



MARCH 2020

OPEN LETTER FROM THE WORLD TRAVEL & TOURISM COUNCIL (WTTC)

No one can doubt that we are in uncharted territory. The coronavirus pandemic means the world is facing a threat on multiple fronts not seen in peacetime. The Travel & Tourism sector is uniquely exposed, and we estimate 50 million jobs globally are at risk. To put it bluntly, Travel & Tourism is in a fight for survival.

Travel is the backbone of economies around the world. It brings in essential currency and inward investment, creates jobs and stimulates every sector. WTTC figures show Travel & Tourism contributes to 10.4% of Global GDP and 320 million jobs. It is responsible of creating one in five new jobs and, for eight successive years, has outpaced the growth of the global economy.

Without Travel & Tourism, economies around the world face an existential threat.

To counter this, WTTC, which represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector, is calling upon governments of all countries to take immediate action to help ensure the survival of this critical job-creating sector. Not soon. Not in a few weeks. **NOW**. Any delay will be costed in millions of lost jobs and almost incalculable damage worldwide.

Now is the time to take action. We propose three vital measures, which in addition to recovery funds, will protect the survival of the millions of people who rely on Travel & Tourism for their livelihoods and welfare in the turbulent weeks and months ahead:

1. Financial help must be granted to protect the incomes of the millions of workers in the sector facing severe economic difficulties.
2. Governments must extend vital, unlimited interest-free loans to global Travel & Tourism companies as well as the millions of small and medium sized businesses as a stimulus to prevent them from collapse.
3. All government taxes, dues and financial demands on the travel sector need to be waived with immediate effect at least for the next 12 months.

Travel & Tourism companies are playing their part to protect their employees.

Together, these measures could save a sector which is already facing collapse.

We are calling upon the world to take urgent and immediate action to prevent this global health crisis becoming a worldwide economic catastrophe. Doing nothing is not an option.

We implore every government to take drastic and decisive action now to preserve and protect the contribution of the Travel & Tourism sector, on which more than 320 million people and their families depend on for their livelihoods.

Yours sincerely,

GLORIA GUEVARA
President & CEO

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector. Members include over 200 CEOs, Chairpersons and Presidents of the world's leading Travel & Tourism companies from all geographies, covering all industries. For 30 years, WTTC has conducted research to quantify the economic impact of Travel & Tourism in 185 countries and 25 regions. For more info visit: WTTC.ORG

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