

TOURISM AND MIGRATION STATISTICS

Report prepared by the World Tourism Organization (WTO)

1. Since the twenty-second session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities WTO has continued to devote its resources to the preparation of its regular statistical publications:

- Yearbook of Tourism Statistics
- Compendium of Tourism Statistics
- Current Travel and Tourism Indicators.

2. The recent acquisition of computing facilities for the Statistics Section will prove material in improving the quality of the data and their timely dissemination. Work on the establishment of a computerized data base on tourism is already underway.

3. A further aim of WTO's programme of statistical activities is to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in data processing and analysis, to promote the use of statistics for tourism policy purposes; and to provide periodic assessments of recent trends in travel and tourism and forecasts of the development of tourism supply and demand as an aid to planning and promotion. Particular attention was paid to devising a common system of definitions and classifications applicable to tourism statistics and emphasis was placed on statistical training, skilled manpower being the key to the improvement of tourism statistics especially in developing countries.

4. The draft programme of work of WTO for the period 1990-1991 contemplates, inter alia the holding of an International Conference on Tourism Statistics. This Conference is conceived as a follow-up to the United Nations International Conference on Travel and Tourism held in Rome in 1963. The subjects of the Conference bearing more directly on international cooperation and coordination are as follows:

- (a) Definition of the scope of the tourism industry focussing on the supply side. The annexes to the ISIC Rev.3 and CPC on tourism related activities will serve as a framework for the development of a comprehensive classification of tourism activities.
- (b) Common set of definitions for domestic and international travel. Harmonization with the UN recommendations on international migration statistics will improve consolidation of arrival and departure statistics.
- (c) Framing of a satellite account for tourism nested within the UN revised System of National Accounts.

CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO)

5. As in previous years, WTO has provided the United Nations Statistical Office with data on tourism for inclusion in the Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations.

B. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

6. WTO has made use in its work of the data on travel debits and credits and passenger fares supplied by the International Monetary Fund.

7. Cooperation with the IMF has also been maintained with regard to the preparation of WTO's study on the Tourism Balance of Payments.

C. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

8. In line with earlier practice, basic statistical data on international tourism have been communicated to ICAO for inclusion in its annual report.

D. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

9. WTO has continued its cooperation with OECD in the context of the activities of the Working Party of the Tourism-Committee of OECD.

E. European Communities (EC)

10. As in previous years, WTO has made available to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) the magnetic tape recording statistical data on international tourism statistics for 1986 and 1987.

11. While shortage of travel funds has prevented WTO from attending the meeting of the Working Party "Statistics on Tourism" in Luxembourg (6-7 June 1989), contribution to this meeting was made by making available to EUROSTAT copies of WTO's methodological publications.

F. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

12. Within the framework of the information exchange between the two organizations, WTO has made available to the ECA the magnetic tape recording statistical data on tourism in Africa for 1986 and 1987.