustainable development.

1999: The WTO adopts the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism during its XIII General Assembly in Santiago, Chile.

2002: The UN declares 2002 the International Year of Ecotourism, culminating in the Quebec Declaration at the World Ecotourism Summit in Canada.

2003: The WTO becomes a specialized UN agency, aligning closer with the UN's goals.

2005: In response to the 2004 Asian tsunami, the WTO adopts the Phuket Action Plan to address tourism recovery in affected regions.

2009: The UNWTO Roadmap for Recovery highlights tourism's role in economic recovery and its potential for long-term green transformation.

2010: The first T.20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting emphasizes tourism's contribution to global economic recovery and its alignment with sustainable development goals.

2023: The UNWTO changes its name to UN Tourism, marking a new era in the global tourism sector.

Issue: Mitigating the Impact of Tourism at UNESCO sites and environmentally sensitive areas

Tourism has economical benefits, generating 10% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), and employing over 100 million people worldwide (BBC, n.d.). Tourism can also help communities preserve, and share their unique cultures. When a tourist visits a country for personal pleasure, they try and experience all of what the place has to offer. This includes experiencing cultural traditions, national foods, and well-known locations. However, in certain cases tourists pose a negative impact on the place they are visiting. Tourism can lead to loss of culture, where traditions are altered, exaggerated, or concealed to satisfy tourists, for their economic benefits. With more people entering a tourist destination, the possibility of pollution also increases. This includes air pollution from planes, cars, buses, and other means of transport, noise pollution from overcrowding, and physical littering (BunnikTours, n.d.).

Currently, there are 1,223 UNESCO Heritage Properties (UNESCO, 2024). Large amounts of tourism can lead to wear and tear on these ancient structures, historic landmarks, and fragile ecosystems, resulting in irreversible damage. In particular, sites with delicate architecture or rare natural environments are vulnerable to the effects of overcrowding. The erosion of archaeological sites such as Machu Picchu, damage to aquatic areas like the Great Barrier Reef, and disappearing cultural traditions are common issues that arise from unsustainable tourism practices. Similarly, environmentally sensitive areas, such as wildlife habitat areas, steep slopes, wetlands, and prime agricultural lands (Ndubisi, 1995), are also at risk from the pressures of tourism. Activities like hiking, off-road driving, or uncontrolled development can disrupt habitats, pollute waterways, and contribute to soil erosion. The Amazon Rainforest and the Galápagos Islands are examples of such areas that are facing growing threats from tourism, including deforestation and the introduction of invasive species.

Delegates in the UN Tourism committee should work towards finding a balance between protecting the benefits of tourism, and regulating the negative impacts tourism has. Delegates must ensure that their resolutions allow tourism practices to contribute both to the local development and the long-term conservation of these irreplaceable sites. Resolutions are recommendations to the UN, implying that resolutions cannot make direct changes to private sector practices or enforce laws in other countries.

Key Incidents

Machu Picchu, Peru:

- Erosion of pathways
 - Cultural practices are being commercialized
- ## **Great Barrier Reef,**



Australia:

- Coral bleaching due to stress from tourist interaction

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador:

- Tourist infrastructure development affecting wildlife habitat
- Invasive species being brought by tourists



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is a global goal set by the United Nations to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges by 2030. All UN member states adopted these goals in 2015.

The issue of mitigating the impact of tourism on UNESCO sites and environmentally sensitive areas aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDG 8 highlights the importance of sustainable tourism to create jobs and support local economies while preserving cultural heritage (Target 8.9).

SDG 11 emphasizes protecting cultural and natural heritage (Target 11.4) and reducing pollution and waste in tourist destinations (Target 11.6).

SDG 12 calls for sustainable consumption and raising awareness of eco-friendly tourism practices (Targets 12.1, 12.8).

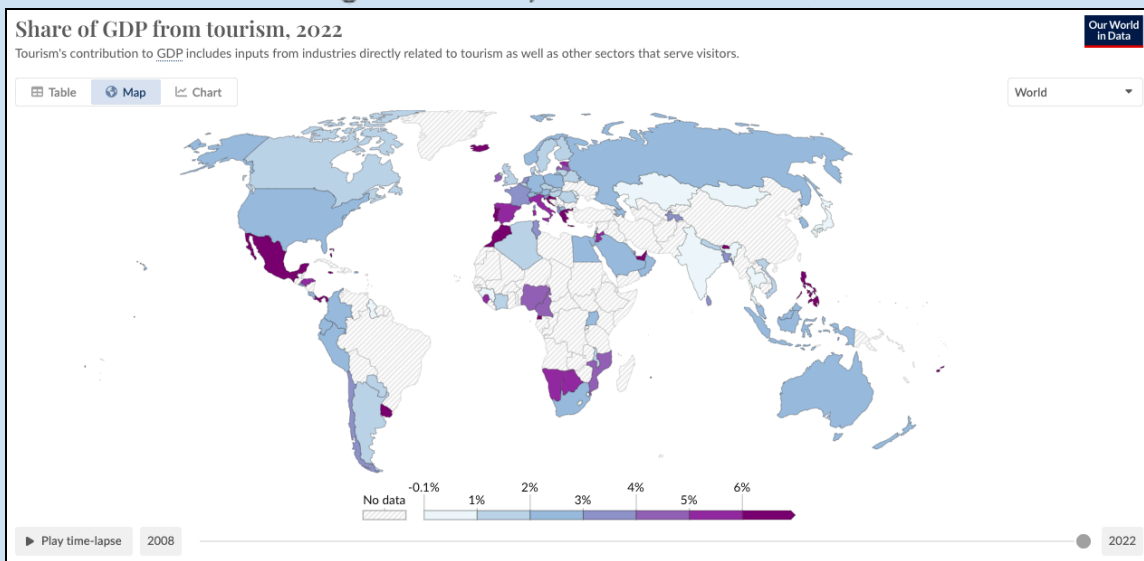
SDG 13 focuses on integrating climate change measures into tourism strategies and building resilience against climate-related threats (Targets 13.2, 13.3).

SDG 14 addresses marine ecosystem protection, preventing pollution in coastal and underwater UNESCO sites like the Great Barrier Reef (Targets 14.1, 14.2).

SDG 15 emphasizes conserving terrestrial ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and reducing habitat degradation in natural heritage sites (Targets 15.1, 15.5).



Figure 2: Country GDP from Tourism in %



Statistics & Maps

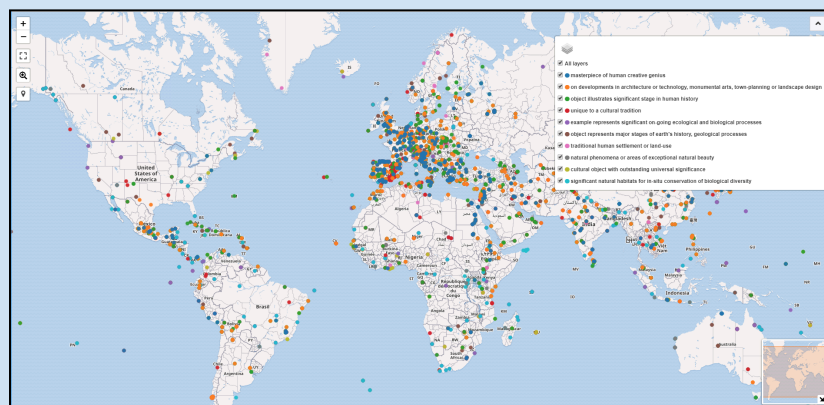


Figure 3: Map of UNESCO Sites

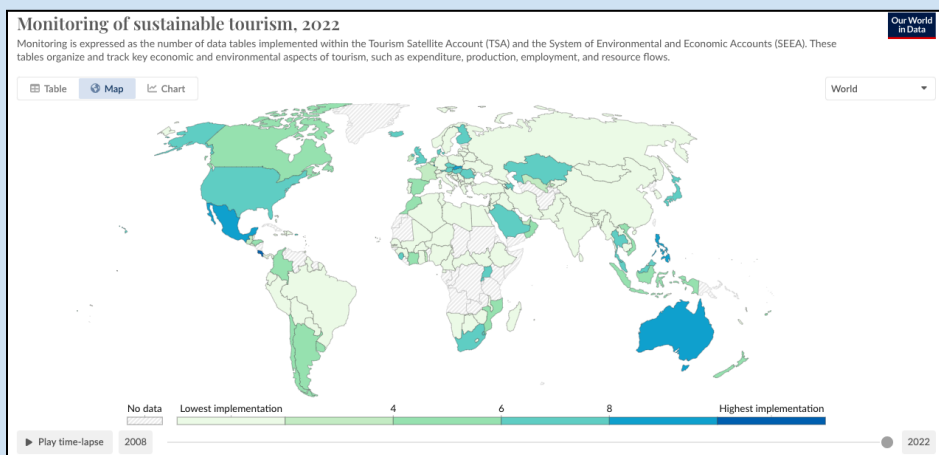


Figure 4: Countries Implementing Sustainable Tourism

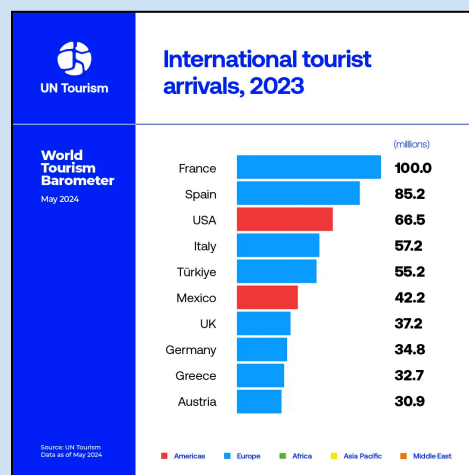


Figure 5: International Tourist Arrivals, 2023

Questions to Consider:

- How can tourists be educated to respect and preserve both the cultural and environmental integrity of UNESCO sites?
 - Should countries use a certain amount of money received from tourism to protect such sites?
 - Should there be limits on the number of tourists allowed at certain UNESCO sites? If so, how can these limits be effectively enforced?
 - How can private organizations help in ensuring environmental and cultural preservation in such areas?
 - Which areas/ UNESCO sites have been affected the greatest by tourism? Why?
-

Helpful Resources:

UN Tourism Webpage: <https://www.unwto.org/>

Glossary of Tourism Terms: <https://www.unwto.org/glossary-tourism-terms#T>

Member States of UN Tourism: <https://www.unwto.org/member-states>

History of UN Tourism: <https://www.unwto.org/history#1970>

Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/>

UNESCO World Heritage Convention: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

World Heritage Properties Data: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/stats/>

Works Cited

- BBC. "The Impact of Tourism." *BBC Bitesize*, 2023,
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcmfb9q/articles/znsfn9q.
- BunnikTours. "Positive & Negative Impacts of Tourism." *Bunnik Tours*, 2024,
www.bunniktours.com.au/sustainable-tourism/impacts. Accessed 15 Dec. 2024.
- Chappelow, Jim. "Private Sector." *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 25 June 2019,
www.investopedia.com/terms/p/private-sector.asp. Accessed 15 Dec. 2024.
- Ndubisi, Forster, et al. "Environmentally Sensitive Areas: A Template for Developing Greenway Corridors." *Landscape and Urban Planning*, vol. 33, no. 1-3, Oct. 1995, pp. 159–77,
[https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-2046\(94\)02016-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-2046(94)02016-9). Accessed 16 Dec. 2024.
- TIES. "What Is Ecotourism?" *The International Ecotourism Society*, 2019,
ecotourism.org/what-is-ecotourism/. Accessed 16 Dec. 2024.
- UN Tourism. "About UN Tourism." *Unwto.org*, www.unwto.org/who-we-are. Accessed 16 Dec. 2024. Accessed 14 Dec. 2024.
- "History UNWTO." *Www.unwto.org*, www.unwto.org/history#1970. Accessed 14 Dec. 2024.
- UNESCO. "UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List." *Unesco.org*, UNESCO, 2023, whc.unesco.org/en/list/. Accessed 16 Dec. 2024.
- United Nations. "What Are UN Specialized Agencies, and How Many Are There? - Ask DAG!" *Ask.un.org*, ask.un.org/faq/140935. Accessed 14 Dec. 2024.