CLOSING SESSION – A NEW AGENDA FOR ACCESSIBLE TOURISM

7 October 2025

Moderator: Igor Stefanovic

Speakers: Simon April, Barbara Casagrande, Roberta Alverà, Ivor Ambrose, Giovanni Ferrero

The closing session "A New Agenda for Accessible Tourism" concluded the 3rd World Summit on Accessible Tourism by outlining the priorities and shared vision for the coming years.

Moderated by **Igor Stefanovic, UN Tourism Coordinator for Accessibility, Cultural Tourism and Indigenous Peoples**, the discussion brought together policymakers, representatives of civil society, and leading experts to synthesise the lessons learnt from the Summit and translate them into an actionable framework — the Torino Manifesto for Accessible Tourism 2025.

Barbara Casagrande, representing the Italian Ministry of Tourism, emphasised the need for robust and transparent data to support evidence-based policymaking. She underlined that reliable statistics are essential to guide public investment, measure progress, and enable predictive analysis that ensures accessibility becomes integral to national tourism strategies. Casagrande also stressed the importance of dialogue between governments and trade associations to design inclusive policies that reflect real needs rather than top-down assumptions.

Roberta Alverà, Deputy Mayor of Cortina d'Ampezzo, shared her city's efforts to align local tourism strategies with accessibility goals ahead of the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games. She presented initiatives such as digital mapping, multilingual chatbots, and the "Cortina for All" label, which promote collaboration between municipalities and the private sector to create lasting, exportable models of inclusion.

Simon April, Kéroul, Co-President of the Summit, reiterated the principle "Nothing About Us Without Us," reminding participants that accessibility must always be co-designed with users. He called for stronger investment in training, assistance services, and human-centred care to ensure that inclusion is not only physical but relational.

Ivor Ambrose, Managing Director of ENAT, reflected on the Summit's broader impact, highlighting the nonprofit sector's leadership in advancing accessibility through cooperation and knowledge-sharing. He described the Torino Manifesto as a blueprint for action across governments, destinations, and businesses, urging stakeholders to translate good practices into global standards.

Finally, **Giovanni Ferrero, Director of CPD – Consulta per le Persone in Difficoltà,** emphasised education and data as the two pillars of progress. He envisioned a future where technology and artificial intelligence enable travellers to personalise their experiences according to individual needs, reinforcing the concept of "tourism for each of us."

The session closed with a collective commitment to sustain the legacy of Turin through continuous collaboration and the preparation of a call for the 4th World Summit on Accessible Tourism, reaffirming accessibility as a universal right and a shared human responsibility.

Watch the Closing Session on YouTube. (run time 1:01:21)