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Credo: The Columbia Charter

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Credo

THE COLUMBIA CHARTER

"The First Global Conference: Tourism--A Vital Force for Peace,"
convened in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, October 23-27, 1988,

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;

CONDEMNNS 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.