

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM STATISTICS

Report prepared by WTO/OMT

(Document to be presented by WTO/OMT to UNSC in its next meeting 2004)

Provisional Draft

I. The role of the World Tourism Organization in the field of tourism statistics

1. The specific role of the World Tourism Organization (WTO/OMT) in the field of tourism statistics has been recognized officially at the international level, and has been formalized through the agreement between the United Nations and the WTO/OMT, which in its article 13 establishes their respective role and their interaction and collaboration¹. This role encompasses three major areas: the setting of standards, the promotion of the implementation of such standards, and the dissemination of tourism statistics collected through WTO/OMT. These major functions are further discussed in section 2 of this report.

2. It has been accepted that from an economic point of view, tourism has to be viewed from a demand perspective as the activity of visitors. In order to measure these effects and impacts in a uniform way, over all activities and worldwide, it was necessary to develop a set of basic concepts, classifications and aggregates to make possible the identification of the phenomenon, and convert it into a language which would make it comparable with the one used in other areas, and which is uniform over different socio-geographic universes.

3. Tourism analysts have tended to develop their own conceptual framework, and a certain marginalization had been observed in the past, where much emphasis was given to the particularities of tourism, which made it impossible to study it in categories used for other economic activities.

Article 13 Statistical services

1. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree to strive for the maximum cooperation, the elimination of all undesirable duplication between them and the most efficient use of personnel in their respective collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information. They agree to combine their efforts to secure the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information, to guarantee close coordination in their respective statistical related initiatives and to minimize the burden placed upon Governments and other organizations from which such information may be collected
2. The World Tourism Organization recognizes that the United Nations is the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of tourism statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations
3. The United Nations recognizes the World Tourism Organization as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.

4. As stated in article 13, WTO/OMT **has been** recognized as the “appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize, to improve the statistics of tourism and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the UN system”. This integration **would be** its specific responsibility and concern. This has been the main endeavour of the Organization and so will be in the future: to determine the phenomenon, its actors, its effects, in such a way that a unique language can be used among all the stakeholders. This encompasses the design and development of a System of Tourism Statistics (STS) in a way which makes its components (concepts, classifications and aggregates) compatible with other conceptual frameworks commonly used to describe other phenomena.

5. Within this concern, there was also the need to include the economic measurement of tourism within the mainstream of the measurement of economic activities, mainly the system of national accounts. This guided WTO/OMT towards the development of a recommended framework to develop a tourism satellite account applicable in all countries in order to facilitate the comparison of tourism to other economic activities, and to make possible comparison among different countries.

6. Nevertheless, setting standards for statistical measurements is insufficient and if these are to be applied, this activity should be associated with concrete actions leading to the promotion of the implementation of these standards, such as development of general guidelines on specific issues based on best practices or comparative research analysis, further documentation and deeper insight in the concepts, definitions and classifications, seminars and workshops, technical assistance, etc. A basic element in this process, although of a very different nature, is the inter-institutional cooperation of National Tourism Administrations with other governmental bodies such as National Statistical Offices, Central Banks, Migration / Interior Authorities and Private Sector Representatives.

7. Finally, these actions should lead to an improvement of world statistics concerning tourism, disseminated through WTO/OMT in terms of their effective content and comparability of methodologies, concepts and consequently measurements. Tourism statistics had long been reduced to the collection of movements of travellers at international borders and global values of expenditure by foreign travellers in the economic territory and of national travellers abroad: a sharpening of the concepts and definitions of tourism, encompassing also the activities of resident visitors within their country of residence, the setting of standards and the promotion of their implementation has necessarily the consequence of improving the coverage, quality and comparability of the data disseminated through WTO/OMT, and thus their usefulness and relevance to describe the phenomenon in all its dimensions.

II. The implementation of these main functions by WTO/OMT

A. The setting of standards

8. The preface to the United Nations 1978 publication on “Provisional guidelines of statistics of international tourism”,² underlined “the provisional character of this document, and stressed the need for further work in this field, on the basis of work by appropriate national

² Statistical Papers Series M No 62 New York 1978

authorities, by WTO/OMT and by various other regional and international organizations, including the United Nations”.

9. On this basis, WTO/OMT has been a main actor in the insertion of tourism statistics within the General Statistical System. In less than 10 years, two sets of recommendations have been presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC):

- a) *The Recommendations on Tourism Statistics*³ (further referred to as REC93) that were approved by the UNSC at its 27th session in 1993, with the following basic characteristics:
 - purpose: to develop a first set of basic elements of a System of Tourism Statistics (STS) in order to provide users with reliable, consistent and appropriate statistical information on the socio-economic structure and development of the tourism phenomenon;
 - design: This STS was devised to ensure the international comparability of statistics in the field of tourism, viewed as an economic activity. Special care was taken to relate its definitions and concepts to those already in use in other domains of economic analysis;
 - elements: The STS can be defined as a set of components, of statistical nature, made of the statistical sources themselves (i.e. statistics drawn from surveys, administrative records, or of a synthetic nature – like the National Accounts and Balance of Payments -, etc.), the specific tools and instruments used at some stages of the process that the generation of statistics entails (as is the case of classifications, databases, etc.) and the data which result from these processes. As a consequence, the STS also encompasses the technical aspects of field operation, the creation of statistical infrastructure, the elaboration of the results, and the completion of the tasks leading to an integration of the data into a system of information.
- b) *Tourism Satellite Account (TSA): Recommended Methodological Framework*⁴ (further referred to as REC00) that were approved by the UNSC on its 31st session in 2000 with the following basic characteristics:
 - purpose: To further the integration of tourism into the mainstream of economic measurement and analysis by establishing a strong relationship with the SNA93 and Balance of Payments (BOPM95) frameworks. This major focus on the structural link to SNA93 and Balance of Payments concepts led to some necessary adjustments in the definitions and concepts that had been proposed in REC93, and these adjustments were made explicit;
 - design: The TSA focuses on the relationship of tourism with the main concepts and aggregates of SNA93, so that Tourism Value Added can be defined as a

³ Statistical Papers Series M No 83 United Nations/ WTO New York 1994

⁴ Statistical Papers Series F No 80 United Nations/WTO/Eurostat/OECD, New York, Madrid, Luxemburg/Paris.

share of total Value Added, and that the exchange of information between the systems is facilitated as well as the sharing of analysis and statistical procedures;

- elements: Although formally included in its conceptual framework, some of the components of Tourism Demand (like Tourism Gross Fixed Capital Formation and Tourism Collective Consumption) have not been developed in the TSA official document in such a consistent way as Tourism Consumption (defined in relationship with the concept of Household Effective Consumption of SNA93 and established according to types of visitors and venue of consumption) which plays the role of the basic concept of the demand approach. Other relevant elements of the TSA are Tourism Industries (defined as those productive activities that produce a principal output which has been identified as characteristic of tourism), and tourism characteristics products both characterized in terms of specific lists based on ISIC, Rev.3 and CPC, Version 1.0⁵

10. Following the above mentioned United Nations 1978 Recommendations, in the setting up of REC93 and REC00, the same process was followed and consisted of:

- methodological research and proposal for standards developed by different international organizations;
- collection of country experiences;
- organization of international conferences by WTO/OMT (Ottawa 1991, Nice 1999) were the basic elements of the future proposal of new international standards were presented and discussed;
- setting up of an inter-institutional framework involving both producers and users, national and international organizations in order to structure a final version for its submission to the UNSC (REC00)⁶

11. Within the setting up of these Recommendations, and because of the transversal nature of tourism, special care was taken to respect the specific areas of responsibility of National Tourism Administrations and other agencies in charge of statistics in their respective field.

B. The promotion of the implementation of standards

12. WTO/OMT has played a central role by developing different types of materials (most of them accessible online at: http://www.world-tourism.org/frameset/frame_statistics.html) and providing technical assistance both in terms of country missions and regional and sub-regional seminars and workshops. Also Eurostat should be mentioned as an outstanding example of other international initiatives in order to promote the implementation of these standards with

⁵ These lists of activities and products have to be kept in line with the outcome of the revision of ISIC and CPC scheduled for 2007 by the UN Statistical Commission

⁶ Annex 1 presents a summary showing the extent of the work that was behind the preparation of REC00

the particularity that part of them have been supported by legal acts of the European Union Parliament.

13. With the approval of REC00, WTO/OMT has made one of its main leitmotiv the promotion of the setting up of an inter-institutional platform in all countries in order to improve their system of tourism statistics as a precondition for the development of a TSA. In WTO/OMT's view, such a platform should cover both producers and users comprising, besides the National Tourism Administration (NTA), the National Statistical Office (NSO), Central Bank (CB), Migration Authorities (or some equivalent body in the Ministries of Interior), and tourism private sector representatives. Within this group, the unit in charge of the compilation of National Accounts would have a special role to play, not only as provider of information, but also due to its great experience in the reconciliation of conflicting sources of information, which underlies the construction of a TSA.

14. Because of the key role that National Statistical Offices play in the production of tourism statistics and due to their competence in the development of national General Statistical Systems, WTO/OMT has cooperated with UN Regional Commission's Statistical Departments in the organization of Regional seminars and workshops. As a consequence, not only is the presence of NSO's officials (both responsible for statistics production and national accounts) getting increasingly evident as well as that of Balance of Payment compilers, but also, there is greater awareness of the benefits resulting from a TSA for the compilation of National Accounts (basically in improved estimation of household final consumption expenditure by products, future insight in some less known activities and products –like travel agencies, package tours and time sharing arrangements-, etc.), in addition to the strengthening of the ruling role of NSO's as custodians of the General Statistical System.

15. WTO/OMT is aware of the difficulties faced by many countries in organizing such a cooperation but at the same time it has observed that this is necessary to develop tourism statistics and, eventually, to develop the TSA.

16. From this perspective, WTO/OMT has developed an international cooperation framework which should facilitate the set up and continuity of an inter-institutional platform within the countries. The tackled initiatives include cooperation with:

- the International Monetary Fund (IMF), by promoting collaboration channels in some countries between the CB and the NTA to find ways to solve the major discrepancies in their respective estimations of the expenditure associated with non-resident visitors;
- the International Labour Organization (ILO), with regard to the opportunity to define general guidelines to include a tourism module in the Household Budget Surveys as a way to promote the international comparability of expenditure associated with domestic tourism.

These initiatives are complemented with the active participation in two multilateral platforms that specifically enable cooperation in particular projects with other Organizations such as Eurostat and WTO/OMC :

- the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, as a reflection on the importance of tourism in international trade in services, whose specificity needs to be recognized and requires also special treatment; and
- the Technical Sub-group of the Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications of UNSD, as classification issues are particularly important for the recognition of a tourism specific set of activities and of commodities, and for the building of a TSA, in particular when confronting demand by visitors (consumption) and supply by resident producers.

17. Conscious of the importance of reducing as much as possible the cost of developing a STS and of a TSA, and also the need to minimize the burden placed upon individuals to report their tourism behaviour, and on businesses to identify their tourism related transactions, WTO/OMT encourages all types of statistical procedures which rely on existing information (limiting the number of specific tourism statistical operations such as surveys to visitors or to resident households, but also encouraging the use of administrative records –based on border controls, arrival cards, fiscal sources, etc.), through an improvement of their processing, or slight modifications of their coverage, or content, in order to make them useful in the generation of tourism information.

C. The securing of international comparability of tourism statistics disseminated through WTO/OMT

18. International comparability is a long-term objective, which can be secured through two procedures that complement and reinforce each other: the standardization of concepts, classifications and methods of compilation, used among reporting countries; and also, the dissemination of information using a formalized, uniform standard. Based on its experience in disseminating worldwide tourism statistics, WTO/OMT considers the present situation as far from satisfactory and requiring special attention and initiatives.

19. The following table (referred to the period 1999-2001) summarizes availability of the basic set of indicators by number of countries which support at present the international comparability of tourism activity:

Basic Indicators (20)	TOTAL COUNTRIES *	EU			OECD 30 MS	U.N. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS				
		15 MS	10 CC	35 MS + 7 AM		13 MS	52 MS	48 MS	43 MS + 9 AM	
INBOUND TOURISM										
Arrivals										
Visitors	111	6	10	17	32	7	19	29	24	
Tourists (overnight visitors)	184	14	10	26	40	12	43	46	43	
Same-day visitors	91 (1)	7	6	14	31	4	13	24	19	
Arrivals by country of origin	193 (2)	14	10	29	41	12	46	46	48	
Arrivals by mode of transport	150	9	10	21	39	6	34	32	39	
Arrivals by purpose of visit										
Leisure, recreation and holidays	134	7	6	15	32	6	30	25	41	
Business and professional	128	7	6	15	32	5	29	25	37	
Other purposes	123	7	5	15	29	6	28	23	37	
Overnight stays and length of stay										
Overnight stays in H&S	116	14	10	24	19	10	23	43	21	
Overnight stays in ce	73	14	10	25	12	2	14	39	6	
ALS of non resident tourists	103	8	9	17	26	8	16	27	26	
Tourism expenditure in the country of reference	176	15	10	30	40	11	42	44	39	
DOMESTIC TOURISM										
Overnight stay in H&S	85	14	9	26	9	5	17	40	14	
Overnight stay in CE	51	14	9	25	4	1	7	36	3	
OUTBOUND TOURISM										
Departures	100	12	10	26	22	4	12	35	27	
Tourism expenditure in other countries	148	15	10	30	35	7	33	42	31	
TOURISM ACTIVITIES										
Hotels and similar establishments										
Number of rooms	167	13	9	28	40	12	35	40	40	
Number of bed-places	139	12	10	22	25	11	32	42	29	
Occupancy rate	149	14	10	29	28	9	35	44	33	
Average length of stay (residents + non residents)	101	7	10	18	21	3	20	34	23	

* Only 8 of them have the whole set of the Basic Indicators.

(1) Of which, 25 correspond to cruise passenger.

(2) Of which:

88: by country of nationality

96: by country of residence

9: both, by nationality and by residence

MS: Member States

CC: Candidates countries

AM: Associates members

H&M: Hotels and similar establishments

CE: All types of tourism accommodation establishments

ALS: Average length of stay

20. Despite the short period of time elapsed between the development of the two Recommendations, a giant step has been made in the integration of tourism statistics in the General Statistical System. However, there are still important limitations in the international comparability of the available data, mainly in those basic characteristics like international arrivals and departures, expenditures associated with inbound and outbound tourism, and with the corresponding travel flows in the case of domestic tourism.

21. The following table focus on arrivals of non residents (at present, the basic indicator when looking to international comparability of tourism activity in terms of physical indicators), were a more detailed insight highlights analytical constraints related to relevant characteristics of these tourism flows (distinction between nationality and country of residence –which would allow to identify nationals residing abroad as a specific subset of non resident visitors, identification of both sets of visitors (tourist and same-day visitors –also called excursionists–), limitations for checking consistency between national border crossing figures and accommodation statistics, etc.

INBOUND TOURISM Arrivals *	TOTAL COUNTRIES	EU			OECD 30 MS	U.N. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS				
		15 MS	10 CC	35 MS + 7 AM		13 MS	52 MS	48 MS	43 MS + 9 AM	
										ECLAC
<i>Reference to the country of origin</i>										
- Nationality	97	3	6	12	17	10	25	19	26	
- Country of residence	105	11	4	17	24	2	21	27	31	
- both of them	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	
<i>Place of observation of the groups of reference</i>										
Borders										
- VF	56	4	6	12	8	7	10	18	13	
- TF	121	6	2	2	35	3	30	17	36	
- both of them	12	2	-	4	4	1	2	4	1	
Accommodation										
- THS	58	10	7	17	8	4	12	28	6	
- TCE	34	10	8	17	4	1	2	26	1	
- both of them	26	9	6	15	2	1	-	22	1	
Borders/Accommodation										
- TF, THS, TCE	6	1	1	2	2	-	-	3	1	
- TF, THS	13	1	-	1	4	-	4	1	4	
- TF, TCE	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	

* Only for those countries that have this information broken down according to the countries of origin

TF: Arrivals of non-resident tourists at national borders

VF: Arrivals of non-resident visitors at national borders

THS: Arrivals of non-resident tourists in hotels and similar establishments

TCE: Arrivals of non-resident tourists in all types of tourism accommodation establishments

MS: Member States

CC: Candidates countries

AM: Associates members

22. A particularly significant case is that of the European Union (EU) and also, to a lesser extent, that of those countries which are candidates to join it in 2004. It is the only known example where a special effort has been made to harmonize the observation tools used to obtain a uniform set of data associated with the tourism activity of residents (indeed, a legal norm forces all countries to use the same definitions and classifications). However, important limitations still remain, as for example the different operative approaches to the concept of usual environment by the different countries or the fact that no intra or extra EU-15 net flows of arrivals and departures have been published yet (as it is the case for international transactions of goods and services).

23. In the last three years, the WTO/OMT has carried out studies related to the applicability of some elements of the conceptual framework of tourism statistics (like the usual environment –probably the fundamental concept on which lies all the design of the STS-⁷), and also related to the tools used to measure some of the basic variables (specifically, the analyse of data on arrivals and departures at national borders, and that of surveys on tourism expenditure associated with inbound tourism).

⁷ Usual environment of a person: The main purpose of introducing the concept “usual environment” is to exclude from the concept of “visitor” persons commuting every day or week between their home and place of work or study, or other places frequently visited. The definition of usual environment is therefore based on the following criteria:

- Minimum distance travelled to consider a person a visitor;
- Minimum duration of absence from usual place of residence;
- Minimum change between localities or administrative territories.

24. Both studies were designed to evaluate the quality and comparability of the data obtained in a relevant number of countries and the final result stresses the need to tackle specific initiatives in order to improve both objectives.

25. Also, in a significant number of countries (about 40 countries have developed a TSA exercise or plan to develop one in 2004/2005, among which we can include countries as diverse as Costa Rica, France, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America) TSA development has emphasized some challenges that were not expected before initiating this type of exercise, with regard to the credibility of good part of available tourism statistics, which have been (and still are) mainly associated with tourism demand. These challenges are very diverse but all respond to the inner nature of TSA as a tool for the integration of scattered tourism information:

- the lack of uniformity in the classifications and definitions used for the same variables in different sources (for example, in accommodation);
- the confrontation between supply and demand with regard to which products are those supplied by tourism industries to visitors, both residents and non-residents;
- new users' needs, like for instance some characteristics of the trip and/or of the visitors themselves who are usually not included in the main statistical operations in the field of tourism (as for instance, organization of the trip, size of the travel group, identification of same-day visitors, etc).
- etc.

III. Looking into the future: WTO/OMT work program for the period 2004-2006

A. Keeping relevant the conceptual framework of tourism statistics

26. Based on its experience in the development of tourism statistics, WTO/OMT considers that there is currently no need for fundamental or comprehensive changes to both international standards approved by the U.N. Statistical Commission, as such changes would impede the process of its implementation which in most countries is presently underway.

27. Additionally, REC00 provided an update of various concepts, definitions, aggregates and classifications which had been elaborated in REC93, due mostly to the fact that these first Recommendations had been adopted before the approval of SNA93. These updates refer to:

- some changes in the scope of the concept of visitor consumption which, besides its component representing “visitor final consumption expenditure in cash” (always the major component of total consumption of or on behalf of visitors, which in REC93 was considered as equivalent as “visitor consumption” or “tourism demand”) now also includes “tourism consumption expenditure in kind”, “tourism social transfers in kind” and “tourism business expenses”;

- new aggregates of interest regarding the measurement of the economic impacts of tourism, namely tourism collective consumption, tourism employment, tourism value added, tourism gross fixed capital formation, etc.;
- significant changes in the definition of some concepts (as for instance domestic tourism, in which it is specified that it refers to the tourism activity of resident visitors within the economic territory of the country of reference, specification which was not part of the previous REC93 definition and which led to the exclusion altogether from domestic tourism consumption, of tourism expenditures by visitors leaving the country undertaken before departure or after their return within their country of residence);
- the change and development of classifications to be used in tourism statistics (for instance, the inclusion of lists of tourism characteristic products and activities, based respectively on CPC Version 1.0 and ISIC, Rev. 3);
- other minor amendments that have been included.

28. Although one has to take into consideration the priority to consolidate the present process of implementation of international standards, it is also true that both the experience of producers and users of tourism statistics at the national level and the processes of revision which are presently under way at the international level make it necessary to set up a mechanism by which individual countries and international organizations might formulate suggestions which would make it possible to evaluate, and at some point in time to initiate a new process towards a third set of Recommendations.

29. In this context, it is particularly relevant to mention the ongoing revision of ISIC and CPC. Both recommendations have a direct influence on tourism statistics because of their direct relationship to the classifications of tourism characteristic products and activities, but also because of their relationship with the correspondence between CPC and EBOPS. It is also the case of the revision of the Balance of Payments Manual regarding the definition of residence, which affects the coverage of the “travel” item, as well as of inbound tourism consumption and outbound tourism consumption. No revision of the Recommendations could be considered in isolation from those processes.

30. Looking into the future, the starting point of any process aimed at collecting proposals of updating should take the form of an open list of different issues based on the typology already developed by UNSC when proposing a continuous updating mechanism of the SNA93 with the relevant adaptation to tourism statistics.

31. WTO/OMT presents the following categories of issues:

Conceptual issues

The issues to be included refer both to:

- a) Amendments that do not require major changes to data collection and compilation systems, such as:

- editorial amendments: they refer to wording errors, apparent contradictions, as well as translation errors. These corrections affect neither concepts nor the structure of the system;
 - clarification beyond dispute: that would be the case when an unambiguous clarification can be made;
 - interpretation: case when an economic situation arises for which the treatment in existing Recommendations may not be clear.
- b) Changes to the framework, which should be proposed on a case by case basis, bringing in a precise justification, weighting the importance of immediate introduction, the importance of the availability of comparable data across countries, the importance of consistency with other macroeconomic statistics frameworks and in all cases, they should be based on statistical experience and evidence.

Practical measurement issues

These refer to:

- Classifications and Lists related to tourism industries and products, activities carried on by visitors, etc.;
 - Operationalization of the Usual environment concept for different analytical purposes;
 - Measurement of the international flows of visitors;
 - Visitor consumption associated with each form of tourism (inbound / outbound / domestic);
 - Tourism business expenses;
 - Etc.
32. WTO/OMT presents to the Commission for consideration the following initiatives and proposals in order to keep relevant the conceptual framework of tourism statistics.
33. As a general criterion, WTO/OMT understands that if issues are identified for which a review is warranted, the updating process should: focus on a number of specific issues; address users need; and take into account the feasibility or adequacy of the planned changes.
34. Provided the Commission supports these basic guidelines and there are specific suggestions for updating, WTO/OMT proposes to develop the initiative in a three-phase project:
- Phase I. WTO/OMT would communicate this initiative to all countries (whether or not WTO/OMT's member states) and collect from them those issues they consider would require some sort of update. This process would be developed via e-mail and using a

formalized questionnaire to be addressed to National Tourism Administrations, National Statistical Offices and Central Banks. This phase should be finalized by December 2004.

- Phase II. Once this information is collected and processed, WTO/OMT will distribute it to those International Organizations and Institutions, with responsibility and experience in the field of tourism related statistics (either as producers or users) and tourism analysis, in order to collect new proposals and suggestions from their appropriate units. This phase would be initiated during the first quarter of 2005, and WTO/OMT is considering the possibility of calling an International Conference during that year in order to give impetus to this process in the international community. This phase should be finalized in the course of the second quarter of 2006.
- Phase III. WTO/OMT would prepare a detailed project document describing the proposed focus and contents for updating the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics, including its agenda, work programme, timetable, resource implications and decision making process and present it to the Commission at its 2007 meeting.

B. Other planned activities and proposals

35. WTO/OMT also presents to the Commission for its consideration the following initiatives and proposals in relation to the different fields mentioned throughout this document:

In the field of standard setting:

36. WTO/OMT intends to proceed further in deepening the relationship between the TSA and SNA93 to which it is a satellite. In that connection, WTO/OMT plans to pursue its current consultations with ISWGNA regarding overlapping topics.

37. WTO/OMT will cooperate :

- with IMF in the Balance of Payment Manual revision process in those issues related with the conceptual framework of tourism statistics;
- with the work carried out by the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services regarding the development of Compilation Guidelines in relation with the BoP's Travel item;
- with the Expert Group on Economic and Social Classification as well as in the corresponding Technical Sub-group, proposing initiatives in order to make explicit tourism links in the revised ISIC and CPC.

In the field of the promotion of the implementation of standards:

38. WTO/OMT intends to pursue its efforts to provide countries with extended guidelines to improve their statistical basis regarding the setting up of a TSA. This will be achieved by:

- increasing the review of country experience and finding means to improve communication;
- improving the direct sharing of experiences across countries with similar conditions;

In this connection, the WTO/OMT considers that it would be important that those countries that developed TSA exercises could share their experiences with other countries that are starting that process. We understand that in order to avoid that the responsible units (usually based in the National Accounts Departments of the NSO's) are overloaded with new demands, this eventual collaboration should be limited to a reasonable number of issues and should be requested according to an agreed calendar.

In the field of the international comparability of tourism statistics disseminated through WTO/OMT:

39. WTO/OMT plans to advance in the standardization of concepts, classifications and methods, setting up a set of metadata on tourism statistics, for public consultation, relating this initiative with the GDDS project set up by IMF for countries to describe the sources of information that are being used for tourism statistics, and how the tourism variables are being observed. This format has induced countries to develop a more systematic and comprehensive view of their statistical sources. They have been encouraged to use it within their process of evaluating the information which is available for the setting up of their STS, and as a previous stage for the compilation of a TSA.

40. WTO/OMT has monitored a project which was developed with the help of some countries which have already achieved a good data basis, in order to compare systematically their measurement procedures regarding non resident visitors and their tourism consumption and derive from it international guidelines that all countries are encouraged to take into consideration in setting up new statistical procedures, or in evaluating and improving their existing one.

41. As National Tourism Administrations might be under pressure to develop immediately some proxy indicators in order to justify the importance of tourism and of the resources required to improve its measurement, WTO/OMT has developed a set of indicators based on data existing in most countries (in National Accounts, Balance of Payments and some basic tourism indicators), that might be used to provide rapidly, proxy estimations of great usefulness about the economic importance of tourism, principally associated with inbound and outbound tourism.

ANNEX 1

1. The process followed from March 1995 to November 1999 to develop the TSA framework was as follows:

Organization	Work began (month/year)	Number of participating countries (a)	Number of meetings (b) (c)	TSA drafts prepared
WTO/OMT	June 1996	37 (d)	8	6
OECD	March 1995	29	11	6
EUROSTAT	October 1998	6	3	- (e)

- (a) Average number of countries participating in the meetings.
 - (b) Up to end 1999.
 - (c) The three Organizations (WTO/OMT, OECD and EUROSTAT) have always been invited to each other's meetings.
 - (d) An average of 9 organizations and 5 industry representatives also participated in WTO/OMT's meetings.
 - (e) Eurostat did not sought to develop a new alternative to the design of a TSA.
2. Up to six experts have cooperated with WTO/OMT over these years in the preparation of the six different drafts; all of them were experts in National Accounts and/or Classifications:
 3. Countries that participated to the *Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism* (Nice, France 15-18 June 1999):

States:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Anguilla, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, China Hong Kong SAR, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

Permanent observer to WTO/OMT: Holy See

Territories:

Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Communauté Flamande de Belgique, French Polynesia, Madeira, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Saint Maarten