



LEGAL REGULATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

Bostonova Shirin Alisherovna

Student, Tashkent State University of Law,
Faculty of International law and comparative law

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 30 th December 2025 Accepted: 28 th February 2026	Tourism has become one of the most dynamic and rapidly developing sectors of the global economy. It significantly contributes to economic growth, employment generation, cultural exchange, and international cooperation. The development of tourism requires effective legal regulation and coordinated policies between states. International tourism involves the movement of people, capital, services, and information across national borders, which creates the need for comprehensive legal frameworks governing tourism relations. This article examines the legal regulation of cooperation between states in the field of tourism and analyzes the role of international legal instruments, bilateral and multilateral agreements, and international organizations in the regulation of tourism activities. The research also explores the importance of harmonizing national tourism legislation with international legal standards and promoting sustainable tourism development. Particular attention is given to the protection of tourists' rights, environmental sustainability, and the role of legal mechanisms in ensuring responsible tourism practices. The article concludes that strengthening international legal cooperation and improving tourism governance are essential for ensuring the sustainable development of global tourism.

Keywords: international tourism law, tourism regulation, interstate cooperation, tourism policy, international agreements, sustainable tourism, tourism governance, tourism legislation

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is widely recognized as one of the most important sectors of the modern global economy. Over the past several decades, the tourism industry has experienced remarkable growth and transformation due to globalization, technological progress, improved transportation systems, and increasing international mobility. Tourism plays a crucial role in economic development, job creation, and the strengthening of cultural and social ties between nations.

According to international tourism statistics, international tourist arrivals have steadily increased over the years, making tourism one of the largest and fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. Tourism contributes significantly to national economies by generating foreign exchange earnings, stimulating investment in infrastructure, and supporting the development of various related industries such as transportation, hospitality, and entertainment. However, the rapid expansion of tourism also presents numerous challenges that require effective legal regulation. International tourism involves complex interactions between states, private enterprises, tourists, and local communities. These interactions require a well-developed legal framework that regulates tourism activities and ensures that tourism development occurs in a sustainable and responsible manner.

The legal regulation of tourism cooperation between states includes various international legal instruments, bilateral agreements, multilateral treaties, and national legislation. These legal mechanisms are designed to facilitate tourism activities, ensure the safety and protection of tourists, regulate tourism services, and promote sustainable tourism development. International organizations play an essential role in shaping global tourism policies and establishing legal standards for tourism activities. Institutions such as the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and UNESCO contribute to the development of international tourism regulations and guidelines.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the legal mechanisms governing cooperation between states in the tourism sector and to examine the role of international law in regulating tourism relations. The study also highlights the importance of harmonizing national tourism legislation with international standards to ensure effective international cooperation and sustainable tourism development.

MAIN PART

International Legal Framework for Tourism Cooperation. International tourism is governed by a complex system of legal norms and



institutional mechanisms that regulate tourism activities at the global level. These legal frameworks are designed to facilitate international travel, ensure the protection of tourists, promote responsible tourism practices, and encourage cooperation between states.

One of the most important organizations responsible for coordinating international tourism policies is the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This organization plays a central role in promoting sustainable tourism development and providing guidance to governments on tourism policy and regulation.

The UNWTO has developed several important documents that serve as international standards for tourism activities. One of the most significant of these documents is the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, which outlines the principles of responsible and

sustainable tourism. The code emphasizes the importance of respecting cultural diversity, protecting natural resources, and promoting mutual understanding between tourists and host communities.

International tourism law also includes various conventions and agreements that regulate specific aspects of tourism activities. These legal instruments address issues such as passenger transportation, travel documentation, visa facilitation, consumer protection, and environmental sustainability.

For example, international civil aviation agreements play a crucial role in facilitating international travel by establishing rules for air transportation between countries. Similarly, agreements related to maritime transport regulate cruise tourism and other forms of sea travel.

Table 1. International Legal documents in Tourism

No	International Legal Document	Organization	Year	Main Purpose
1	Global Code of Ethics for Tourism	UNWTO	1999	Establishes ethical principles for responsible tourism
2	Manila Declaration on World Tourism	UNWTO	1980	Defines tourism as a fundamental human activity
3	Hague Declaration on Tourism	UNWTO	1989	Promotes international tourism cooperation
4	International Convention on Travel Contracts	UNIDROIT	1970	Regulates legal relations between tourists and travel agencies
5	Sustainable Tourism Development Guidelines	UNWTO	2020	Promotes environmentally responsible tourism

International legal frameworks also address issues related to the safety and security of tourists. Governments are responsible for ensuring that tourists are protected from potential risks such as fraud, unsafe accommodation, and inadequate tourism services. International cooperation is necessary to combat illegal activities such as human trafficking, illegal tourism operations, and environmental exploitation.

Furthermore, international tourism regulation increasingly focuses on sustainable development. Tourism can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment and local communities. Therefore, international legal frameworks aim to promote tourism practices that minimize environmental damage and support the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Thus, international legal instruments provide the foundation for effective cooperation between states in the field of tourism and contribute to the development of a stable and sustainable global tourism system.

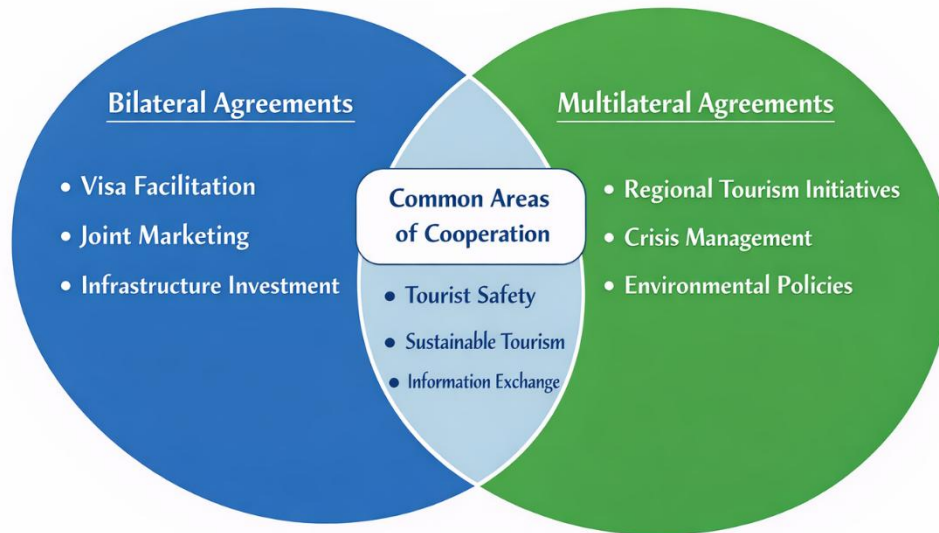
Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements in Tourism Cooperation. While international

organizations establish general tourism standards, much of the practical cooperation between states in tourism is carried out through bilateral and multilateral agreements. These agreements provide specific mechanisms for cooperation and help countries coordinate their tourism policies and development strategies.

Bilateral tourism agreements are commonly concluded between two countries to promote tourism exchange and strengthen economic relations. These agreements often focus on simplifying travel procedures, developing tourism infrastructure, and encouraging cultural exchange.

One of the key objectives of bilateral tourism agreements is to facilitate tourist mobility between partner countries. This may include measures such as visa simplification, mutual recognition of travel documents, and improved transportation connections. By reducing administrative barriers to travel, governments can encourage greater tourism flows between countries.

Types of Tourism Cooperation Agreements



Pic. 1.

Bilateral cooperation also includes joint marketing and promotion of tourism destinations. Countries may collaborate on tourism campaigns, international exhibitions, and promotional events aimed at attracting tourists from third countries. Such initiatives help enhance the international visibility of tourism destinations and strengthen tourism competitiveness.

Another important aspect of bilateral cooperation is investment in tourism infrastructure. Tourism development requires significant investments in hotels, transportation networks, cultural facilities, and recreational infrastructure. Bilateral agreements often encourage cooperation between governments and private investors in the tourism sector. In addition to bilateral agreements, multilateral cooperation also plays a crucial role in tourism development. Regional organizations often develop common tourism policies and strategies to promote cross-border tourism. Regional tourism initiatives may include the creation of transnational tourism routes, cultural heritage networks, and regional tourism brands. These initiatives help diversify tourism products and encourage tourists to explore multiple destinations within a region.

Multilateral agreements also address issues related to crisis management and tourism resilience. Tourism is highly sensitive to external shocks such as natural disasters, health crises, and political instability. International cooperation is essential for coordinating

responses to such challenges and ensuring the safety of tourists.

Thus, bilateral and multilateral agreements represent a vital component of the international legal framework governing tourism cooperation and contribute to the sustainable development of tourism.

Harmonization of National Legislation and Tourism Governance. The effectiveness of international tourism cooperation largely depends on the compatibility of national legal systems with international tourism standards. Differences in national legislation can create legal and administrative barriers that hinder tourism development.

Harmonization of tourism legislation refers to the process of aligning national laws and regulations with international standards and best practices. Governments must adopt legal reforms that promote transparency, fairness, and efficiency in the tourism sector. National tourism legislation typically regulates a wide range of issues, including licensing of tourism businesses, regulation of travel agencies, safety standards for tourism services, and protection of consumer rights. Governments also establish regulatory bodies responsible for supervising tourism activities and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

The protection of tourists' rights is a central element of tourism governance. Tourists must be provided with reliable information about tourism services and protected from fraudulent or misleading



business practices. Legal frameworks also establish mechanisms for resolving disputes between tourists and tourism service providers. Environmental sustainability is another key aspect of tourism governance. Tourism activities must be regulated in a way that prevents environmental degradation and protects natural ecosystems. Governments implement environmental regulations that limit tourism development in sensitive ecological areas and promote sustainable tourism practices. Cultural heritage protection is also an important component of tourism regulation. Many tourism destinations are based on historical monuments, cultural landscapes, and traditional communities. Legal frameworks must ensure that tourism development does not damage cultural heritage or disrupt local traditions.

In recent years, the concept of sustainable tourism has become increasingly important in international tourism policy. Sustainable tourism aims to balance economic benefits with environmental protection and social responsibility. Governments, international organizations, and private sector stakeholders must

work together to promote tourism models that support long-term development.

Therefore, harmonizing national tourism legislation with international standards is essential for strengthening international cooperation and ensuring responsible tourism governance.

Legal Regulation of Tourism in Uzbekistan. The development of tourism in Uzbekistan has become one of the strategic priorities of the national economy in recent years. The government of Uzbekistan has implemented a number of reforms aimed at improving tourism infrastructure, increasing international tourist arrivals, and strengthening international cooperation in the tourism sector. These reforms are supported by a comprehensive legal framework regulating tourism activities. The primary legal document regulating tourism in Uzbekistan is the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism". This law defines the legal, organizational, economic, and social principles of tourism activities in the country. It regulates the rights and responsibilities of tourists, tourism service providers, and government authorities involved in tourism management.

Legal Regulation of Tourism in Uzbekistan



Pic. 2.

The law establishes the legal basis for the development of tourism infrastructure, the regulation of tourism services, and the protection of tourists' rights. It also defines the responsibilities of tour operators, travel agencies, hotels, and other tourism-related enterprises. These entities are required to operate in

accordance with national licensing regulations and service quality standards.

Another important component of tourism regulation in Uzbekistan is the system of state governance in the tourism sector. The government has established specialized institutions responsible for implementing tourism policy and regulating tourism



activities. These institutions coordinate tourism development strategies, promote tourism destinations, and ensure compliance with national tourism legislation.

Uzbekistan has also adopted numerous presidential decrees and governmental resolutions aimed at promoting tourism development. These legal acts focus on improving tourism infrastructure, simplifying visa procedures, supporting tourism entrepreneurship, and attracting foreign investment to the tourism sector.

One of the most significant reforms in recent years has been the liberalization of visa policies. Uzbekistan introduced simplified visa procedures and electronic visa systems for citizens of many countries. These measures have significantly increased the accessibility of Uzbekistan as an international tourism destination and strengthened tourism cooperation with other states.

In addition to national legislation, Uzbekistan actively participates in international tourism cooperation and adheres to international tourism standards. The country is a member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization and cooperates with many international institutions in the development of tourism policies and strategies.

Uzbekistan also places strong emphasis on sustainable tourism development. Legal regulations promote the protection of cultural heritage, historical monuments, and natural resources. Tourism activities in historical cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva are regulated to ensure the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan has implemented programs aimed at developing new forms of tourism, including eco-tourism, cultural tourism, pilgrimage tourism, and rural tourism. These initiatives are supported by legal mechanisms that encourage tourism investment and entrepreneurship.

The development of tourism legislation in Uzbekistan demonstrates the country's commitment to strengthening its position in the global tourism market and enhancing international cooperation. Continuous improvement of the legal framework and alignment with international tourism standards remain key priorities for the sustainable development of the tourism sector in Uzbekistan.

CONCLUSION

Tourism has become a powerful driver of economic development and international cooperation. The rapid growth of international tourism has created the need for effective legal frameworks that regulate

tourism activities and ensure cooperation between states.

International legal instruments, bilateral agreements, and multilateral cooperation mechanisms provide the foundation for tourism governance at the global level. These legal frameworks facilitate international travel, promote responsible tourism practices, and protect the rights of tourists and host communities.

The role of international organizations in shaping tourism policy and establishing legal standards is particularly important. Organizations such as the UNWTO contribute to the development of global tourism guidelines and support governments in implementing sustainable tourism policies.

At the national level, governments must ensure that their tourism legislation aligns with international standards and supports sustainable tourism development. Harmonizing legal frameworks and strengthening international cooperation will contribute to the long-term growth and stability of the global tourism industry.

In the context of globalization, the importance of legal regulation in tourism cooperation will continue to increase. Strengthening international legal mechanisms and promoting responsible tourism governance will ensure that tourism remains a positive force for economic prosperity, cultural exchange, and global understanding.

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