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Credo: The Columbia Charter

International Institute for Peace Through Tourism

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Credo

THE COLUMBIA CHARTER


OBSERVES that tourism is a worldwide social and cultural phenomenon involving people of all nations as hosts and guests;

ASSERTS that tourism is a fundamental human activity involving social, cultural, religious, economic, environmental, educational, and political values and responsibilities;

ACKNOWLEDGES that tourism is growing more rapidly than other economic sectors;

CAUTIONS that the world has reached the critical crossroads in the earth's history demanding responsive strategies that address the political, economic, and environmental problems facing humankind;

DEPLORES developments where tourism can cause turmoil, conflict, or other stresses resulting from the exploitation of the world's natural and cultural resources;

MAINTAINS that the monitoring, protection, preservation, and wise use of the environment and ecological balance is essential to the future of tourism;

CONDEMNS all situations that deny or inhibit in any way the full exercise of human and civil rights as stated in the United Nations charter;

EXPRESSES the urgent reality that peace is an essential precondition for tourism and all other aspects of sustainable human growth and cultural development;

RECOGNIZES that human understanding increases through face-to-face communication and positive interaction between people, especially at the community level;

REMINDS that tourists are both teachers and students whose classroom is the world;

REINFORCES the hope that tourism will nurture conditions through which people can co-exist, share their beliefs, appreciate each other's
cultures, and develop friendships;

NOTES that government, academic, and private-sector leaders have identified and supported the potential of tourism as an influencing force for global peace through respect for human dignity, cultural diversity, and the natural environment that supports all life;

SOLEMNLY CALLS upon all nations, governmental bodies, organizations, and individuals to eliminate war, terrorism, and injustice, stop the arms race, free hostages, and shape new policies to guide public and private-sector initiatives to build a world that works for everyone and in which tourism promotes mutual understanding, trust, and goodwill; reduces economic inequities; develops in an integrated manner with the full participation of local host communities; improves the quality of life; protects and preserves the environmental, both built and natural, and other resources; and contributes to the world conservation strategy of sustainable development.

"The First Global Conference: Tourism--A Vital Force for Peace" RESOLVES to implement the conference recommendations and initiatives through responsible action undertaken individually, through our interrelated roles as tourists, hosts, and world citizens, guided by the Credo of the Peaceful Traveler; Collectively, through the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism and the Columbia Club; and through such other strategies required to reach the goal of world peace through tourism.