

OUTCOME PAPER # 2¹

DEFINITION OF UNIVERSE FOR THE FRAMEWORK ON THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL SUBGROUP ON MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS

(Paris, 31 January – 1 February 2005)

1. The United Nations Technical Subgroup on the Movement of Natural Persons (TSG) at its meeting in Paris (31 January – 1 February 2005), discussed the choice of the universe for the framework on the movement of persons based on the issue paper *Definition of Universe for the Framework of the Movement of Natural Persons*.
2. Both economic and migration statistics, define migrants in a broadly consistent way. However, both frameworks do not define when a migrant changes its status to a non-migrant, thus making it difficult to identify transactions related exclusively to migrants, such as “workers’ remittances”.
3. The TSG did not consider necessary to restrict the universe for the framework on movement of persons to migrants only. As a general recommendation, it suggested eliminating the concept of migrant from the balance of payments and instead, using exclusively the concept of resident. This recommendation is in line with the recommendations described in the outcome paper # 1, which suggested to redefine workers’ remittances to include all personal transfers from resident households to non-resident households, independently of whether they are migrants or not and rename this new component as “personal transfers”.
4. The TSG agreed on the choice of a broad universe for the statistical framework to measure the economic impacts of the movement of persons. In line with the balance of payments, the universe would include all resident persons of a country and non-resident persons staying in that country for less than one year. This recommendation follows from the newly suggested definition of personal remittances to include personal transfers as well as net compensation of employees for persons working abroad for less than one year.
5. The TSG recommended “slicing” the universe of residents and non-resident workers according to the different policy needs, including Mode 4. It was noted that when measuring personal remittances, the broad universe could be subdivided, for practical purposes, into sub-universes, including, for example foreign born or citizens. This practice is already in place in some countries.

¹ The outcome paper will be submitted to the Balance of Payments Committee (BOPCOM), the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) and the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services.

6. The TSG will further discuss criteria for “slicing” the universe for GATS mode 4 and the broader framework to measure the movement of persons at its next meeting.

Questions for the Committee

Does the Committee agree with the proposal of eliminating the concept of migrant from the balance of payments and of using exclusively the concept of resident? (See also Outcome paper #1 on the definition of personal transfers and personal remittances)