



Motion on the refugee crisis adopted by the ISTO General Assembly in Albufeira on the 21st of October 2015

For months, and even more for weeks, the international community, particularly the three countries of the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) and Europe, saw the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing their home countries at war or subject to instability and total insecurity.

This crisis of major importance cannot remain indifferent to all the men and women for whom HUMANITY is the key in their actions and commitment, which is the case for ISTO.

The International Social Tourism Organisation, who had its General Assembly on the 21st of October in Albufeira, Portugal, calls on its members, professionals and volunteers who work there, to take their share in the welcoming, even temporary, of these refugees. Without ignoring the many difficulties created by this situation, ISTO – who underlines the efforts done by some countries, geographically mostly Italy and Greece despite their own problems – considers that the tourism professionals and stakeholders who put the focus on the social dimension of it, can't be indifferent or inactive to these tragedies.

The ISTO welcomes the initiatives already done by its members such as the Aylan Program of the INATEL Foundation (Portugal), those of the *Union nationale des associations de tourisme* – UNAT, of ANCAV-TT and of VVF Villages (France); of the *Gîtes d'étape* Belgian Centre for Youth Tourism – CBTJ and the Youth Hostels as well as of the Peace Village Mesen of Volkstoerisme (Belgium) and those of the Italian Culture and Sport Association – AICS in partnership with the Italian Association of youth hostels – AIG Hostels (Italy).

We invite members to see how they can act, within the resources they have, on this issue and we call upon States and the international community, particularly in Europe and the Americas, to work continuously on the political resolution of the underlying causes of this unprecedented crisis.