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QUESTIONNAIRE ON STATISTICS ON TRADE IN SERVICES

United Nations Statistical Office
International Monetary Fund (Bureau of Statistics)

New York/Washington, December 1987

INTRODUCTION

1. The present questionnaire was prepared within the framework of the joint programme of various international organizations (United Nations Statistical Office, UNCTAD, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, IMF, GATT, OECD, EUROSTAT) to improve service statistics in general and statistics on trade in services in particular. Its main purpose is to collect information on national practices in the compilation of data on trade in services and to solicit views on various conceptual and methodological problems. This information will in turn be used to formulate international guidelines at a later stage. It is circulated to national statistical offices and to balance of payment compilers at the same time.
2. In order to facilitate the answers to the questions, two background documents are annexed. The first was prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office and is entitled "The Concept of Services in Statistics". The second was prepared jointly by the United Nations Statistical Office and the International Monetary Fund and is entitled "Special Problems of Statistics on International Trade in Services". Respondents are requested to answer the questions in conjunction with the two background documents. Wherever appropriate, references are given to the particular parts of the background documents. The first figure indicates the

paragraph number, the second the document number, the United Nations Statistical Office document being I, the joint United Nations Statistical Office/IMF document being II. For instance, 14/II refers to para. 14 of the document "Special Problems of Statistics on International Trade in Services."

3. General comments on the two documents as well as advice on how further work on statistics on trade in services should proceed would also be welcomed.

I. THE CONCEPT OF SERVICES IN GENERAL

Reference to Background Documents

I/1	Do you agree with the proposal of	
	document I that the concept of	4-8/I
	services in the context of	22-25/I
	international transactions should	
	be entirely consistent with the	

SNA concept of goods and services?

If not why?

- I/2 As to the distinction between goods
and services, do you consider it 9-25/I
desirable/feasible that the border-
line to be drawn should be the same
for international transactions as for
domestic transactions?
- I/3 Regarding the difference in the
distinction between merchandise 22-24/I
(based on external trade statistics)
and nonmerchandise flows, on the
one hand, and between goods and services,
on the other

(a) would you prefer to apply both distinctions in compiling statistics on international trade in services while making a terminological differentiation between them;

(b) would you have any other preference, and if so, which one

I/4 As to the broader concept of "services", which is not consistent with the SNA definition of goods and services

22,25/I

(a) would you reject its use at all;

(b) would you see a need for such a measure in certain contexts, e.g., GATT negotiations, while avoiding, however, the term "services" in connection with this concept;

(c) any other proposal, please elaborate

I/5 As to the theoretical distinction between
services and goods as described in
document I

9-11/I

(a) are you in general in agreement with
document I that several criteria
have to be applied in connection
with this distinction and that
some conventions cannot be avoided
in borderline cases; or

(b) do you think that ~~the~~ distinction
should be based on one single
criteria, and if so, which one; or

(c) do you think that a theoretical
distinction of goods from services in
statistics is not at all needed.

Please specify if you have any observations
on the theoretical distinctions discussed in
document I.

I/6 As to the particular borderline cases
 listed in document I do you have any 27-38/I
 comments in connection with

(a) processing

(b) repairs

(c) construction

(d) softwares, etc.

(e) contractual home workers

(f) leasing

(g) authors' fees, etc.

- (h) any other item not listed in the
document

II. PRESENT PRACTICES RELATING TO SELECTED ITEMS IN
STATISTICS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

II/A. COVERAGE

Reference to Background
Documents

- II/1 For the purpose of compiling
statistics on international
transactions in goods and services 22-24/I
do you use
- (a) both the merchandise/nonmerchandise
distinction and the goods/services
distinction
- (b) one of them, namely ...;

(c) neither of these distinctions (either because they are not separated from other flows or because they are not observed at all). If so please specify why, and whether you plan to change this in the near future.

II/2 Please specify by checkmarks in the table below which of the items are covered in your statistics on trade in services or in statistics on nonmerchandise flows

Item	Reference to Background Documents	Included in Trade in Services/ Non-merchandise Trade <u>1/</u>	<u>Not Included</u>	
			Because Covered in Merchandise Trade <u>1/</u>	Not Co for o Reasc
1	2	3	4	
(a) Processing abroad, minor alteration	27-28/I			
(b) Processing abroad, major alteration	27-28/I			
(c) Repairs abroad of capital goods	29/I			
(d) Repairs abroad, other	29/I			
(e) Construction abroad, less than 1 year	8-10/II; 30-31/I			
(f) Construction abroad, more than 1 year	8-10/II; 30-31/I			
(g) Installation abroad, less than 1 year	11/II			
(h) Installation abroad, more than 1 year	11/II			
(i) Computer software, mass produced	32-34/I			
(j) Computer software, indiv. produced	32-34/I			
(K) Operational leasing	37/I			
(l) Financial leasing	37/I			
(m) Authors' fees, other revenues from self employment	38/I, 17/II			
(n) Copyrights	38/I			
(q) License fees	7, 38/I			
(r) Merchanting	7/II			
(s) Franchising	18/II			
(t) Services, other than those specified above between affiliated enterprises	20/21/II			
(u) Direct purchases by households U ₁ goods U ₂ services	22/II			
(v) Direct purchases by extra-territorial bodies V ₁ goods V ₂ services	23/II			
<u>Memorandum Item</u>				
(z) Sales by foreign affiliates in countries where they are residents				

- 1/ Put x marks to the appropriate items.
2/ Put e marks if the item is covered elsewhere by flows outside exports and imports of goods and services; n marks if the item does exist in the country, but for which data are not collected at present, and o marks if there are no known transactions in respect of the particular item.

Reference to Background
Documents

III. OTHER METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ON EXTERNAL TRANSACTIONS

III/1 What is the basis of valuation used
 in compiling statistics on commodity
 imports in your national accounts,
 balance of payments statistics, i.e.,
 f.o.b. or c.i.f?

13/II

- III/2 How are insurance transactions recorded
in your external transactions, in 14-17/II
particular, is the SNA or the BPM
convention followed or are premiums and
claims recorded separately either as
services or transfers?
- III/3 Do you consider feasible/worthwhile to
make a distinction between goods and
services within the flows "direct purchases 22-23/II
by households" and "direct purchases in the
domestic market by extra-territorial bodies."

IV. OBSERVATION METHODS

- IV/1 Please describe briefly your observation/
estimation methods in compiling data on
trade in services. If methods differ
substantially by groups of services, 24-29/II
please provide additional details. If you
intend to introduce important modifications
in the near future, please indicate them.

IV/2 Please describe your experiences/views on
obtaining information on service 27-29/II
transactions between parent enterprises
and foreign affiliates.

18-/20