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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES
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Other business

Organizational matters regarding Task Force Website and Expert Forum

Note by UNSD

This note gives a brief update of latest developments of the Task Force website as organized by UNSD.

Current status of TFSITS website

The TFSITS website has been updated in a number of ways. Not only was the information on Task Force meetings and other relevant events brought up to date, but the whole design and layout of the site has been redone. Please have a look at the following URL.

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/default.htm>

Site Map

Some of the main components of the TFSITS website are (i) Programme of work, (ii) Update of the Manual, (iii) TF meetings and reports to the Statistical Commission, and (iv) Training materials. The information of the technical sub-group on mode 4 is also still available on the menu of this website. The archive of background documents has not been revamped yet, but we intend to make the layout similar to the one on the TF meetings.

We invite the Task Force members to comment on the new contents and layout, and to suggest additional items which may be lacking at this time.

Expert Forum

Most of the Task Force members have received a Login-ID and Password for the Expert Forum (EF) on SITS. As explained in my e-mail message of 15 August 2007, this electronic discussion forum could be a platform for discussing and commenting on specific issues

related to the revision of the Manual on SITS. The added value of using such EF is that issues which cause a lot of discussion may be difficult to handle via track changes in draft text. For such issues the EF provides a means to keep a fairly simple overview of a series of subsequent positions. On each issue the EF will give a chain of successive postings.

This EDF can be found at the following URL

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetradeEF/>

The Task Force may want to decide

- (i) If it would like to use the EF in the update process
- (ii) If it wants to select a small number of issues for discussion in the EF

The “Downloads” function of the EF could always be used to post the latest drafts of the individual chapters of the Manual.

Newsletter

UNSD suggests releasing the next Newsletter in November 2007 with a feature article on progress in the revision of the Manual.

We invite the Task Force to decide (a) when we should release the next Newsletter and (b) what the feature article should be.
