The Hon Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515

August 4, 2020

Dear Madam Speaker

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

First, we wish to thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented and difficult times and for your cooperation with the United States government. The travel and tourism sector globally has been devastated with 120 million jobs impacted and the livelihoods of their many dependents. This situation calls for unprecedented collaboration within countries, internationally and between the public and private sectors to recover travel and tourism and the global economy.

We are writing to inform you that we have written to the President to seek his urgent personal engagement and commitment to ensure the proactive international collaboration and alignment that is desperately needed. In the firm belief that this is a non-partisan issue, we are asking you for the same personal engagement and commitment to work with and support the President and the government on this issue. The US has a proud history of coming together when the world needs it most.

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). Moreover, Travel & Tourism is a strong vehicle for inclusive development – up to 80% of the sector is comprised of SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises), almost 50% of tourism employees are women, with up to 70% of tourism business owners being women in a number of countries. Typically the sector has a significantly higher proportion of youth employment than other sectors.

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

This matter is truly of outstanding importance and urgency to the future well-being of literally billions of people around the world. As such, we have sent similar requests to all the heads of government of the ten major source markets for international Travel & Tourism as well as to the leaders of the opposition, in the firm belief that this is a non-partisan issue requiring full support, coordination and commitment.

**Can we count on your commitment?**

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1 Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
We intend to make public on Monday 10 August our proposals and requests to the ten governments. We urge the selected countries to hold an urgent COVID-19 global summit on restarting Travel & Tourism to deliver a coordinated action plan with immediate impact.

We therefore respectfully request your response to this letter before Friday 7 August, so that we can confirm your personal engagement to work with the US government in a non-partisan way to re-start the travel and tourism sector and rebuild the economy while still maintaining public health.

WTTC and all our Members are fully committed to support the United States and other countries globally 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

Peter Kern
CEO & Vice Chairman, Expedia Group

Arne Sorenson
CEO & President, Marriott International

Keith Barr
CEO, InterContinental Hotels Group

Mark Hoplamazian
President & CEO, Hyatt Hotels Corporation

Federico J. González
CEO, Radisson Hotel Group

Sean Donohue
CEO, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport

Approved by

Kurt Ekert
President & CEO, Carlson Wagonlit Travel

Paul Abbott
CEO, American Express Global Business Travel

Alex Zozaya
Executive Chairman, Apple Leisure Group

J.D. O’Hara
CEO, Internova Travel Group (Formerly Travel Leaders)
Clement K.M. Kwok
Managing Director & CEO
The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Limited

Puneet Chhatwal
CEO & Managing Director
Indian Hotels Company

Friedrich Joussen
CEO
TUI Group

Ian Ford
Founder & CEO
Undercover Tourist

Shai Weiss
CEO
Virgin Atlantic

Gabriele Burgio
President & CEO
Alpitour World

Seow Hiang Lee
CEO
Changi Airport Group

Luis García Codrón
CEO
Europamundo Vacaciones

Peter De Wilde
President
European Travel Commission

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

Kellan Florio
Managing Director
Goldman Sachs

Tobias Ragge
CEO
HRS Group

Eduardo López-Puertas
Managing Director
IFEMA-Feria de Madrid

David Green
CEO
V&A Waterfront

Robin Ingle
Chairman & CEO
Ingle International Inc.

Darrell Wade
Co-founder & Chairman
Intrepid Group

Steve Heapy
CEO
Jet2.com and Jet2holidays

Hiromi Tagawa
Former Chairman
JTB Corp

Juan Espadas Cejas
Mayor of Seville
Turismo de Sevilla

James Riley
Group CEO
Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

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