

Plenary Session 2: Panel Discussion Points

1. The COVID-19 crisis raised awareness of the importance of local supply chains and the need to rethink how goods and services are produced and consumed, both key elements of a circular economy. Integrating circularity and further advancing resource efficiency in the tourism value chain represent an opportunity for the tourism sector to embrace a sustainable and resilient pathway (UNWTO). How can countries exploit such opportunities in the tourism sector? What are the key policy and institutional enabling factors?
2. To what extent is the role of circular economy in bringing competitiveness, creating opportunities for innovation, bringing differentiation and diversification of income streams, attracting government and private investments in tourism sector understood?
3. What are the innovative financing and technology choices for circularity in tourism industry?
4. The triple planetary emergencies - climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss – adversely impact tourism activities. How can Asia's tourism sector accelerate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production and circularity towards regenerative ecosystems and biodiversity and climate goals under the Paris Agreement?
5. How can Small Island Developing States (SIDS) integrate 3R and circular economy in their tourism sector? In "S.A.M.O.A. Pathway," the outcome document of the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States, 1-4 Sep 2014, Apia, Samoa, UN member countries have recognized that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation. How can 3R and circular economy contribute towards resilient and sustainable tourism in SIDS?
6. To what extent SIDS consider the adverse economic impacts of plastic wastes in their tourism sector? What benefits do circular economy offer in transforming the whole tourism ecosystem through behavioral change, active public private collaboration and partnerships, inter-governmental cooperation, effective policies and policy instruments and financing?