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Quadrennial reports, 1994-1997/1995-1998, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31**Note by the Secretary-General****Addendum****Contents**

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(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Introduction

This report covers the work of the International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH&RA) in support of United Nations activities, specifically in relation to the impact of tourism on the physical, economic and social environment. In partnership with other United Nations agencies and representative associations, IH&RA seeks to raise awareness of these issues through the development, publication and dissemination of industry-specific information and guidelines, awards, training materials and programmes.

The International Hotel and Restaurant Association is a not-for-profit organization and the only organization exclusively devoted to defending, promoting and informing the hotel and restaurant industry throughout the world. Representing over 750,000 hospitality operators, it is a global network of national hotel and restaurant associations, national and international hotel chains, individual operators, suppliers and hotel schools. The hospitality industry is estimated to comprise over 300,000 hotels and 8 million restaurants worldwide, to employ 60 million people and contribute US\$ 950 billion to the global economy.

The establishment in 1996 of regional offices in Hong Kong, to cover the Asia/Pacific area, and in Mexico, to cover Latin America, has boosted membership

generally in those regions. In addition, a number of national associations in the Middle East have joined since 1995. Membership currently stands at 2,400 in over 150 countries, including 119 national hotel and restaurant associations, 37 national and international hotel chains and 130 hotel schools.

In 1996, the International Hotel Association (IHA) voted formally to include "Restaurant" in its title and became the International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH&RA).

The Association continues to be funded by membership dues, the organization of events and sponsorship. The creation in 1996 of EURHOTEC, IH&RA's annual European Hospitality Technology Show, has provided a new source of revenue and improved activity levels.

IH&RA is not affiliated to any international non-governmental organization in consultative status. However, it is an affiliate member of the World Tourism Organization through its World Business Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

The appointment in 1995 of a permanent IH&RA representative to the United Nations has enabled the Association to monitor United Nations activities more closely and to develop contacts with the Secretariat. An IH&RA representative attended the following: World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995); 1995 World Congress (New York, 11-12 May); ECOSOC Meeting of Governmental Representatives (New York, August 1995); NGO/UN Partnership meeting (New York, 20 November 1995); World Summit to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, August 1996); International Labour Organization, Tripartite Meeting on the Effects of New Technologies on Employment and Working Conditions in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector (Geneva, 12-16 May 1997); World Health Organization Conference on Health Promotion (Jakarta, July 1997); 50th annual NGO Conference (New York, 10-12 September 1997); Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, April 1998).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

United Nations Environment Programme

IH&RA joint activities with UNEP include convening of an Asia/Pacific Environment Forum (in Phuket, Thailand) in October 1995, with the International Hotels Environment Initiative (IHEI); publication, with IHEI, of the *Environmental Action Pack for Hotels* translated into French and Spanish; judging of the IH&RA Environmental Award, nominating an independent and corporate "Green Hotelier of the Year", in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998; publication in 1995 and 1996 of *Environmental Good Practice in Hotels*, case studies from award entries. A second edition, with case studies from the 1998 and 1999 Awards, is planned for the early 2000; survey of hospitality educational institutes, undertaken in 1996, determining the need for an environmental teaching resource pack, subsequently designed with UNEP and the International Association of Hotel School Directors.

World Health Organization

IH&RA participated in the WHO Global Health Promotion Alliance and has participated in meetings in Geneva since 1997. In 1998, UNAIDS work with IH&RA to develop industry guidelines for responding to AIDS in the workplace was its first partnership with a global trade association to address this pandemic. *The Challenges of HIV/AIDS: A Guide for the Hospitality Industry*, published in 1999, will be reprinted in 2000 with support from ESCAP.

UNICEF Youth Career Development Programme

IH&RA participated in the *Youth Career Development Programme* launched jointly in 1995 by Singapore-based Pan-Pacific Hotels and Resorts and UNICEF, to provide deprived young people with basic hotel skills. Between 1995 and 1997, 120 young women benefited from the programme. In 1998, the IH&RA charity *Foundation for the Future* contributed 4,830 Swiss francs (\$3,500) to the Programme which has since expanded to the Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh. IH&RA plans to work in close partnership with UNAIDS and UNICEF in 2000 to launch further joint initiatives in this area.

World Tourism Organization

IH&RA is a founding member and regular contributor to the WTO Task Force to Combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, comprising travel industry partners End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, established in 1996. Throughout the four-year period, IH&RA contributed to the WTO's work on statistics and more recently to work on the establishment of the WTO Tourism Satellite Account.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

In November 1997, IH&RA entered into a cooperation agreement to encourage hotel chains worldwide to participate in the UNESCO "Memories of the Future" programme by attracting tourism to UNESCO cultural heritage sites via their marketing campaigns.

International Labour Organization

IH&RA organized extensive hotel industry consultation in preparation for the Tripartite Meeting on the Effects of New Technologies on Employment and Working Conditions in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector and widely circulated its outcome.

World Intellectual Property Organization

IH&RA has observer status at WIPO and regularly monitors its activities.

Other relevant activities

At its annual congress in Mexico City in 1996, IH&RA passed a resolution condemning the sexual exploitation of children in any form or manner. IH&RA then set up its own internal task force in 1996 and developed a brochure to raise awareness and offer guidelines to associations and hoteliers on combating child sex tourism. This has been widely distributed to associations and operators.