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## TOURISM STATISTICS

### Prepared by World Tourism Organization

1. The Inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics (referred to hereafter as "the Group") has been formed in accordance with the agreement reached between the interested agencies at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (New York, 1-3 September 2004). The first meeting of the Group was held on 3 September 2004 in New York and was attended by Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNSD, the World Tourism Organization (WTO/OMT), and the World Trade Organization (WTO/OMC).<sup>1</sup>
2. All the members of the Group involved in the current cycle of revision of the conceptual frameworks relevant to the tourism statistics (e.g., revision of SNA93, BPM5, ISIC, CPC, etc.) agreed to give priority to the identification of those areas of the frameworks that might have an impact on tourism statistics and to review them in the fastest way, preferably by 2006;
3. In the past months, WTO/OMT, as the convener of future meetings, sent out different documents:
  - A first set of initiatives in order to start the work (Report on Work Programme, 29 October 2004)
  - Progress report including an integrated list of issues as well as the contributions received from different members (26 November 2004)
  - The lists of issues and the corresponding Issue Papers presented to the first meeting of the Technical Sub-group of the Inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics, to be held on 4 February in Paris (17 January 2005)
4. **The first document** proposed different categories of issues for update and revision:
  - the first would include proposals for updates and revisions of conceptual frameworks (relative to both sets of recommendations on tourism statistics, i.e., Recommendations on Tourism Statistics (REC93), and the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (REC00), as well as to SNA93, BPM5 and Migration / Household statistics);
  - the second would include those issues related to the present revision of ISIC and CPC;

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<sup>1</sup> The International Labour Office (ILO) has also expressed its interest to become a member.

- the third would refer to adaptations that will have to be made to the classifications and lists used in tourism statistics in both REC93 and REC00, as a result of the revisions of ISIC and CPC;
  - the fourth category would consist of other types of initiatives concerning the development of the System of Tourism Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account extensions.
5. It also proposed the creation of a Technical Sub-Group to examine the technical aspects of the issues and submit findings to the Group <sup>2</sup>.
6. **The second document** was structured as a Progress report including the integrated list of issues as well as the contributions received from different members. It also included a provisional outline of the Report to be discussed on 28 February 2005 by the Group:
- I. Keeping relevant the conceptual framework of tourism statistics <sup>3</sup>
  - II. Work programme on tourism statistics:
    - 1. Proposals related to tourism international standards and related conceptual frameworks (SNA93, BPM5, Migration / Households statistics)
    - 2. Proposals related to revision of classifications
    - 3. Proposals related to tourism international standards exclusively:
      - . *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics (REC'93)*
      - . *Tourism Satellite Account (TSA): Recommended Methodological Framework (REC'00)*
    - 4. Issues related to other types of initiatives
  - III. Organizing the Group's agenda
7. **The third document** included the lists of issues and the corresponding Issue Papers to be presented to the first meeting of the Technical Subgroup, which will be held on 4 February in Paris. This Report has been structured as mentioned in 6.
8. All of these lists have been included in a **fourth document**: the Report "Designing a work programme on tourism statistics", which has been sent to the members of the Group for the next plenary meeting that will be held on 28 February 2005 (12.00-14.00), in parallel with the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the UNSC.

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<sup>2</sup> All agencies participating in the first meeting have designated representatives to the Subgroup

<sup>3</sup> This Chapter will present an update of the *Report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics* presented by WTO/OMT to the UNSC at its 34<sup>th</sup> session.

9. Two suggested time periods are considered:
- The first begins immediately and runs through 2005-2006. During this time, the Group should focus its efforts on preparing to submit to the UNSC at its 2007 meeting an updated version of the two currently existing recommendations on tourism statistics. The updated version should be consistent with the considerations discussed in Part I of this Report.
  - The second begins in March 2007. Once the UNSC approves the revision of both texts, the Group must complete the rest of the Working Programme (WP) mentioned in Part II of this Report, through 2009.

Therefore, it is proposed that the WP cover a period of five years (2005-2009).

10. Action Plan

The Action Plan is structured around three supportive elements.

- *Working Programme*

The WP serves as the technical framework for multilateral cooperation regarding tourism statistics: it identifies all the issues to be developed over a set period of time and specifies which agency (and the respective unit concerned) is responsible for working on each issue.

The future WP will evidence that different international organizations have related projects and common goals and objectives: this network of partnership implies ordering the articulation between these organizations with the objective of ensuring consistency, and looking for greater efficiency in working arrangements. On this premises, participants should provide information and address mutual invitations on those initiatives of a supranational character and a statistical nature carried out by each Organization, and that are related with the development of the System of Tourism Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account.

- *The Technical Subgroup*

The Subgroup has the responsibility to examine the technical aspects of the issues agreed by the Group and submit their findings to it. At least during 2005, the Subgroup will meet back to back to the TF on International Trade in Services Statistics.

- *WTO/OMT Committee on Tourism Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism*

WTO/OMT understands that starting in 2006, once the revision process referred to in Part II of the Report has been completed, the above-mentioned Committee must play an active role as a catalyst and initiator of actions aimed at maintaining the relevance of the tourism statistics conceptual framework.