



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU TOURISME
WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL TURISMO
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ТУРИСТСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
منظمة السياحة العالمية

CAP/CSA/18/DEC
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**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE WTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND THE WTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA AT THEIR EIGHTEENTH JOINT MEETING**

Manila, Philippines, 19 June 2003

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WTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
WTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA
Eighteenth Joint Meeting
Manila, Philippines
19 June 2003

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Communication of the Chairman of the joint meeting
3. Communication of the Co-Chairman of the joint meeting
4. Preliminary Remarks by the WTO Secretary-General
5. Guidelines for the preparation of draft programme of work and budget for the period 2004 – 2005 for the Asia-Pacific region
6. Status of WTO activities following the World Summit on Sustainable Development
7. Other issues
8. Place and date of the nineteenth joint meeting of the Commissions

PREAMBLE

1. The 18th joint meeting of the WTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and the WTO Commission for South Asia was held in Manila, Philippines, on 19 June 2003 at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Philippines. The meeting was held within the framework of the WTO Tourism Week which was held in Manila from 16-20 June 2003.
 2. The meeting was chaired by **Philippines** who called the meeting to order. The meeting was co-chaired by **Bangladesh**.
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DECISIONS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda item 1 (document CAP/CSA/18/Prov.Ag.)

3. After reviewing the provisional agenda, and taking into account that the Preliminary Remarks of the Secretary-General included an update on the transformation of the WTO into a specialised agency of the UN, it was proposed to incorporate provisional agenda item (6) to item (4).
 4. The Commission unanimously approved the request made by the Government of Hong Kong SAR and the representative of UNESCAP to be able to address the floor and a new agenda item (7) "Other issues" was incorporated into the agenda.
 5. The Commission unanimously approved these proposals and the provisional agenda was **adopted** with these modifications. The final agenda of the meeting is located on page 2.
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COMMUNICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Agenda item 2 (document CAP/CSA/18/2)

6. In his Communication, the Chairman expressed his concern at the latest crises such as the war in Iraq and SARS which not only affected the tourism sector, but the airline and retail industries as well, which resulted in a reduction of manpower or closure of businesses in many tourism establishments. He recommended that the meeting of the Commissions should focus on the promotion of greater cooperation and collaboration between its members so as to minimize the negative impacts of the crises. He requested the joint commissions to develop joint cooperative programmes in crisis management as well as to demonstrate its leadership in operationalising a global response to the crises through concrete actions. He also urged the WTO to provide greater assistance to the members with greater support for crisis management programmes in 2004. he also requested WTO to coordinate these programmes with other international organizations.
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