International Tourism Losses Exceeded $4 Trillion

A report issued by the United Nations Trade and Development Organization (UNCTAD) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization showed that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on tourism could lead to a loss of more than $4 trillion to the global economy.

The estimate is based on losses due to the direct impact of the epidemic on tourism, and the doubles effect on related sectors, which is worse than previously expected. The report indicated that the sharp decline in the number of tourist arrivals around the world in 2020, led to an economic loss of $2.4 trillion, and the number is expected to be similar this year depending on vaccinations against the Coronavirus.

According to the report, the world needs global vaccination efforts that will protect workers, mitigate negative social impacts, and make strategic decisions about tourism, taking into account potential structural changes. It also revealed that the number of international tourist arrivals decreased by about one billion, or 73 percent, last year, while the decline in the first quarter of 2021 was about 88 percent.

Developing countries have borne the brunt of the pandemic’s impact on tourism, with declines in arrivals estimated at between 60 and 80 percent.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)
The Central Bank of Egypt revealed that Egypt’s current account deficit in the first nine months of the 2020-2021 fiscal year reached approximately $13.3 billion, compared to $7.3 billion a year ago, repesenting an increase of 82 percent. According to the Central Bank, remittances from Egyptians working abroad increased by 8.5 percent to $23.4 billion in the first nine months of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. While net foreign direct investment flows to Egypt during that period decreased by 19.3 percent to $4.8 billion. Tourism revenue fell to $3.1 billion from $9.6 billion during that period. The Central Bank of Egypt indicates that the banking sector has incurred more than 4.7 billion pounds, as a result of the precautionary decisions issued to confront the repercussions of the Corona pandemic. The banking sector has also incurred about 3.5 billion pounds since the start of the implementation of exemptions decisions at the beginning of the outbreak of the Coronavirus last year. In addition to an additional cost in the range of 1.2 billion pounds, which will be borne by the sector as a result of extending the work of these exemptions until December 31, 2021. Noting that the measures aim to provide more facilitation to citizens and encourage them to continue to turn to electronic payment methods and channels, in order to support the state’s orientation towards transformation for a society less dependent on banknotes.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)