



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Joint UNSD/ ECLAC Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services,
13 – 16 September 2005, Panama City**

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- Concept and working methods -
(as of 11.04.2005)

Central Banks and National Statistical Offices are the main compilers of international trade in services. UNSD/ECLAC would like to invite one participant of each of these organizations to this workshop.

The idea of this workshop is to base the learning experience on country case studies to specific service categories/ compilation issues. Out of the 8 morning plus afternoon sessions available for this workshop 6 would be dedicated to case studies.

Once countries have accepted the invitation to this workshop we will send to them a questionnaire regarding their compilation of statistics on trade in services. In addition, we will ask the institution which is the main compiler in a country to which topic(s) they would be willing to give presentations and share their experience. Based on this feedback and the results of the questionnaire we will invite 2 countries for each of the 6 sessions to prepare a paper for distribution and to present their national compilation practices.

It is suggested to organize the case study sessions the following way:

- Introduction to the specific topic (Methodological issues, results of the questionnaire) – 15 minutes;
- Presentation by first country plus questions & answers – 20 minutes plus 15 minutes;
- Presentation the second country plus questions & answers – 20 minutes plus 15 minutes;
- Break of 15 minutes;
- Discussion of specific questions and issues, organized by the chair – 60 minutes.

The sessions are chaired by UNSD and ECLAC/CARICOM. Resource person(s) would be invited from international organizations and some national offices as discussant. The

introduction will be provided by UNSD and/or the resource person. The resource person might give a presentation.

The countries presenting case studies will be asked to cover specific aspects (institutional arrangement, sources and methods of compilation and data available etc.) of their topic and to provide their presentations some time ahead of the workshop to allow the chair to plan and prepare the session.

This outline for the case study sessions is preliminary and will be finalized in consultation with the presenting countries and the resource person(s). Also, the topics of the individual sessions are preliminary at this point of time.