

The High Level Task Force (HLTF) was set up in 2015 to develop the first Global Study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism together with 67 partners. The launch of the Study in 2016 was followed by a series of global, regional and national initiatives. In 2017, UNWTO hosted the Transition Meeting, when the High Level Global Task Force for Action was established. Its mandate was the elimination of sexual exploitation of children through the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Study.



In 2018 the HLTF moved to a new stage with a broader focus on protecting children from exploitation in the framework of travel and tourism. The HLTF was one of the co-organisers of the successful first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism in Bogotá. The summit brought together over 450 participants, who committed to build upon the [Call for Action](#) to protect children in travel and tourism and to end impunity of offenders.

The HLTF built strong alliances and mobilized a wide range of stakeholders. Having significantly progressed the agenda on child protection in travel and tourism, in November 2018, the HLTF decided to evolve its structure to an Independent Experts Group on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism (IEG).

In 2015 – 2018 members of the HLTF included:

- Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Chair High-Level Taskforce for Action, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- Mr Ernie Allen, Founder and former CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children and Sexual Violence against Children
- Ms Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Former Chair and CEO of CARLSON
- Mr Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and former Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Ms Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, former Netherlands National Rapporteur on Trafficking of Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children
- Ms Milena Grillo, Executive Director of Fundación Paniamor, Costa Rica
- Honorable Sandra Howard, Vice Minister of Tourism, Government of Colombia and former Chair of UNWTO General Assembly
- Ms Helen Marano, Sr. Vice President, World Travel and Tourism Council
- Mr Gerard Mestrallet, Chair of ENGIE Foundation
- Dr. Taleb Rifai, former Secretary General UNWTO
- Ms Wang Ping, the Chair of the China Chamber of Tourism, Vice Chairman of Global Tourism Economy Forum, Chairman of Tourism Cooperation Committee of China-Africa Business Council