The UN Sustainable Development Goals set a path towards the pursuit of global sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and were agreed among 193 countries in September 2015. The 17 goals and 169 targets will guide the decisions that countries take over the years to 2030 in order to help them achieve strong economic foundations and a better future.

Goal 12 focuses on sustainable consumption and production (and specifically calls out a role for Travel & Tourism). Within the Goal, 12.6, aims to “Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.”

Regardless of revenue, employee count, or geographic reach, and even whether they realise it or not, every organisation has a sustainability strategy. Part of that strategy will include actions undertaken to meet compliance requirements, common sense good business practices, such as engaging with guests, suppliers, and communities, or process efficiency measures that have corollary environmental benefits.

WTTC has produced this report on sustainability reporting to help Travel & Tourism companies understand the key concepts behind reporting, to provide an outlook on the regulations and trends that are driving this practice forward within countries, among investors, from stock exchanges and from various other stakeholders, and to identify the implications and opportunities for the sector.

With Travel & Tourism companies slightly less likely than those in other industry sectors to report on non-financial measures, the report also provides best practice guidance on how to approach reporting. It also delivers detailed briefs for eight critical issues for Travel & Tourism: Climate Change, Community, Energy, Governance, Risk & Compliance, Supply Chain, Waste Generation and Diversion, Water and Workforce.

As regulatory and market pressures continue to increase the need for reporting prevalence, depth, and quality, companies of all sizes – and both public and private – also have a story that can tell about how their responsible practises benefit their stakeholders. Reporting on these formally enables companies to connect the dots among various activities across their organisation, and create continuous improvement opportunities.