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TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

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Item 4 of the draft agenda

UNSD COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report by UNSD

1. Eurostat. For the collection of SITS data of the European Union member states Eurostat is an important partner of UNSD. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organizations is expected to be worked out and signed by mid 2006. The MoU will outline modalities of cooperation in data collection and other areas, like technical assistance.
2. ECLAC region. UNSD has been active in the ECLAC region during 2005, participating in a workshop in July 2005 in Antigua (organized by the Organization of American States), and conducting its own workshop on SITS in September 2005 in Panama City (jointly with the ECLAC secretariat), in which 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries were represented. As an offspring of that workshop, UNSD explores a possibility of participation in one of the Andean Community meetings in 2006 on SITS which is organized as part of European Union led Trade Related Technical Assistance Project. Furthermore, UNSD has worked closely with the CARICOM secretariat in recent past and will continue to do so. UNSD has cooperated with ALADI on merchandise trade and will try to extend the cooperation to SITS during 2006. Finally, Panama announced that it is in the process of creating a Statistical Training Center in Panama City for the Central American and Caribbean region. UNSD intends to cooperate with that Center on various statistical activities including compilation of SITS.
3. CIS. UNSD agreed with the Statistical Committee of CIS to coordinate their activities on a regular basis including work on the Russian terminology applicable in this area, possible conducting of a joint UNSD/CIS workshop on compilation of statistics of international trade in services in 2007 and on working with the member countries on data reporting for both agencies. As of now, UNSD has established close working arrangements on data reporting arrangements with three CIS countries – the Russian Federation, Ukraine and

Belarus. Reaching arrangements with other countries of the region is expected later this year.

4. ASEAN. UNSD has held initial talks with the ASEAN secretariat to organize with them a regional workshop on SITS in the third quarter of 2006. UNSD promised China that it will be invited to this workshop as well.
