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Agenda item 15**Proposal by the Dominican Republic: Institutionalization of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit (CAM-CAF) and the creation of a Mechanism for South-South Cooperation**

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**Note by the Secretariat**

By virtue of Rule 5(1)(i) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly Rule, the Dominican Republic has requested the inclusion of this agenda item on the institutionalization of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit (CAM-CAF) and the creation of a Mechanism for South-South Cooperation in the provisional agendas of the 124th session of the Executive Council and of the 26th session of the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION¹

Agenda item 15

Proposal by the Dominican Republic: Institutionalization of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit (CAM-CAF) and the creation of a Mechanism for South-South Cooperation
(document A/26/15 rev.2)

The General Assembly,

Having examined the proposal,

Decides to ...

¹ This is a draft resolution. For the final resolution adopted by the Assembly, please refer to the Resolutions document issued at the end of the session.

I. Proposal by the Dominican Republic

1. On 17 July 2025, the Secretariat received a letter by the Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic proposing to include in the provisional agendas of the 124th session of the Executive Council and of the 26th session of the General Assembly its proposal on the Institutionalization of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit (CAM-CAF) and the creation of a Mechanism for South-South Cooperation.
2. After consultations with the Secretariat, the proposal by the Dominican Republic has been updated as presented in Annex I.

Annex I: Proposal by the Dominican Republic

Proposal for the Institutionalization of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit (CAF-CAM) and the Creation of a Mechanism for South-South Cooperation

I. Executive Summary:

This proposal aims to formally establish the UN Tourism Africa & Americas (CAF-CAM) Summit as a key mechanism for high-level political dialogue between tourism authorities in Africa and the Americas, as well as for strengthening South-South cooperation between the Member States of both UN Tourism Regional Commissions. To this end, it proposes making the Summit an official event on the UN Tourism institutional calendar, along with the creation of a specialized Mechanism, whose operationalization will be centralized at the UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid, Spain, which will be responsible for ensuring effective follow-up on commitments and coordinating cooperation actions in a structured manner.

The initiative responds directly to the mandates established in the Punta Cana Declaration (2024) and reaffirmed at the Livingstone Summit (2025), thus consolidating a sustained process of bi-regional dialogue aimed at transforming tourism into a strategic instrument for sustainable development. Previous experiences demonstrate not only a clear political will, but also the need for a robust institutional architecture to facilitate collaboration and compliance with agreements.

The proposed Mechanism, with institutional support from UN Tourism, will be tasked with operational monitoring of the commitments adopted by CAF and CAM Member States. Its functions will include coordinating successive editions of the Summit, administering a bi-regional marketplace to channel offers and requests for technical cooperation, and facilitating the formalization and implementation of agreements. It will also actively promote the exchange of knowledge and good practices as well as the establishment of strategic alliances with key actors from the private sector, regional economic communities, academia, and civil society.

The strategic vision envisages bi-regional governance with a rotating presidency every two years, supported by a coordinated network of inter-institutional and intersectoral alliances. Likewise, in view of the visionary leadership of the Dominican Republic in the conception and promotion of this bi-regional platform, the designation of the Dominican Republic to the Honorary Founder of the UN Tourism CAF-CAM Summit is recommended. This designation is aimed at consolidating institutional continuity, ensuring strategic leadership and strengthening long-term political commitment to tourism integration between Africa and the Americas.

This proposal seeks to consolidate a horizontal, structured and sustainable cooperation model, which positions tourism as a catalyst for more inclusive, resilient and innovative development in both regions. Among the main expected results are: the consolidation of the CAF-CAM Summit as a permanent forum for political and technical dialogue, the full operation of the Coordination Mechanism, the implementation of a common platform for investment promotion and technical cooperation, the signing of strategic agreements, the execution of bi-regional pilot projects and the strengthening of institutional

capacities. Together, these elements will contribute to positioning Africa and the Americas as strategic partners in the transformation of tourism into an engine of development adapted to the realities and aspirations of the Global South.

II. Justification and Context

This proposal is based on the commitments adopted by the Member States of the UN Tourism Regional Commissions for Africa and for the Americas during the First UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on 2-5 October 2024. This historic meeting marked a milestone in bi-regional cooperation with the adoption of the Punta Cana Declaration, a strategic instrument that sets out a clear and ambitious roadmap towards the creation of a Mechanism for South-South cooperation as a pillar for boosting tourism as an engine for sustainable and inclusive development in both regions.

Far from being a merely symbolic document, the Declaration reflects a firm and shared political will between Africa and the Americas to deepen **specialized technical exchange, attract sustainable investment, strengthen air and land connectivity, promote social inclusion in all its dimensions, advance human capital development for a skilled and resilient workforce, boost cultural heritage and creative industries linked to tourism, accelerate the digital transformation of the sector, and develop innovative tourism products** with a transnational reach.

In line with this shared vision and in order to ensure the continuity and formality of these efforts, it is proposed that the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit be institutionalized as an official permanent biennial event. This space will allow for high-level political dialogue, promote rigorous technical exchange, and provide systematic follow-up on the commitments made. It will also provide a platform to assess progress, identify emerging challenges, and define joint strategic priorities for sustainable tourism and bi-regional cooperation.

As an operational pillar of this architecture, the creation of a CAF-CAM South-South Cooperation Mechanism is proposed, to be based at the UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid, Spain. This Mechanism will play a key role in coordinating strategic actors, coordinating logistics for the biennial summit, and providing technical support for the implementation of agreements derived from the Punta Cana Declaration. This body is expected to facilitate policy alignment, mobilize resources, and strengthen institutional and technical capacities in both regions.

The Mechanism is a structured and effective response to position tourism as a vector for social transformation, economic resilience, interregional integration, and environmental sustainability. Its establishment will make it possible to capitalize on synergies by promoting public-private partnerships, systematically exchanging best practices, identifying joint financing opportunities, and consolidating capacities at the national and local levels, with a strong emphasis on strategic investment mobilization, workforce capacity building, and the creation of innovation ecosystems as reaffirmed in the Punta Cana Declaration.

This initiative is part of the political commitment made by the Member States of Africa and the Americas to move towards a more solid and structured model

of cooperation aimed at the continuous improvement of tourism policies, mutual technical learning, and the joint implementation of strategic actions. The aim is to build a common future for tourism, based on the principles of sustainability, innovation, responsible investment, quality education, fostering resilience, air accessibility and visa facilitation and deep respect for the cultural and natural diversity of both continents.

It should be noted that this proposal gives continuity to the commitments made in Punta Cana and reaffirmed during the second summit held in Livingstone, Zambia. It also projects its implementation towards the third edition of the summit, scheduled to take place in Brazil in 2026, reinforcing its nature as a sustained and dynamic process of political dialogue and technical cooperation between the two regions.

With the institutional support of UN Tourism, this proposal is presented as a catalyst for innovation, regional cohesion, and territorial transformation. It is configured as a key platform for advancing toward effective, replicable cooperation aligned with the priorities of the Global South and the UN Tourism Agenda for Africa – Tourism for Inclusive Growth, promoting investment in enabling infrastructure, quality education and skills development, and sustainable innovation practices as central levers for inclusive growth and resilience while complementing these efforts with targeted analytical tools (such as the regional investment guides) and ongoing capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the skills and institutional readiness of tourism professionals and investment facilitators in both regions.

III. Objectives:

General Objective:

- ✓ To strengthen South-South cooperation in tourism between the Member States of the UN Tourism Regional Commissions for Africa and the Americas, through the institutionalization of a bi-regional mechanism for high-level political dialogue and the creation of a specialized technical structure to facilitate the design, monitoring, and effective implementation of joint initiatives aimed at the sustainable development of the sector.

Specific Objectives:

- Institutionalize the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit as a permanent biennial event, formalizing its frequency and format as the main mechanism for political dialogue between high-level tourism and South-South cooperation authorities in both regions, in continuity with the meetings held in 2024 and 2025.
- Establish a Mechanism specializing in South-South cooperation, attached to the UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid, responsible for coordinating the follow-up to the agreements emanating from the Summit, facilitating the systematic exchange of good practices, implementation of learning and capacity building initiatives managing technical cooperation initiatives, and strengthening the institutional capacities of Member States in sustainable tourism.

- Promote the exchange of knowledge and successful experiences, promoting the systematization and dissemination of public policies, strategies, and projects in areas such as sustainable tourism development smart destinations, , support for tourism entrepreneurship, international promotion, cross-continental investment attraction and facilitation (including the Biennial Africa-Americas Investment Conference and the flagship *Tourism Doing Business* Guidelines initiative), air connectivity and visa facilitation, and strengthening tourism resilience, based on lessons learned during previous summits.
- Foster workforce development, digital skills, and high-quality education through joint programmes and the establishment of cross-regional learning structures and follow up capacity building workshops for sustainable, inclusive and smart tourism, while supporting tourism entrepreneurs through cross-regional innovation competitions and mentoring that enhance their skills, creativity, and capacity to develop sustainable and competitive tourism solutions.
- Promote the development of joint technical cooperation projects, identifying common challenges and strategic opportunities for both regions, with a focus on sustainability, digitalization, training, social inclusion, and territorial innovation, and promoting the implementation of initiatives aligned with the agreements signed and partnerships established within the framework of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit.
- Consolidate a space for bi-regional political consultation, strengthening the coordination of common strategies on tourism between the Member States of Africa and the Americas, contributing to the formulation of joint positions in multilateral forums and reinforcing tourism diplomacy within the framework of structured, equitable and transformative cooperation.

IV. Components or Lines of Action

Component 1: CAF-CAM Bi-regional Governance

- Institutionalize the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit as an official, pluralistic, biennial mechanism for high-level political and technical dialogue between Africa and the Americas.
- Establish a bi-regional governance structure, with a rotating presidency every two years between the two regions, to ensure balance, co-responsibility, and continuity of the process.
- Create the CAF-CAM South–South Cooperation Mechanism, based at the UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid, to coordinate actions, provide technical assistance, and facilitate the fulfilment of commitments.

Evaluate the results achieved by the initiative within the framework of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit, which will be convened biennially in accordance with the rotation principle between the two regions. However, regular monitoring and follow-up will be ensured on a yearly

basis by the Chairpersons of CAF and CAM who will be invited to attend, respectively, the meetings of the UN Tourism Regional Commissions for the Americas and Africa to be held annually.

- Promote spaces for consultation through regular meetings between ministers, deputy ministers, and strategic actors in the tourism sector, aimed at decision-making and follow-up on agreements.

Component 2: South-South CAF-CAM Investment Promotion Platform

- Support the development of an Investment Promotion Platform which will showcase opportunities identified through the *Tourism Doing Business Guidelines* and foster cross-continental flows of tourism capital between Africa and Americas.
- Encourage participation in this cooperation exchange platform by CAF-CAM Member States, as well as strategic actors in the tourism ecosystem, including public agencies, private entities, academic institutions, regional and international organizations, and local communities.
- Encourage the exchange of technical cooperation offers in the fields of tourism investment promotion, workforce training, and innovation ecosystems, as reaffirmed in the Punta Cana Declaration.

Component 3: Facilitation of the signing of CAF-CAM technical cooperation agreements for innovation, education, enhanced connectivity, safety and security and intercultural exchanges

- Proactively identify opportunities for technical collaboration between countries in Africa and the Americas, prioritizing those aligned with the objectives of sustainability, innovation, and resilience.
- Support the negotiation and formalization of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements between CAF-CAM Member States.
- Facilitate effective coordination between technical teams to ensure the timely, coherent, and strategic implementation of established agreements.
- Prioritize agreements that foster public-private partnerships, investment incentives, and access to innovative financing mechanisms, as well as joint educational and innovation initiatives.
- Promote the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships between public, private, and academic entities, with a focus on investment facilitation, mobilization of financial resources, and alignment with the Africa-Americas Tourism Investment Conference.

Component 4: Education and Human Capital Development

- Promote the identification of key challenges and best practices related to sustainable, inclusive and smart tourism.
- Foster the establishment of a CAF-CAM twinning mechanism,

workshops and capacity building programmes for Member States facing similar challenges. This mechanism will facilitate the sharing of experiences, mutual learning and collaboration towards common objectives, as well as capacity building supported by UN Tourism.

- Encourage communication training and capacity building for the positioning of the destinations.
- Boost access to tourism education for human capital development and qualified workforce in Africa and the Americas through the delivery of the UN Tourism Online Academy Scholarships.

V. Key Actors and Strategic Partners

Key Actors:

- UN Tourism: It will be responsible for leading the implementation of the bi-regional governance structure, coordinating the operation of the South-South Cooperation Mechanism, and facilitating the development of key tools such as the Investment Promotion Platform. It will also promote coordination between public, private, and community actors, ensuring the technical and political coherence of initiatives and promoting the international visibility of bi-regional cooperation between Africa and the Americas.
- UN Tourism Member States in Africa and the Americas: They will constitute the political and technical core of the CAF-CAM process, taking an active role in defining priorities, formulating joint projects, and making strategic decisions. Their participation will be essential to consolidate the institutionalization of the Summit as a space for bi-regional consultation, as well as to ensure the effective implementation of the agreements reached. Through the rotating presidency and the designation of technical focal points, Member States will ensure co-responsibility, regional balance, and continuity of the process, strengthening tourism integration and South-South cooperation from a transformative perspective.

Strategic Partners:

- Regional and International Organizations: They will play a fundamental role as strategic allies in coordinating bi-regional technical cooperation, providing technical and financial support to priority projects within the framework of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit. Their participation will make it possible to align initiatives with regional strategic frameworks and facilitate synergies with other multilateral platforms, promoting more integrated, coherent, and high-impact cooperation.
- International Cooperation Agencies: They will contribute to strengthening the institutional capacities of Member States by financing projects, providing specialized technical assistance, and transferring knowledge and good practices in sustainable tourism. Their experience in managing development programmes and their capacity to mobilize resources will be key to promoting transformative

initiatives that respond to the common challenges of Africa and the Americas.

- Private Sector and Business Chambers: They will play an active role in revitalizing the technical cooperation ecosystem as providers and receivers of innovative solutions. Their involvement will help drive the digitalization of the tourism sector, encourage responsible investment in emerging and established destinations, and promote public-private partnerships aimed at sustainable development, competitiveness, and resilience in tourism in both regions.
- Civil Society Organizations: They will bring an inclusive and territorially rooted perspective to cooperation processes, promoting citizen participation, gender equality, youth, and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of projects. In addition, they will perform social monitoring and citizen oversight functions, contributing to the transparency, accountability, and sustainability of the actions promoted within the framework of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit.
- Local Communities: They will be protagonists and direct beneficiaries of technical cooperation initiatives, playing a key role in the sustainable management of tourist destinations and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage. Their participation will ensure that projects respond to local realities and aspirations, strengthening inclusive territorial development and community empowerment as pillars of sustainable tourism in Africa and the Americas.

The incorporation of regional observers or permanent guests will also be explored, to contribute to enriching the bi-regional political and technical dialogue.

Regional and subregional cooperation platforms and networks—such as SICA, CARICOM, Mercosur, and the African Union, AUDA-NEPAD, AFRAA among others—will be key strategic allies in strengthening the CAF-CAM mechanism. Their formal coordination will generate institutional synergies, avoid operational duplication, and leverage consolidated lessons learned in regional integration, tourism mobility, and technical cooperation.

VI. Beneficiaries

The proposal to institutionalize the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit and create its bi-regional technical structure will generate tangible and sustainable benefits for various key actors in the tourism ecosystem in Africa and the Americas:

- UN Tourism Member States in Africa and the Americas: They will be the main beneficiaries, as they will have a permanent mechanism for political dialogue and South-South technical cooperation that will strengthen their institutional capacities, facilitate the design and implementation of innovative public policies, and promote greater regional coordination on sustainable tourism.
- Tourism Sector Companies: The private sector will benefit from a

more conducive environment for investment, innovation, and the articulation of interregional strategic alliances. Through the platform and technical cooperation agreements, companies will be able to access new business opportunities, knowledge transfer, skills strengthening, and market expansion.

- Local, Rural, and Coastal Communities: The initiative will have a direct impact on territories, promoting inclusive development through community tourism, the enhancement of cultural and natural identity, the creation of decent jobs, and community participation in tourism governance. Territorial equity and climate resilience will be prioritized, ensuring the participation of rural, border, coastal, and indigenous territories in all phases of the process: from the formulation of agreements to the execution of projects.

VII. Expected Results

RESULT 1: Outline the framework to institutionalize the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit and creation of a bi-regional governance structure.

Official recognition of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit as a permanent, pluralistic, biennial forum for political and technical dialogue between Africa and the Americas, under the framework of UN Tourism. Establishment of a bi-regional governance structure with a rotating presidency every two years and creation of a CAF-CAM South–South Cooperation Mechanism, with operational and functional presence centralized in the UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid.

RESULT 2: Launch of the CAF-CAM Investment Promotion Platform.

Development of an interactive platform intended to foster synergies and investment opportunities among member countries of the two continents. Cross-continental investment promotion will be further consolidated through the biennial Africa-Americas Investment Conference and the systematic publication of country-specific *Tourism Doing Business* Guidelines. This will result in increased bilateral and multilateral investment projects in tourism infrastructure, services, and enabling technologies.

RESULT 3: Facilitation of the signing of Technical Cooperation Agreements.

Identification of opportunities for technical cooperation between Africa and the Americas, promoting the signing of bilateral and multilateral agreements within the framework of the Summits and through the Investment Promotion Platform. Strategic alliances between public, private, and academic institutions will be also encouraged and facilitated to strengthen bi-regional collaboration in priority sectors of sustainable tourism.

RESULT 4: Enhanced human capital development and workforce competitiveness through cross-regional learning structure and joint education programmes, fostering digital skills and entrepreneurship.

Implementation of coordinated CAF–CAM programmes focused on workforce development, digital skills, and capacity-building, aimed at strengthening professional competencies in sustainable and smart tourism

VIII. Governance Structure

Level	Responsible Entity	Main Functions
Global	UN Tourism – Headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall strategic oversight - Alignment with the global mandate - International visibility of the CAF-CAM mechanism
Bi-regional political level	Honorary Founder (Dominican Republic)	Strategic oversight, vision, and legacy
	CAF-CAM Presidency (rotating every two years)	Operational representation and rotating political leadership of the Summit (CAF-CAM Presidency)

IX. Conditions and Requirements for the activation of the CAF-CAM Mechanism and Initiative

- 1- **Stipulation and signature of the Agreement** with the designated host country, rotating between Africa and the Americas, for the organization of the UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit, to be convened on a biennial basis
- 2- **Identification and allocation of financial and human resources** within UN Tourism for the development and management of the CAF-CAM initiative and the Investment Promotion Platform
- 3- **Mobilization of extra-budgetary funds** to facilitate the implementation of activities undertaken in the sidelines of the CAF-CAM framework.

X. Initial Timeline

Activity	Description	Estimated date
1. Request for inclusion on the agenda of the 124th Executive Council of UN Tourism - Nov. 2025	Submission of an official letter entitled “Proposal for the creation of a mechanism to strengthen South-South cooperation between the Member States of the Regional Commissions of Africa (CAF) and the Americas (CAM)”, at the request of the Dominican Republic in its capacity as Chair of the CAM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2025
2. Finalization of the comprehensive technical proposal	Review and validation of the final document to be shared with Member States, including objectives, components, timetable, expected results, and governance structure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2025

3. Official presentation of the proposal	Presentation by the delegation of the Dominican Republic during the 124th Executive Council of UN Tourism, with the aim of submitting the proposal for official consideration and requesting its inclusion in the UN Tourism Programme of Work for 2026-2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2025
4. Approval of the proposal	Approval of the proposal by the UN Tourism General Assembly, at the recommendation of the Executive Council, based on the consensus reached with Member States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2025
5. Establishment of the CAF-CAM Cooperation Mechanism	Creation of the Mechanism based at UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid responsible for coordinating its development implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2025 – First quarter of 2026
6. 3 rd UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit in Brazil	Delivery of the third edition of the Summit under the current format and operational framework in 2026, in Brazil, in line with the country's commitment expressed during the 2 nd UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit held in Livingstone, Zambia (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First half of 2026
7. Development and activation of the Investment Promotion Platform	Design and launch of the interactive Investment Promotion Platform to channel tourism investment opportunities and foster public-private synergies among member countries of the two regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second half of 2026
8. Establishment of strategic alliances and launch pilot projects	Signing of agreements with strategic partners (multilateral organizations, cooperation agencies, private sector) and implementation of demonstration initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2027
9. UN Tourism Africa & Americas Summit under the new institutional mechanism	Organization of a high-level summit under the new institutional structure, with the participation of Member States and presentation of progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2028

Evaluation Periods

Type of evaluation	Frequency	Responsible
Review and evaluate interim and mid-term results at the annual UN Tourism Regional Commissions for Africa and the Americas	Yearly	CAF and CAM Chairpersons
Assess concrete outcomes and actions emanating from the	Biannual	CAF and CAM Member States

decisions of last session of the Summit		
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