



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION/TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

TFSITS (06) 12

TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

New York, 21-22 February 2006

item 5 of the draft agenda

UNSD DATA COLLECTION AND DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

Report by UNSD

1. As reported during the last TFSITS meeting (OECD/Paris/September 2005), UNSD reviewed comments on the functionalities of its pilot database *UN ServiceTrade* received from various organizations and some proposed changes have been implemented. The current features of UN ServiceTrade (like comparison of data by source) will remain in place for the time being to give peers additional time to test the database functionalities. While work on the database design will continue, the next step in the development of UN ServiceTrade will be establishing regular data collection arrangements.
2. UNSD started this endeavor by collaborating with Eurostat for the collection of detailed SITS data of all European Union member states to ensure storing and dissemination of identical data for the EU countries and not to create additional reporting burden. Further, UNSD started direct data collection from selected countries including USA, Canada, Russian Federation, China Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Belarus and Ukraine. All these data have been loaded into UN ServiceTrade.
3. In May 2006, UNSD will send letters to all (not yet contacted) national statistical offices requesting detailed SITS data (EBOPS by partner) or assistance in making arrangements with the responsible compiling agency. Since UNSD has been active with technical cooperation on SITS in the Latin American and Caribbean region during 2005, special efforts will be launched to reach all countries that were participating in the workshops. Also the regional offices of the Andean Community, CARICOM and ALADI will be approached to assist in data collection. Similar plans are being developed for CIS countries.