Inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics, 4th meeting

New York, 10 March 2006

Report of the 4th meeting of the Inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics (TO BE REVISED)

1. The fourth meeting of the Inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics was held on 10 March 2006 in New York and was attended by Eurostat, ILO, IMF, UNSD, UNWTO and WTO.

2. UNWTO presented an Agenda with two main topics:
   - Draft Report of the 2nd meeting of the Technical Sub-Group of the Inter-agency coordination group on tourism statistics;
   - Updating tourism statistics international standards – setting up the electronic discussion forum.

3. Regarding the first topic, the Group:
   - Took note of the progress made and agreed to urge its members to send UNWTO by 24 March further suggestions regarding the wording of those issues (22) that will be included in the electronic discussion forum (see second topic) as the IACG contribution to the TSA revision process.

4. Regarding the second topic, the Group:
   - Took note of the explanations provided by UNWTO concerning the design and functioning of the electronic discussion forum placed in UNWTO website. It was suggested that the closing date for it should be extended to 30 October 2006;
   - Agreed that members of the IACG on TS should encourage participation in the forum as well as present their own proposals. In this perspective, UNWTO informed that it is planned (i) to submit different types of amendments by June and (ii) to comment on each of the formal proposals of new amendments submitted;
   - Was informed by UNWTO about the preparation of “Updating Tourism Statistics International Standards: Technical Notes” (see Annex), which will include, aside from the result tables of a set of monitoring indicators regarding participation in the forum, brief comments on the corresponding data1. It will include a brief questionnaire to registrants and/or participants on two occasions and the TSG will be consulted on this issue when the time comes.
   - UNSD explained that the revision of Recommendations on Tourism Statistics (RTS) is seen as one of its priority activities and will cooperate closely with UNWTO including organizing a joint workshop (Madrid, 17-20 July 2006) and (possible, if needed) an Expert Group meeting (countries’ representatives) in mid 2007 to approve the first draft. The final draft (in English) will be presented to the UNSC in 2008.

1 A maximum of four Technical Notes will be produced: the first two (to be released on 27 April and 20 June) will be distributed exclusively to the IACG / TSG on TS. The third and fourth notes (to be released on 27 July and 20 September) will be posted on the forum.
- Decided to discuss in its next meeting about the timetable for the preparation of the revised texts to be presented to the UNSC’08, as well as the formal presentation of each of them. Final decisions should be consistent with previous agreements of the Group (both at the plenary and working levels).²

5. The fifth meeting of the IACG on TS will take place in Montreal along with the CCSA meeting scheduled on 4-5 September 2006. UNWTO will present a progress Report including a summary of the electronic forum discussion, as well as a proposal for the preparation and presentation of the revised texts to the UNSC 2008 meeting.

² Specifically:
- Preference was expressed to include both updated standards for tourism statistics and TSA in a single document including two parts (A. "Basic tourism statistics" and B. "The Tourism Satellite Account").
- The new TSA document should include a numerical example based, if possible, on real data from a country having completely developed the system.
- Terminology used in the revised Recommendations on tourism statistics (REC’93) and in the TSA (REC’00) should be totally consistent.
Annex

Technical Notes: basic issues

1. List of indicators:
   - **contacted persons** that have registered in the Forum
   - **registered persons** according to:
     * geographical area (regions, countries)
     * professional area (according to a codification of the "Company" field of the existing contact Data Base of UNWTO Statistics Department).
     * participation in meetings held over the past five years (codification to be carried out in the same way)
     * participation in institutional platforms during the past year (codification to be carried out in the same way)
   - **participants according to**:
     * professional area
     * type of contribution (comments / suggestions, formal proposals)
     * content of contributions (Theoretical framework –REC’93 and REC’00-, Measurement –classifications, and other measurement issues-)
   - **documents submitted** according to:
     * type (on paper, electronic format, link to website)

2. Codifications to be carried out:
   - **Professional area** (CSO, NTA, CB, Other government departments, University, Research Centres, IIOO, Regional Organizations, Business associations, other centres)
   - **Participation in institutional platforms for the development of tourism statistics and the TSA Project** during the past year (we will differentiate the following three types: UNWTO Committee on Statistics, Other WG / Committees of IIOO or Regional Organizations, other national platforms).

3. The **Technical Notes** will include the tabulation of the abovementioned list of indicators and short comments on them. A maximum of four notes will be produced: the first two (scheduled for release on 27 April and 20 June) will be distributed exclusively to the IACG / TSG on TS. The third and fourth editions (scheduled for 27 July and 20 September) will be placed on the forum.