H.E. Shinzo Abe  
Prime Minister  
Japan  

Cc:  
H.E. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Kazuyoshi Akaba, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

4 August 2020

A call for your personal engagement and leadership to recover global Travel & Tourism

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the global Travel & Tourism private sector, we thank you for the measures your government has implemented to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to support our sector during the worst crisis of our generation.

Japan has a proud history of showing leadership when the world needed it the most. We are now requesting your urgent personal engagement and leadership to ensure international collaboration and alignment that is desperately needed for the recovery of the Travel & Tourism sector. As you will be aware, Travel & Tourism has been a critical catalyst for economic growth, and is responsible for 330 million jobs, or one in ten jobs globally, and 10.3% of global GDP (USD 8.9 trillion).

The restart and recovery of Travel & Tourism, and its associated economic and social benefits, is highly dependent on rebuilding traveller confidence and consistent alignment amongst countries.

According to medical experts we can protect lives and recover the economy by supporting travelling and the application of the following four measures in a global consistent way:

1. Wearing a mask: This should be mandatory on all modes of transport throughout the entire traveller journey, as well as when visiting any interior venue and in locations where there is restricted movement which results in close personal contact and required physical distancing cannot be
maintained. According to medical evidence, such measures can reduce the risk of the spread by up to 92%.

2. **Testing and contact tracing** – We need extensive, rapid and reliable testing before departure and/or after arrival (symptomatic and asymptomatic would-be travellers), supported by effective contact tracing tools. The application of multiple tests will help to isolate infected people.

3. **Quarantine for positive tests only**: Quarantine for healthy travellers should not be necessary and damage the economy if testing and effective containment measures are in place before departure and/or after arrival. This can replace blanket quarantine in a more targeted and effective way significantly reducing the negative impact on jobs and the economy.

4. **Reinforcing global protocols and standardise measures**: The adoption of global health and safety protocols will help rebuild traveller confidence and ensure a consistent, coordinated and aligned approach of the travel experience in addition to significantly reducing the risk of infection. We also support the Public Health Corridor Concept which promotes a clean and safe end-to-end journey.

We are convinced that our leaders of the G-7 can rescue the world from this unprecedented crisis by acting in an effective and coordinated way that will allow us to bring back more than 120m jobs and livelihoods affected. We are calling on the leaders of the G7, plus Australia, The Republic of Korea and Spain (as ten of the top global tourism source markets) to work together to commit to and deliver the measures needed.

You have understandably focused on your important domestic priorities during the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic but now the hope and the future of the world is in your expert hands as one of the most important global leaders we have. With power comes the responsibility of global leadership and now is the time to act.

We are sending a similar letter to the Leader of the Opposition, in the firm belief that this is a non-partisan issue, requiring their full support and commitment to your actions to help us during these difficult times.

**Can we count on your leadership?**

We intend to make public on Monday 10 August our proposals and requests to the ten governments. We therefore respectfully request your response to this letter before Friday 7 August, so that we can confirm your personal engagement and the commitment of your government.

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1 Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

The Harlequin Building, 65 Southwark St, London SE1 0HR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7481 8007 · Email: enquiries@wttc.org

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We already work very well with your Minister of Tourism and we kindly ask you to nominate an additional senior Minister of Foreign Affairs or similar to join his efforts and support the recovery of the sector, whilst also delivering the unquestionable benefits of the measures that we have proposed.

We urge these selected ministers of the ten countries to hold an urgent COVID-19 global summit on restarting Travel & Tourism to deliver a coordinated action plan with immediate impact.

WTTC, its Members and the entire Travel & Tourism industry, are fully committed to support you and your government colleagues in this endeavour of resolving the worst crisis of our generation.

Thank you in advance and with our highest respects,

Gloria Guevara Manzo
President & CEO
WTTC

Christopher J Nassetta
President & CEO,
Hilton
Chairman, WTTC

Hiromi Tagawa
Former Chairman
JTB Corp

Arne Sorenson
CEO & President
Marriott International

Keith Barr
CEO
InterContinental Hotels Group

Peter Kern
CEO & Vice Chairman
Expedia Group

Sébastien Bazin
CEO
Accor

Federico J. González
CEO
Radisson Hotel Group

Mark Hoplamazian
President & CEO
Hyatt Hotels Corporation

Brett Tollman
CEO
The Travel Corporation

Paul Abbott
CEO
American Express Global Business Travel

Gary Chapman
President
Emirates Group

The Harlequin Building, 65 Southwark St, London SE1 9HR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7481 8007 · Email: enquiries@wttc.org
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Approved by

Kenichi Yoshikawa
President & CEO
Bricks. Corporation

Kurt Ekert
President & CEO
Carlson Wagonlit Travel

Gabriel Escarrer Jaume
CEO & Executive Vice Chairman
Melia Hotels International

J.D. O’Hara
CEO
Internova Travel Group (Formerly Travel Leaders)

Matthew Upchurch
President & CEO
Virtuoso

Goh Choon Phong
CEO
Singapore Airlines

Álex Cruz
CEO & Chairman
British Airways

Desirée Bollier
Chair & Chief Merchant
Value Retail

Mario Hardy
CEO
Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)

Clement K.M. Kwok
Managing Director & CEO
The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Limited

Hamish Keith
Group CEO
EXO Travel

Budi Tirtawisata
CEO
Panorama Group

Gordon Wilson
President
WorldReach Software

Luis Felipe de Oliveira
Director General
Airports Council International

Luis Gallego Martin
Chairman & CEO
Iberia

Enrique Ybarra
CEO, President & Founder
City Sightseeing Worldwide

Dr. Michael Frenzel
President
Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry

Tony Douglas
Group CEO
Etihad Aviation Group

Greg Webb
CEO
Travelport

Geoffrey J W Kent
Co Chairman & Founder
Abercrombie & Kent Group

The Harlequin Building, 65 Southwark St, London SE1 OHR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7481 8007 · Email: enquiries@wrtc.org
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Approved by

Manfredi Lefebvre
Co Chairman & CEO
Abercrombie & Kent Group

Paul Griffiths
CEO
Dallas Fort Worth International Airport

Sean Donohue
President
Duty Free World Council

Sarah Branquino
President
Dubai Airports

Kimmo Miäki
President & CEO
Finavia Corporation

Deborah Flint
President & CEO
Greater Toronto Airports Authority

Shirley Tan
CEO
Rajawali Property Group

Seow Hian Lee
CEO
Changi Airport Group

Kim Day
CEO
Denver International Airport

Graham Turner
CEO
Flight Centre Limited

Sabina Fluxà
CEO & Vice-Chairman
Ibberostar

Friedrich Joussen
CEO
TUI Group

Eduardo López-Puertas
Managing Director
IFEMA-Feria de Madrid

Luis García Codrón
CEO
Europamundo Vacaciones

Alex Zozaya
Executive Chairman
Apple Leisure Group

Peter De Wilde
President
European Travel Commission

Gabriele Burgio
President & CEO
Alpitour World

Darrell Wade
Co-founder & Chairman
Intrepid Group

Shai Weiss
CEO
Virgin Atlantic

Ed Sims
President & CEO
Westjet

The Harlequin Building, 65 Southwark St, London SE1 0HR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7481 8007 · Email: enquiries@wrtc.org
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Page 5 of 8
Dee Waddell
Global Managing Director
IBM

Andrea Grisdale
CEO
IC Bellagio

John Wasson
President & CEO
ICF

Zachary Rabinor
CEO
Journey Mexico

Eric Resnick
CEO
KSL Capital Partners

Hugo Desenzani
CEO
Libertador Hoteles, Resorts & Spas

Amanda Hills
President
MMGYHills
Balfour

Ritesh Agarwal
Founder and Group CEO
OYO Hotels and Homes

Gibran CHAPUR
Executive Vice President
Palace Resorts

Aileen Clemente
Chairman & President
Rajah Travel Corporation

Nick Pilbeam
Divisional Director
Reed Exhibitions Ltd

Jerry Noonan
Co-founder, Global Hospitality
Spencer Stuart

Ronnie Gurion
Global Head
Uber

Ian Swain
President & CEO
Swain Destinations

Gaurav Bhatnagar
Co-founder & Managing Director
TBO Group

Ian Ford
Founder & CEO
Undercover Tourist

David Green
CEO
V&A Waterfront