FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) Participation in the system's coordination mechanisms

Addendum 1

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General transmits to the Executive Council in the following document the report concerning the new status of the WTO as a specialized agency of the United Nations and its implications in statistical matters.
FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A
SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

a) Participation in the system's coordination mechanisms

Addendum 1

CONTENTS

A. WTO's central coordination leadership role in the field of tourism statistics
B. The complexity of this new scenario for international cooperation and coordination
C. Proposal submitted to the Executive Council
D. WTO's statistical programme in the light of our new responsibilities in the UN System
E. WTO's statistical programme: general overview
F. WTO's Statistics Committee: a proposal for revising its terms of reference

Annexes

FOLLOW-UP OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

a) Participation in the system’s coordination mechanisms

Addendum 1

A. WTO’s central coordination leadership role in the field of tourism statistics

1. The agreement signed between the United Nations (UN) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) last December 2003 contains 21 articles, one of which (Art. 13) refers to “statistical services”. Paragraph 3 of this article stipulates: “The United Nations recognizes WTO as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system”.

2. This recognition is consistent with the central coordinating role in the field of tourism recognized to WTO as stated in Article 2 of the above-mentioned agreement and obliges us to play a proactive role in matters of statistical coordination.

3. Three months after the signing of the Agreement, the WTO presented to the UN Statistical Commission (the UN system’s highest organ in statistical matters)\(^1\) a report on the development of tourism statistics.\(^2\) This is the first time it has done so, and from now on, it will have to do so every three years, as established by the Commission itself.

4. As mentioned in the following section, the meeting highlighted the difficulties the WTO will face in carrying out its coordination leadership role.

B. The complexity of this new scenario for international cooperation and coordination

5. The content of the UN Statistical Commission session (held on 2-5 March of this year) was almost exclusively centred on two subjects. The first was the proposal made by the WTO (paragraphs 25-34 of the Report) to carry out (in parallel with the revision already under way relative to the classification of economic activities and products, the system of national accounts, and the balance of payments) a broad consultation on proposals for modification of the existing Recommendations on tourism statistics (those from 1993 and from

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1 In this capacity, it is up to the UNSC to approve international standards on statistics. In the case of tourism, existing standards have been approved in 1993 and 2000

2 See Annex 1: “Report presented by WTO to the UN Statistical Commission meeting (2-5 March 2004) on the development of tourism statistics”.
2000 on the TSA). Our proposal was aimed as a response to the different suggestions presented by the OECD and Eurostat secretariats, and by certain countries as well.

6. Both New Zealand and the United States raised objections regarding the wisdom of doing so, a fact that is clearly reflected in the content and underlying evaluation (not very enthusiastic) of the official report of the session, which says: "The Commission noted the intention of WTO to undertake consultations with countries regarding existing recommendations on tourism statistics and explore the need for their updating: emphasized that consistency of a possible revision of standards on tourism statistics with the ongoing updates of the SNA and BPM has to be ensured".

7. The second subject was of a more general nature: demanding greater cooperation from the WTO with respect to the OECD and Eurostat, with various countries (Italy, Denmark, and the United States), and suggesting the creation of an Inter-Secretariat Working Group among the three bodies (although the Danish representative suggested opening it up to other International Organizations).

8. As stated in the Report of the session ³ "The Commission stressed the need for stronger coordination in the field of tourism statistics and in the periodical revision of international recommendations. However, different views were expressed on the means to achieve it; some delegates recommended the creation of an Intersecretariat Working Group (ISWG) composed by WTO, OECD and Eurostat; on the other hand WTO felt that this aim could be more appropriately addressed in the framework of the Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) because in this Committee other relevant international and regional organizations are also present”.

9. That the OECD is supporting the creation of an Inter-Secretariat Working Group is surprising, because the WTO has been cooperating with the OECD in three very concrete areas:

- We have been working jointly in the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Services Statistics (presided by the OECD itself) for more than two years now;

- We have presented a study (which had been previously agreed) on tourism as a potential case study for the work of the newly created OECD Short-Term Economic Statistics Expert Group and the Expert Group on businesses tendency surveys;

- We regularly participate in its Committee on Tourism and in its Working Group on Tourism Statistics.

10. The WTO stands firm in its position. In particular, the Secretary-General of the WTO sent a note to his counterpart at the OECD some weeks before the UNSC meeting, explaining the reasons for not agreeing with the OECD's initiative to create an ISWG, pointing out that "our Committee on Statistics is the most appropriate statistical coordination body".

11. We understand that in accordance with the new status of the WTO as well as with the spirit and letter of the agreement signed with the UN, our Committee on Statistics should assume a new, additional, proactive and outward-oriented role in contrast to its current role, which is markedly inward-oriented due to its current mandate, which is to be exclusively an advisory body to the WTO Statistics Programme.

C. Proposal submitted to the Executive Council

12. The Secretariat submits to the Executive Council two different types of proposals:

First, to postpone the initiative put forward to the UNSC of consulting with the countries regarding the updating of the current international recommendations on tourism in force (REC93 and REC00), until the currently ongoing revision processes of other standards are completed.\footnote{The currently ongoing revision processes relative to the International Standards Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) and Central Product Classification (CPC), the System Of National Accounts (SNA93), and the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5) should be completed by 2006-2007, although final approval may come later.}

The justification for this was laid out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of section B.

Secondly, to revise the mandate of the WTO's Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism to adapt it to the new status of the Organization as a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Section F of this document includes both the reasoning behind this proposal, as well as the text articulating it.

D. WTO's statistical programme in the light of our new responsibilities in the UN System

13. It is widely recognized that the strength of the WTO's position in the international community relies not only on its constituency and working arrangements, but also on its reputation in tourism related statistics. In particular, the WTO has, for many years, been playing a crucial role in collecting and disseminating large amounts of comparable tourism-related statistics, and...
in developing innovative projects, it has been able to bring substantive value to national statistics.

14. The approval of the TSA, the second international standard on tourism statistics, has obliged WTO to design a programme for its development demonstrating once again the leading role it can play in orienting the future direction of tourism statistics in a worldwide context.

15. All this background explains the content of article 13 of the agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization recognizing WTO "as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system". These are functions that are common to the different specialized agencies, although the last one is peculiar, as explained in section F of this document.

16. In fact, the reference to our international responsibility "to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system", assigns us the leading role in tourism statistics in terms of the design and development of the different components of the System of Tourism Statistics in order to ensure their worldwide coherence and harmonization and consequently, improve the international comparability of data measuring tourism activity.

17. Attention should be given to the fact that the latter responsibility ("to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system") is an innovation with respect to similar agreements with other specialized agencies\(^5\) and that it obviously affects the Programme of Work of the Statistics Department, insofar as it makes it necessary to develop new initiatives in the field of international cooperation as a necessary prerequisite in order to carry out this responsibility in terms of international coordination.

18. Because of the cross-cutting nature of tourism (a demand phenomenon that involves many different industries), it must be recognized that this responsibility overlaps with that of other international organizations and regional bodies that produce tourism-related statistics or service industry statistics in general or have institutional responsibilities relating to service industry statistics as well as those macroeconomic frameworks (such as SNA93 and BPM5) to which the Tourism Satellite Account is related.

19. In fact, we already cooperate with other international organizations because we have related projects and common goals and objectives; and in consequence, by cooperating we enter into a strategic alliance or partnership as with ILO, IMF, UNSD and ECLAC. This network of partnerships should be expanded to include at least other UN Regional Commissions in a multiyear programme.

\(^5\) Thus, the agreement with the IMF and UNESCO coïncide practically word for word with the entire text mentioned above, but differ in this last part: the first reads "without prejudice to the right of the United Nations to concern itself with any statistics so far as they may be essential for its own purposes", while the second says "without prejudice to the right of the United Nations to concern itself with such statistics so far as they may be essential for its own purposes or for the improvement of statistics throughout the world".
20. Because international cooperation relating to statistics, and tourism statistics in particular, involves multiple organizations with overlapping responsibilities, WTO must take a more multi-lateral approach and a more proactive role in the various international coordination processes and bodies already in place (such as the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade in Services Statistics and the Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications).

21. Coordination necessarily implies ordering the articulation with those international organizations and regional bodies, with the objective of ensuring consistency, and looking for greater efficiency in working arrangements with the parties involved in a given area or domain: the present revision process of the Balance of Payments and Economic Classification as well as the design of compilation guidance for the implementation of the Manual on International Trade in Service Statistics consumes the greatest part of WTO efforts.

22. Recently, since WTO has been assigned a central coordinating role in the field of tourism statistics, some small difficulties in the realignment of interests and associated communications have emerged that have negatively affected WTO relations in dealing with selected international organizations (like Eurostat and OECD). These difficulties highlight the new requirement for WTO to be even more proactive in its communications with all other related international organizations and affected national institutions as a part of its newly acquired leadership responsibilities.

23. Another implication also emerges from WTO’s newly assigned central responsibility “to collect, to analyse and to publish” official data produced by different national institutions (basically, Central Statistical Offices, Central Banks and National Tourism Administrations). To that end, we must enlarge our cooperative network to include all national bodies (not just WTO members) producing those data that support present international comparability on tourism activity and we should also participate in related initiatives promoted within the UN system.

24. One relevant consequence in this regard, is that WTO’s initiatives in terms of capacity building and technical assistance should be addressed to all countries, whether members or non-members, as these initiatives are a prerequisite for a significant number of them in order to implement international standards and produce data.

25. WTO understands that the assigned responsibility to improve statistics on tourism and improve the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the UN system, includes a responsibility for leadership in enlarging the national and international systems of tourism statistics to address current information gaps and unmet information requirements by cooperating with those countries with a more developed statistical infrastructure and in consequence, we understand that we also should be open to cooperate with the corresponding International Organizations in this regard. A good example could be the case of OCDE which is in the best possible position to include tourism as a case study in different areas such as Foreign Direct Investment and Fixed Capital Formation statistics.
and both in the Short-Term Economic Statistics Expert Group and the Expert Group on business tendency surveys.

E. WTO's statistical programme: general overview

26. As mentioned in the Programme of Work of the Department of Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism for the period 2004-2005, its overall objective is "to support the analysis of tourism consumption and the design and implementation of policies developed by different stakeholders in the tourism industry and to ensure that this analysis is based on a sufficient number of credible data associated with tourism activities of visitors and with the industries that produce the goods and services required by them; to improve the standardization of tourism statistics; to promote the avoidance of duplication in the information relating to tourism statistics collected by international organizations; to promote the integration of the system of tourism statistics within the sphere of the UN system of international statistics".

27. The overall objective should take concrete form in three types of outcomes:

- development of national Systems of Tourism Statistics (STS) and the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) project;

- enhanced capacity of National Tourism Administrations (NTAs) as producers and users of tourism statistics;

- increased awareness of the need and significance of reliable quantitative analyses of the economic impacts of tourism and, specifically, of the relevance of the TSA.

28. However, this is the first time that the content of the WTO's statistics programme is being presented in a way that is different from that with which the Executive Council is familiar: the new format identifies the major lines of action in statistical matters (which are the same as those of other sister organizations of the UN system) and the corresponding projects.

29. The following outline gives a general overview of the WTO's statistical programme:

I. Setting and promotion of international standards

1. Keeping relevant the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics
2. Promoting worldwide implementation of international standards in tourism statistics
3. Adapting the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) Conceptual Framework from a Regional Perspective
4. Developing a technical assistance programme for the implementation of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA)
II. Participation in the revision of other related international standards

5. Economic classifications of activities (ISIC) and products (CPC)

III. Securing international comparability of tourism statistics

8. Enlarging the scope of international comparability
9. The operationalization of usual environment: general guidelines
10. European inter-regional tourism flows

IV. Design of standardized methodologies for statistical data collection

11. Model border surveys measuring inbound tourism expenditure
12. Model entry/exit cards for measuring international flows of visitors
13. Collecting data on accommodation establishments using a model software
14. Design of a model "tourism module" for household income/expenditure surveys

V. Collecting and publishing statistics

15. Statistical reports
16. Metadata project

VI. Other complementary projects

17. Tourism macroeconomic indicators
18. New initiatives in short-term statistics: tourism as a case study
19. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in tourism industries
20. Tourism Balance of Payments

30. The Council's attention is drawn to the fact that this list includes "Keeping relevant the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics" (project 1) which we suggested should be postponed until 2006-2007 when the currently ongoing processes for the revision of Economic Classifications (on activities and products), the Balance of Payments and the System of National Accounts (in which the WTO is actively participating) should be completed (see par. 12).

F. WTO's Statistics Committee: a proposal for revising its terms of reference

I. Justification of the proposal

31. WTO's Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism was established at the Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism, held in Nice, France in June 1999, and conceived as "an interinstitutional mechanism for the mutual interchange of methodological
advice and the definition of the main lines of action concerning actual and future work on statistical instruments and economic research related to the conceptual framework for the preparation of the Tourism Satellite Account”.

32. While the new status of the WTO as a specialized agency of the United Nations is the major reason for reconsidering the role of the Committee, the evolution of the Committee in the previous four years of its existence provides a secondary reason for some adjustments to its role and mandate.

33. This evolution not only demonstrates the vitality of the WTO's own statistics programme: it also highlights the development of National Systems of Tourism Statistics, the decision of a growing number of countries to create a TSA and in general, the interest in the new way of understanding tourism activity and the measurement of its impact implicit in the TSA conceptual framework itself.

34. In addition to this institutional change, the Committee has also emerged as an especially qualified forum for presenting and discussing the WTO's strategic lines of action with regard to promoting the development of national systems of tourism statistics and the design of the TSA project. Furthermore, it is making it possible to forge a new statistical culture of cooperation between basic stakeholders of tourism statistics, as demonstrated by initiatives to create internal working groups on subjects such as usual environment, treatment of package tours, tourism employment, etc.

35. The new responsibilities and required competencies in statistical matters represent both a qualitative and a quantitative change with respect to WTO's international cooperation and collaboration activities. These changes also entail expanding the current scope of the statistical programme to meet the six lines of action that constitute the backbone of the programme:

- setting and promotion of international standards;
- participation in the revision of other related international standards;
- securing international comparability of tourism statistics;
- design of standardized methodologies for statistical data collection;
- collecting and publishing statistics;
- other complementary projects.

II. New terms of reference

Mission

36. The Committee is a subsidiary advisory body of the Executive Council. As such, it contributes to the fulfilment of Article 13, paragraph 3 of the Agreement signed between the United Nations and WTO, which states:
"The United Nations recognizes WTO as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyze, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system".

Consequently, the Executive Council requires the collaboration of the Committee in the following areas:

- proposing initiatives related to the design and implementation of international tourism statistics standards;

- promoting international comparability of tourism statistics by proposing initiatives relative to the collection, homogeneity, processing and dissemination of data;

- supporting efforts to integrate such data into the frameworks of the system of national tourism statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account;

- helping member countries in their initiatives to improve their respective national systems of tourism statistics and in the development of the TSA;

- liaising with other international bodies with delegated responsibilities for leadership and coordination of related international statistics and their standards within sphere of the UN system.
Composition

37. For the period 2004-2007, the composition of the Committee is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Vice-chairmen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<th>Members</th>
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<td>Ecuador</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>France *</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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</table>

Representative of the Associate Members

Aruba

Representatives of the Affiliate Members

Centro Internazionale di Studi sull'Economia Turistica (CISET)
International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA)
International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH & RA)
George Washington University

Observers

Non-member States:

Australia
Singapore
Sweden
United States of America

Institutions:

EUROSTAT
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Ufficio Italiano dei Cambi
World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)

* = ex officio Member

The Secretariat of the Committee is the Department of Statistics and Economic Measurement of Tourism.
Invited observers

38. For each of the Committee’s meetings, the Secretariat may extend invitations to non-member countries, national and international organizations and institutions in order to enlarge the perspective of statistics producers, users and stakeholders and facilitate WTO’s international leadership and coordination activities, according to the content of the agenda.

39. Invited observers may address the Committee only with the permission of its Chairman.

Venues of the meetings

40. The sessions of the Committee shall take place annually and shall be held at the WTO Headquarters, save on exceptional occasions in which the Secretariat decides otherwise.

Creation of working groups

41. The Committee will determine whether it is relevant to create temporary working groups of these appropriate parties that would strive to solve, clarify or provide insights, advice and liaison assistance on any particular issue of interest related with the WTO’s statistics programme and its international leadership responsibilities relating to tourism statistics.

Repercussions on the Programme of Work of the Statistics Department

42. If requested by its members, the Secretariat of the Committee can accept commitments that will partially modify the biannual Programme of Work of the Statistics Department.

43. In no case shall these potential modification/s justify new financial or human resources for the Secretariat.

Communication between meetings

44. The Secretariat of the Committee is responsible for encouraging communication among its members between sessions. In order to enhance its capacity for action, the Secretariat will consider using electronic or other means in order to make it possible for it to continue to work effectively between meetings.
ANNEX 1
Statistical Commission
Thirty-fifth session
2-5 March 2004
Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Economic statistics: tourism statistics

Report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics. The Commission is requested to comment on the progress in tourism statistics.


Contents

I. Role of the World Tourism Organization in the field of tourism statistics ............. 1–7 3
II. Implementation of the main functions of the World Tourism Organization .......... 8–24 4
   A. Setting of standards .................................................. 8–11 4
   B. Promotion of the implementation of standards ..................................... 12–17 6
   C. Securing international comparability of tourism statistics ....................... 18–24 8

   A. Keeping relevant the conceptual framework of tourism statistics ............... 25–34 11
   B. Other planned initiatives ............................................... 35–39 14

Annex

Composition of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism .... 17
I. Role of the World Tourism Organization in the field of tourism statistics

1. The specific role of the World Tourism Organization in the field of tourism statistics has been recognized officially at the international level, and has been formalized through the agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization,¹ which in its article 13 establishes their respective roles and their interaction and collaboration. This role encompasses three major functions: the setting of standards, the promotion of the implementation of such standards, and the dissemination of tourism statistics collected through the World Tourism Organization. These functions are further discussed in section II of the present report.

2. It had been accepted that, from an economic point of view, tourism needed to be viewed from a demand perspective as a social phenomenon emerging from the activity of visitors. In order to measure the economic effects and impacts of this demand in a uniform way, over all activities and worldwide, it was necessary to develop a set of basic concepts, classifications and aggregates to make possible the identification of the phenomenon, and present it in a language that would be comparable with that used in other areas and uniform over different socio-geographical universes.

3. Tourism analysts have tended to develop their own conceptual frameworks, and a certain marginalization was observed in the past. The fact that much emphasis was given to the particularities of tourism made it impossible to study the phenomenon in terms of categories used for other economic activities.

4. As stated in article 13 of the agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, the World Tourism Organization has been recognized “as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics of tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system”. Such integration would be its specific responsibility and concern. The main endeavour of the World Tourism Organization has therefore been and in the future will continue to be: to consider the phenomenon, its actors and its effects in such a way as to enable a unique language to be used among all the stakeholders. This encompasses the design and development of a system of tourism statistics in such a way as to make its components (concepts, classifications and aggregates) compatible with other conceptual frameworks commonly used to describe other phenomena.

5. With respect to this concern, there was also the need to include the economic measurement of tourism within the mainstream of the measurement of economic activities, mainly the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA).² This guided the World Tourism Organization towards the establishment of a recommended framework within which to develop a tourism satellite account that would be applicable in all countries in order to facilitate the comparison of tourism to other economic activities, and to make possible comparison among different countries.

6. Nevertheless, the setting of standards for statistical measurements is insufficient: if these are to be applied, the activity should be associated with concrete actions leading to the promotion of the implementation of these standards, such as the development of general guidelines on specific issues based on best practices or comparative research analysis, further documentation and deeper insight.
into the concepts, definitions and classifications, seminars and workshops, technical assistance etc. A basic element in this process, although of a very different nature, is the inter-institutional cooperation of national tourism administrations with other governmental bodies such as national statistical offices, central banks, migration/interior authorities and private sector representatives.

7. Lastly, these actions should lead to an improvement of world statistics concerning tourism, disseminated through the World Tourism Organization, in terms of their effective content and comparability of methodologies, concepts and consequently measurements. Coverage of tourism statistics has long been limited to the collection of movements of travellers at international borders and global values of expenditure by foreign travellers in the economic territory and by national travellers abroad; a sharpening of the concepts and definitions of tourism, encompassing also the activities of resident visitors within their country of residence, the setting of standards and the promotion of their implementation would lead to improvements in the coverage, quality and comparability of the data disseminated through the World Tourism Organization and thus to their usefulness in, and relevance to, describing the phenomenon in all its dimensions.

II. Implementation of the main functions of the World Tourism Organization

A. Setting of standards

8. The preface to the 1978 publication entitled Provisional Guidelines of Statistics of International Tourism, underlined its “provisional character” and stressed “the need for further work in this field ... on the basis of work by appropriate national authorities, by the World Tourism Organization and by various other regional and international organizations, including the United Nations”.

9. On this basis, the World Tourism Organization has been a main actor in respect of the insertion of tourism statistics within the general statistical system. Over less than 10 years, two sets of recommendations were presented to the Statistical Commission:

(a) Recommendations on Tourism Statistics (hereinafter referred to as REC93) whose recommendations and provisional classification were adopted by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session in 1993. These had the following basic characteristics:

(i) The purpose had been to develop a first set of basic elements of a system of tourism statistics in order to provide users with reliable, consistent and appropriate statistical information on the socio-economic structure and development of the tourism phenomenon;

(ii) In respect of its design, the system of tourism statistics was devised to ensure the international comparability of statistics in the field of tourism, viewed as an economic activity. Special care was taken to relate its definitions and concepts to those already in use in other domains of economic analysis;

(iii) In terms of its elements, the system of tourism statistics can be defined as a set of components, of a statistical nature, comprising the statistical sources
themselves (that is to say surveys, administrative records, or those of a synthetic nature like national accounts and balance of payments, etc.), the specific tools and instruments required at some stages of the process for the generation of statistics (classifications, databases etc.) and the data that result from these processes. As a consequence, the system of tourism statistics also encompasses the technical aspects of field operation, the creation of statistical infrastructure, the elaboration of the results, and the completion of the tasks leading to an integration of the data into a system of information;

(b) **Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework**\(^7\) (referred to hereinafter as REC00) which was adopted by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-first session in 2000,\(^8\) with the following basic characteristics:

(i) Its purpose is to further the integration of tourism into the mainstream of economic measurement and analysis by establishing a strong relationship with the 1993 SNA and the fifth edition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Balance of Payments Manual*\(^9\) frameworks. This major focus on the structural link to the 1993 SNA and the *Balance of Payments Manual* concepts led to some necessary adjustments in the definitions and concepts that had been proposed in REC93, and these adjustments were made explicit;

(ii) In respect of design, the tourism satellite account focuses on the relationship of tourism with the main concepts and aggregates of the 1993 SNA, so that tourism *value added* can be defined as a share of total *value added*, and so that the exchange of information between the systems, as well as the sharing of analysis and statistical procedures, may be facilitated;

(iii) In respect of elements, although formally included in its conceptual framework, some of the components of tourism *demand* (like tourism gross fixed capital formation and tourism collective consumption) have not been developed in the tourism satellite account official publication as consistently as tourism *consumption* (defined in relationship with the concept of household effective consumption of the 1993 SNA and established according to types of visitors and venue of consumption) which plays the role of the basic concept of the demand approach. Other relevant elements of the tourism satellite account are tourism *industries* (defined as those productive activities that produce a principal output that has been identified as characteristic of tourism), and tourism characteristics products, both being characterized in terms of specific lists\(^5\) based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.2,\(^10\) and the Central Product Classification (CPC), Version 1.0.\(^11\) Lastly, the impact of the activities of visitors on employment and the conditions of work of workers in tourism industries are also part of the tourism satellite account conceptual framework.

10. Pursuant to the above-mentioned 1978 provisional guidelines on international tourism statistics, the same process was followed in the setting up of REC93 and REC00 and consisted of:

- Methodological research and proposals for standards developed by different international organizations.
- Collection of country experiences.
• Organization of international conferences by the World Tourism Organization (Ottawa, 1991; Nice, France, 1999) where the basic elements of the future proposal of new international standards were presented and discussed.

• Setting up of an inter-institutional alliance involving both producers and users, national and international organizations, in order to structure a final version for submission to the Statistical Commission (Rec00).

11. These processes entailed a tremendous effort both financial and organizational. Table 1 describes the process that unfolded during the period from March 1994 to November 1999 in developing the tourism satellite account conceptual framework.

Table 1
Elements of the process of developing the tourism satellite account conceptual framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Work began (month/year)</th>
<th>Number of participating countries(^a)</th>
<th>Number of meetings(^b)</th>
<th>Tourism satellite account drafts prepared</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Tourism Organization</td>
<td>March 1994</td>
<td>37(^c)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6(^c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>June 1994</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurostat</td>
<td>October 1998</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0(^f)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Average number of countries participating in the meetings.

\(^b\) Up to end-1999.

\(^c\) The three organizations (World Tourism Organization, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)) have always been invited to each other’s meetings.

\(^d\) An average of nine organizations and five industry representatives also participated in World Tourism Organization meetings.

\(^e\) Up to six experts cooperated with the World Tourism Organization over this period in the preparation of the six different drafts.

\(^f\) Eurostat did not seek to develop a new alternative to the design of a tourism satellite account.

While the World Tourism Organization initiated and led these efforts to create a new standard relating to tourism satellite accounts, a new statistical instrument for measuring the economic importance of tourism, it should nevertheless be recognized that both the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in particular, through parallel initiatives, made many significant contributions.

B. Promotion of the implementation of standards

12. The World Tourism Organization has played a central role in promoting the implementation of standards by developing different types of materials (most of them accessible online at: http://www.world-tourism.org/frameset/frame_statistics.html) and providing technical assistance in terms both of country missions and of regional and subregional seminars and workshops. Also, it should be mentioned that Eurostat represents an outstanding example of an organization that undertook other international initiatives to promote the implementation of these
standards and, in particular, that some of them have been supported by legal acts of the European Parliament of the European Union (EU).

13. Pursuant to the approval of REC00, the World Tourism Organization made one of its main leitmotifs the promotion of the setting up of an inter-institutional alliance in all countries in order to improve their system of tourism statistics as a precondition for the development of a tourism satellite account. In the view of the World Tourism Organization, such an alliance should cover both producers and users comprising, besides the national tourism administration, the national statistical office, the central bank, migration authorities (or some equivalent body in the ministry of the interior) and tourism private sector representatives. Within this group, the unit in charge of the compilation of national accounts would have a special role to play, not only in the provision of information, but also, owing to its great experience, in the reconciliation of conflicting sources of information, which underlies the construction of a tourism satellite account.

14. Because of the key role that national statistical offices play in the production of tourism statistics and owing to their competence in the development of national general statistical systems, the World Tourism Organization has cooperated with regional commissions' statistical departments in organizing regional seminars and workshops. As a consequence, not only is the presence increasingly evident of national statistics office officials (both those responsible for statistics production and those responsible for national accounts) as well as that of balance-of-payments compilers, but also there is greater awareness of the benefits resulting from a tourism satellite account for the compilation of national accounts (basically in terms of improved estimation of household final consumption expenditure by products, and future insight into some less well known activities and products, like travel agencies, package tours and time-sharing arrangements etc.), in addition to the strengthening of the leadership role of national statistical offices as custodians of the general statistical system.

15. The World Tourism Organization is aware of the difficulties faced by many countries in achieving such cooperation but at the same time it has observed that these struggles are necessary if countries are to develop tourism statistics and, eventually, the tourism satellite account.

16. From this perspective, the World Tourism Organization has developed an international cooperation framework that should facilitate the set-up and continuity of an inter-institutional alliance within the countries. The initiatives tackled include cooperation with:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), by promoting channels of collaboration in some countries between the central bank and the national tourism administration in finding ways to solve the major discrepancies in their respective estimations of the expenditure associated with non-resident visitors.

- The International Labour Organization (ILO), with regard to the opportunity to define general guidelines for including a "tourism module" in the household income/expenditure surveys as a way of promoting the international comparability of expenditure associated with domestic tourism.

These initiatives are complemented by active participation in two multilateral platforms that specifically enable cooperation in particular projects with other
organizations such as Eurostat, OECD, the United Nations Statistics Divisions and others, namely:

- The Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, as a reflection of the importance of tourism in international trade in services, whose specificity needs to be recognized and also requires special treatment.

- The Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications, as classification issues are particularly important for the recognition of a tourism-specific set of activities and of commodities, and for the building of a tourism satellite account, in particular when confronting demand by visitors (consumption) and supply by resident producers.

Lastly, the World Tourism Organization is regularly invited by Eurostat and OECD to attend the meetings of their respective Working Groups on Tourism Statistics, participates in different initiatives explaining the links of the tourism satellite account with other macroeconomic frameworks such as the 1993 SNA and the fifth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments Manual, and promotes bilateral cooperation in relevant areas only partially covered in the present international standards of tourism statistics (for example, with OECD in the area of short-term tourism statistics and, with ILO in developing employment data in tourism industries).

17. Consistent with the objective of strengthening inter-institutional cooperation both at national and at international levels, the World Tourism Organization Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism is a key mechanism in the mission and programme of work of the World Tourism Organization in the field of statistics. It includes members and non-members of the World Tourism Organization, international organizations (like OECD, Eurostat and ILO) and relevant users of tourism statistics. It was established at the Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism, held in Nice, France, in June 1999, and “conceived as an inter-institutional mechanism for the mutual interchange of methodological advice and the definition of the main lines of action concerning actual and future work on statistical instruments and economic research related to the conceptual framework for the preparation of the Tourism Satellite Account”.

C. Securing international comparability of tourism statistics

18. International comparability is a long-term objective, which can be secured through two procedures that complement and reinforce each other: the standardization of concepts, classifications and methods of compilation, used among reporting countries; and the dissemination of information using a formalized, uniform standard. Based on its experience in disseminating worldwide tourism statistics, the World Tourism Organization considers that the present situation is far from satisfactory and requires special attention and initiatives such as:

- Special issue: cross-national compliance or harmonization studies of concepts and procedures (usual environment in domestic tourism statistics and others).

- Follow-up reviews.

- Notice and constructive advice when inconsistencies and non-compliance instances emerge or are discovered.
• Occasional audit reviews to assess compliance with international standards.

• In-depth case studies to assess issues of international harmonization and compliance.

• Publication of countries or organizations found in non-compliance, with significant variations from the established standards.

19. Table 2 (referring to the period 1999-2001) summarizes the availability to a number of countries of the basic set of indicators that support at present the international comparability of tourism activity.

20. Despite the short period of time that had elapsed between the development of the two sets of recommendations, a giant step was taken in the integration of tourism statistics in the general statistical system. However, there are still important limitations in the international comparability of the available data, mainly in respect of basic characteristics such as international arrivals and departures, expenditures associated with inbound and outbound tourism and, particularly, the corresponding travel flows in the case of domestic tourism for which there is still no comparative international data series.

21. A particularly significant case is that of the European Union (EU) and also, to a lesser extent, that of those countries that are candidates to join the EU in 2004. It constitutes the only known example where a special effort has been made to harmonize the observation tools used to obtain a uniform set of data associated with the tourism activity of residents (indeed, a legal norm forces all countries to use the same definitions and classifications). However, important limitations still remain, in regard, for example, to the different operative approaches to the concept of usual environment by the different countries and the fact that no intra- or extra-EU-15 net flows of arrivals and departures have been published as yet (as is also the case for international transactions of goods and services).
### Table 2
Availability of basic indicators of tourism activity, EU, OECD and the regional commissions, 1999-2001
(Number by countries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic indicator (20)</th>
<th>Total number of countries*</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>OECD</th>
<th>ECLAC</th>
<th>ESCWA</th>
<th>ECA</th>
<th>ECE</th>
<th>ESCAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>207</td>
<td>15 MS</td>
<td>10 CC</td>
<td>30 MS</td>
<td>35 MS + 7 AM</td>
<td>13 MS</td>
<td>52 MS</td>
<td>48 MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inbound tourism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrivals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourists (overnight visitors)</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same-day visitors</td>
<td>91b</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrivals by country of origin</td>
<td>193e</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrivals by mode of transport</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrivals by purpose of visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure, recreation and holidays</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and professional</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other purpose</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight stays and length of stay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight stays in H&amp;S</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight stays in CE</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS of non-resident tourists</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism expenditure in country of reference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic tourism</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight stay in H&amp;S</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight stay in CE</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outbound tourism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departures</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism expenditure in other countries</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels and similar establishments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of rooms</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bed places</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy rate</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of stay (residents and non-residents)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: MS: Member State.
CC: Candidate countries.
AM: Associate members.
H&S: Hotels and similar establishments.
CE: All types of tourism accommodation establishments.
ALS: Average length of stay.
ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
ESWCA: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.
ECA: Economic Commission for Africa.
ECE: Economic Commission for Europe.
ESCAP: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

* Only eight having the whole set of basic indicators.
* For 28 countries, referring to cruise passengers.
* For 88 countries, arrivals by country of nationality; for 96, by country of residence; and for 9, both by country of nationality and by country of residence.
22. In the last three years, the World Tourism Organization has carried out studies related both to the applicability of some elements of the conceptual framework of tourism statistics (like the usual environment, probably the fundamental concept that underlies the design of the system of tourism statistics\(^3\)), and to the tools used to measure some of the basic variables (specifically, the analysis of data on arrivals and departures at national borders, and the analysis of surveys of tourism expenditure associated with inbound tourism).

23. Both studies were designed to evaluate the quality and comparability of the data obtained in a relevant number of countries and the final result stressed the need to undertake specific initiatives in order to achieve improvement in both areas.

24. Also, in a significant number of countries (about 40 have developed a tourism satellite account exercise or plan to develop one in 2004-2005, among which are countries as diverse as Canada, Costa Rica, France, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain and the United States of America), tourism satellite account development has revealed some challenges that had not been expected before this type of exercise was initiated, with regard to the credibility of a good part of the available tourism statistics, which have been (and still are) mainly associated with tourism demand. These challenges are very diverse but all correspond to the fundamental nature of tourism satellite account as a tool for the integration of scattered tourism data. They encompass:

- Lack of uniformity in the classifications and definitions used for the same variables in different sources (for example, accommodation).
- Confrontation between supply and demand with regard to which products are supplied by tourism industries to visitors, both residents and non-residents.
- New users' needs, with respect, for instance, to some characteristics of the trip and/or of the visitors themselves that are usually not included in the main statistical operations in the field of tourism (such as, organization of the trip, size of the travel group, identification of same-day visitors etc.).

III. Looking into the future: work programme of the World Tourism Organization for the period 2004-2006

A. Keeping relevant the conceptual framework of tourism statistics

25. Based on its experience in the development of tourism statistics, the World Tourism Organization considers that there is currently no need for fundamental or comprehensive changes to both sets of international standards approved by the Statistical Commission, as such changes would impede the process of implementation which in most countries is presently under way.

26. Additionally, REC00 undertook to provide an update of various concepts, definitions, aggregates and classifications that had been elaborated in REC93, owing mostly to the fact that the first set of recommendations had been developed before an awareness and appreciation of the linkage between statistics of macroeconomic aspects of tourism and the System of National Accounts were developed and communicated to a broad constituency of tourism statisticians and users; and
secondarily because the REC93 recommendations had been formulated before the 1993 SNA was itself finalized and approved. These updates refer to:

- Some changes in the scope of the concept of visitor consumption which, besides its component representing visitor final consumption expenditure in cash (always the major component of total consumption of or on behalf of visitors, which in REC93 was considered equivalent to visitor consumption or tourism demand) now also includes tourism consumption expenditure in kind, tourism social transfers in kind and tourism business expenses.

- New aggregates of interest regarding the measurement of the economic impacts of tourism, namely, tourism collective consumption, tourism employment, tourism value added, tourism gross fixed capital formation etc.

- Significant changes in the definition of some concepts (for instance, that of domestic tourism, which specifies that the concept refers to the tourism activity of resident visitors within the economic territory of the country of reference, specification of which was not part of the previous REC93 definition, which led to the exclusion altogether from domestic tourism consumption of tourism expenditures by visitors leaving the country undertaken before departure or after their return within their country of residence).

- Change and development of classifications to be used in tourism statistics (for instance, the inclusion of lists of tourism characteristic products and activities, based respectively on CPC, Version 1.0, and ISIC, Rev.3).

- Other minor amendments.

27. Although one has to take into consideration the priority of consolidating the present process of implementation of international standards, it is also true that both the experience of producers and users of tourism statistics at the national level and the processes of revision that are currently under way at the international level make it necessary to set up a mechanism by which individual countries and international organizations might formulate suggestions that would make it possible to evaluate, and at some point in time to initiate, a new process directed towards a third set of recommendations.

28. In this context, it is particularly relevant to mention the ongoing revision of ISIC, Rev.3 and CPC, Version 1.0. Both revisions have a direct influence on tourism statistics not only because of their direct relationship with the classifications of tourism characteristic products and activities, but also because of their relationship with the correspondence between CPC and the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS). This is also the case for the revision of the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual regarding the definition of residence, which affects the coverage of the travel item, as well as of inbound tourism consumption and outbound tourism consumption. No revision of REC93 and REC00 could be considered in isolation from these processes.

29. Looking into the future, the starting point of any process aimed at collecting proposals of updating should refer to the present conceptual framework of both sets of international standards and take the form of an open list of different issues based on the typology already developed by the Statistical Commission when proposing a
continuous updating mechanism of the 1993 SNA with the relevant adaptation to
tourism statistics.

30. The World Tourism Organization presents to the Statistical Commission for
consideration, a typology of classes of updates and revisions that would offer, in its
opinion, the best approach to characterizing potential updates in order to sustain the
relevance of the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics:

(a) Amendments that do not require major changes to key concepts, or data-
collection and compilation systems, such as:

(i) Editorial amendments: pertaining to wording errors, and apparent
contradictions, as well as translation errors that affect neither core concepts
nor the structure of the system;

(ii) Clarification beyond dispute: pertaining to cases where an unambiguous
clarification can be made;

(iii) Interpretation: referring to cases where a new situation arises for which
the treatment in existing recommendations may not be clear;

(b) Changes to the basic conceptual framework, requiring changes in key
concepts, that would impact data collection, compilation processes and analytical
results. In these instances, suggested changes should be proposed on a case-by-case
basis, including a precise justification, a discussion of the possible timing of the
introduction of the identified change, the link with available comparable data across
countries, and the consistency with other macroeconomic statistics frameworks. In
all cases, such major suggested changes should be based on statistical experience
and evidence.

31. Specifically, the World Tourism Organization understands that the updating
process should, as a general requirement:

(a) Focus on a number of specific issues related to the conceptual framework
of REC93 and REC00;

(b) Address users’ needs (that is to say, quality elements related to these
issues);

(c) Take into account the feasibility or adequacy of the suggested changes.

32. Provided that the Statistical Commission supports the above-mentioned basis
guidelines, the World Tourism Organization proposes to launch and coordinate the
current updating process in a three-phased initiative:

• Phase I: The World Tourism Organization would communicate this initiative to
all countries (whether or not World Tourism Organization member States) and
collect from them information on those issues that they considered to be in
need of some sort of update. This process would be developed via e-mail and
using a formalized questionnaire to be addressed to national tourism
administrations, national statistical offices and central banks. This phase
should be finalized by April 2005.

• Phase II: Once this information was collected and processed, the World
Tourism Organization would distribute it to those international organizations
and institutions with responsibility and experience (either as producers or
users) in the field of tourism-related statistics and tourism analysis, in order
that they might collect, should they consider it appropriate, new proposals and suggestions from members and also from units in the organizations with competence in areas related to tourism statistics, national accounts, balance of payments and classifications. This phase should be initiated during the first quarter of 2005, and finalized in the course of the last quarter of 2005.

• Phase III: Based on the outcomes of phases I and II, the World Tourism Organization would prepare a detailed project document describing the contents of the proposed initiative for updating the present conceptual framework of tourism statistics, including its agenda, work programme, timetable, resource implications and decision-making process, and would present it to the Statistical Commission at its 2007 session.

33. Throughout this process, the World Tourism Organization will ask the advice and support of its Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism (see annex for the composition of the Committee) in the design and completion of phases I and III, as well as in the discussion of the final document to be presented to the Statistical Commission; also, it will extend invitations to non-members countries, organizations and institutions to participate in its meetings and initiatives throughout this process, in order to enlarge the perspective of both producers and users.

34. Lastly, the Committee will determine, according to the number and type of suggestions received in phases I and II, whether it is relevant to create a temporary working group of the appropriate parties that would strive to solve any particular problem. If this should be the case, the World Tourism Organization would ask the Statistical Commission to postpone the presentation of the final report initially planned for the Commission's 2007 session.

B. Other planned initiatives

35. The World Tourism Organization also presents to the Statistical Commission for its consideration the following initiatives in relation to the different fields mentioned throughout this report:

In the field of standard setting:

36. The World Tourism Organization intends to proceed further in deepening the relationship between the tourism satellite account and the 1993 SNA of which it is a satellite. In that connection, the World Tourism Organization plans to pursue its current consultations with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) regarding overlapping topics.

In the field of the promotion of the implementation of standards:

37. The World Tourism Organization intends to pursue its efforts to provide countries with extended guidelines on improving their statistical basis for setting up a tourism satellite account. This will be achieved by:

• Increasing the review of country experience and finding means to improve communication.
• Improving the direct sharing of experiences across countries with similar conditions.

In this connection, the World Tourism Organization considers that it would be important for those countries that have developed tourism satellite account exercises to share their experiences with other countries that are starting that process. It is understood that, in order to avoid overloading the responsible units (usually based in the national accounts departments of the national statistical offices) with new demands, this eventual collaboration should be limited to a reasonable number of issues and requested according to an agreed calendar.

In the field of the international comparability of tourism statistics disseminated through the World Tourism Organization:

38. Although this has been carried out with some delay within the context of the work developed by IMF, OECD, Eurostat and others, the World Tourism Organization has nonetheless achieved an ambitious task in adapting to the field of tourism statistics, the international guidelines for the presentation of statistical data and metadata promoted by those organizations.

39. In view of the fact that the level of development and consolidation of tourism statistics is very different from the level of development and consolidation in other areas of economic statistics, this work of adaptation has been presented at the eight subregional workshops on tourism statistics and the elaboration of a tourism satellite account carried out throughout 2003, with the objective of explaining the importance of documenting the sources of information that are being used for tourism statistics, and how the tourism variables are being observed. This format has induced countries to develop a more systematic and comprehensive approach to their statistical sources. They have been encouraged to use it within the process of evaluating the information that is available for the setting up of their system of tourism statistics, and as a basis for compiling a tourism satellite account.

Notes

1 The agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/322 of 23 December 2003, as set forth in the annex thereto. The text of article 13 is as follows:

"Article 13

"Statistical services

"1. The United Nations and the World Tourism Organization agree to strive for the maximum cooperation, the elimination of all undesirable duplication between them and the most efficient use of personnel in their respective collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information. They agree to combine their efforts to secure the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information to guarantee close coordination in their respective statistical-related initiatives and to minimize the burden placed upon Governments and other organizations from which such information may be collected.

"2. The World Tourism Organization recognizes that the United Nations is the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of tourism statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations."
3. The United Nations recognizes the World Tourism Organization as the appropriate organization to collect, to analyse, to publish, to standardize and to improve the statistics on tourism, and to promote the integration of these statistics within the sphere of the United Nations system.


3 Statistical Papers, No. 62 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XVII.6).

4 Ibid., No. 83 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.6).

5 Ibid., parts one and two.


7 Statistical Papers, No. 80 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.9).


10 These lists of activities and products have to be kept in line with the outcome of the revision of ISIC, Rev.3, and CPC, version 1.0, scheduled for 2007 by the Statistical Commission.

11 Statistical Papers, No. 4, Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.11).

12 Ibid., No. 77, Ver. 1.0 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.5).

13 The concept of usual environment is introduced in REC93, part one, chap. III; para. 22, as follows:

"The main purpose of introducing the concept 'usual environment' is to exclude from the concept of 'visitor' persons commuting every day or week between their home and place of work or study, or other places frequently visited. The definition of usual environment is therefore based on the following criteria:

(a) Minimum distance travelled to consider a person a visitor;

(b) Minimum duration of absence from usual place of residence;

(c) Minimum change between localities or administrative territories."
Annex

Composition of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism

Officers

Chairman: France
Vice-Chairmen: Canada,* Spain*

Members

Cuba, Egypt, Israel, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Sri Lanka

Representative of the associate members
Aruba

Representatives of the affiliate members
Centro Internazionale di Studi sull’Economia Turistica (CISET), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Hotel and Restaurant Association (IH & RA), MasterCard International

Observers

Non-member States
Australia, Singapore, Sweden, United States of America

Institutions
Eurostat, International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Ufficio Italiano dei Cambi, World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)

* Ex officio members.
ANNEX 2
C. Tourism statistics

5. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its third meeting, on 3 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Tourism Organization on the development of tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2004/13).

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission:

(a) Noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the area of tourism statistics; and acknowledged the work done by the World Tourism Organization in developing standards, promoting implementation of standards and disseminating tourism statistics;

(b) Acknowledged the efforts of the World Tourism Organization to improve the international comparability and quality of data on tourism and the assistance provided in training and capacity-building in new areas such as tourism satellite accounts;

(c) Noted the need for an international exchange of experiences in the compilation of tourism statistics and asked the World Tourism Organization to facilitate an exchange of best practices;

(d) Noted the intention of the World Tourism Organization to undertake consultations with countries regarding existing recommendations on tourism statistics and explore the need for their updating; and emphasized that the consistency of a possible revision of standards on tourism statistics with the ongoing updates of the 1993 SNA and the Balance of Payments Manual had to be ensured;

(e) Stressed the need for stronger coordination in the field of tourism statistics and in the periodic revision of international recommendations but recognized that different views had been expressed on the means to achieve it, that is to say, some delegates had recommended the creation of an intersecretariat working group composed of the World Tourism Organization, OECD and Eurostat, while the World Tourism Organization had felt that this aim could be more appropriately addressed in the framework of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) inasmuch as other relevant international and regional organizations were also represented on that Committee;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to facilitate finding an appropriate forum of coordination, to be decided on in the next meeting of CCSA.