



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU TOURISME
WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL TURISMO
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ТУРИСТСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
منظمة السياحة العالمية

**COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS
AND MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF TOURISM**

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“Updating tourism statistics international standards: its opening to the public domain”

1. Created in September 2004, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics (IACG on TS) ¹ has been working on specifying and coordinating the updating of current international standards on tourism statistics approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1993 and 2000 (which we shall refer to as REC'93 and REC'00 respectively) and whose official texts are:
 - REC'93: “Recommendations on Tourism Statistics”; and
 - REC'00: “Tourism Satellite Account (TSA): Recommended Methodological Framework”.
2. Priority has been given to define the list of *changes* ² in order to bring closer tourism statistics standards to the revision process of ISIC/CPC and related classifications, as well as and related macroeconomic frameworks (SNA93, BPM5 and Migration/Household statistics). It was also agreed that there is currently no need for fundamental or comprehensive changes to both sets of international standards, as such changes would impede the process of implementation, which in most countries is presently under way. Additionally, REC'00 undertook to provide an update of various concepts, definitions, aggregates and classifications that had been elaborated in REC'93.

¹ The permanent core at the plenary and working levels is composed of the following organizations: the United Nations Statistics Division, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Other international agencies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), have attended occasionally.

² As decided by the IACG on TS, “the revision process should take the form of an open list of different issues based on the typology already adopted by the UN Statistical Commission for SNA93 revision: that is, to distinguish between *changes* to the basic conceptual framework (requiring changes in key concepts that would impact data collection, compilation processes and analytical results) and *amendments* that do not require major changes (such as editorial amendments, clarification beyond dispute and interpretation)”.

³ <http://www.world-tourism.org/statistics>

3. The IACG Technical Sub-Group's (TSG) first meeting took place on 4 February 2005 (in Paris) and agreement was reached on a limited number of conceptual issues to be updated in present tourism statistics international standards. The list of them was agreed and identified as *changes* to 1993 and 2000 recommendations. It was also agreed that the revision process should also include different type of *amendments* to present standards as recorded in both official texts.
4. The TSG also agreed the documents to be forwarded to the BOPCOM and AEG 2005 meetings for them to discuss on agreements reached by the TSG at its first meeting.
5. The IACG on TS agreed that after the TSG second meeting (originally scheduled for September 2005 and finally postponed to 24 February 2006), the revision process of tourism statistics international standards should initiate a second phase by opening it to the public domain and present the final update proposals to the UNSC in 2008, jointly with the revised SNA93 and the new BPM6.
6. As convener of the Group, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) emphasized the need for both transparency in the process and the involvement of key stakeholders in the tourism statistics community: National Tourism Organizations, Central Statistical Offices, Balance of Payment compilers, organization of tourism industries, researchers, consulting firms, as well as other bodies members of the UNWTO Business Council.
7. To that end, the single most important tool to promote both objectives will be the website project "Updating tourism statistics international standards", whose format will be that of a discussion forum in the "Statistics" section³ of the UNWTO website, which will be open from 5 April to 30 September 2006.
8. Taking into account the work already carried out by the IACG on TS (at both the plenary and working levels), the objectives of the forum are:
 - To request comments and suggestions regarding the changes and amendments approved by the TSG;
 - To present formal proposals of new amendments to the two official texts of the international standards on tourism statistics (a standard format must be used);
 - To provide any other kind of comments and suggestions regarding these standards, based on the participants' professional experience or their interest in the measurement of tourism's economic contribution.
9. As the TSG's second meeting will be held next 24 February in New York, the Committee will be informed on the agreements reached and the documents approved will be distributed.