

SESSION X: FUTURE WORK OF THE VOORBURG GROUP

Election of the Bureau Members

Messrs. Ryten, Beekman, and Picard were elected as members of the Bureau. Ms. Simpson and Mr. Hamilton are ex officio members as organizers of the next and present meetings respectively.

Venue for the next and subsequent meetings

The 1993 meeting will take place in Oslo, Norway hosted by Ms. Liv H. Simpson from September 27 to October 1, 1993. Mr. Russell Rogers, speaking for ABS, declared Australia's intention to host the 1994 meeting. The 1995 meeting, tenth of the Group, will return to Voorburg. These plans were presented to and approved by the Group.

Request of the United Nations Statistical Division

Mr. Curtis McSween presented to the Group a statement from Mr. William Seltzer requesting assistance in converting the Provisional CPC to a final version. Subsequent to the Group's discussion on this matter, a letter was sent to Mr. Seltzer accepting this request. Copies of these documents are included in the appendix.

Agenda for the Oslo Meeting

The Group took up the matter of the agenda for the 1993 meeting. It is understood that the lead countries will contact the supporting countries, in addition to other countries that later join the session, in order to facilitate host country arrangements for the meeting. The provisional agenda, shown on the next page, was accepted by the group.

Closing of the Meeting

The United States staff was recognized and thanked for their efforts in support of this meeting. All of the participants were wished a safe journey home and the Williamsburg gathering of the Group was adjourned.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

VOORBURG GROUP ON SERVICE STATISTICS

OSLO, NORWAY SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 1993

<u>SESSION</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>LEAD COUNTRY</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>
1	Monday A.M.	Horizontal Comparisons (1) ^{1/}	Denmark/Eurostat	Finland, Sweden
2		Horizontal Comparisons (2) ^{2/}	Australia	Sweden, Finland
3	Monday P.M.	Prices and Quantities Including Banking	United Kingdom	Canada, US-BEA, UNSD
4	Tuesday A.M.	Prices and Quantities (2) ^{3/}	United States (BEA)	Netherlands, France, Germany
5	Tuesday P.M.	Model Surveys (1) Including Insurance	Canada	Eurostat, Canada, Germany, UNSD
6	Wednesday A.M.	Model Surveys (2) Modules 8 and 9	France	United Kingdom, Finland
7	Thursday A.M.	CPC (1) General Aspects	United States (BOC)	Netherlands, Canada, France, US-BOC
8	Thursday P.M.	CPC (2) Data Bases	Netherlands	Eurostat, Canada, US-BOC
9	Friday A.M.	International Trade in Services and Dom. Output	Norway	Canada, Sweden, OECD, UNSD, Eurostat
10	Friday P.M.	Plans for 9th Meeting	Chorus!	

- 1/** Comparative results of Eurostat Pilot Surveys undertaken in EC countries
2/ Comparative results of Model Surveys undertaken by Voorburg participants
3/ Proposals for quantity indicators for Model Surveys

Statement by Mr. William Seltzer, Director
of the Statistical Division of the UN Secretariat
to the Meeting of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics,
Williamsburg, Virginia, 19-23 October 1992.

As you know the twenty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission in February 1989 approved the final draft of the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC), modified to take into account comments made by the Commission. A very important element in completing the final draft of the CPC was the work of the Voorburg Group on the services part of the CPC, particularly, the explanatory notes.

The United Nations has since issued the CPC as an official UN publication. A number of countries have already gained some experience in the use of the CPC and several proposals for ways in which the Provisional CPC could be strengthened are emerging. Indeed, the Statistical Commission at its 27th session in February 1993 will discuss the issue of whether possible revisions of the Provisional CPC are needed and, if so, how best to proceed.

I would hope that, should the Statistical Commission request us to proceed with work on converting the Provisional CPC to a final version, we will be able to count on the Voorburg Group for its substantive help in this process. In this connection, I recall the arrangements that were used by the Voorburg Group in its work on the present version of the services part of the CPC: pairs of countries dealing with an assigned portion of the classification and the circulation of drafts as developed to all participants. These arrangements seemed to me to work well in the past and the Voorburg Group may wish to consider their suitability in the present case.

An important precondition for sound work on the conversion of the Provisional CPC to a final version is a knowledgeable review of experience with the CPC and suggestions for change. We in UNSTAT have taken two first steps in this process. First, we have circulated a questionnaire to all national statistical offices that sought information on, among other things, national experience and plans in the use of the CPC. The results of this study, which focussed on the operational as opposed to the conceptual aspects of the CPC, will be included in a report of that we have prepared for the 27th session of the Statistical Commission. Second, Mr. McSween, in one of the two papers he has prepared for the present meeting of the Voorburg Group, has undertaken an initial review of national experience in testing

some of the sections of the Provisional CPC or individual proposed improvements. We hope we could also count on the Voorburg Group for its assistance in making an expanded review of the tests undertaken and the proposed revisions as a starting point for work on the actual revision of the CPC.

If the Voorburg Group were in a position to indicate its agreement to assist the Statistical Commission and UNSTAT in these tasks, I would like to report to the Commission your willingness to do so.



**VOORBURG
GROUP**

**SEVENTH MEETING
ON
SERVICE STATISTICS**
WILLIAMSBURG, VA. OCTOBER 1982

FEB 11 1993

Mr. William Seltzer, Director
United Nations Statistical Division
Statistical Office
Two United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Seltzer:

This is in response to your request of the Voorburg Group on service Statistics, presented by Curtis McSween, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The group feels honored that its contribution to the official UN publication of the CPC is recognized. However, the Voorburg Group is an informal forum for the exchange of views on service statistics which assist countries and international organizations in solving problems or developing international guidelines in the field of service statistics.

The Voorburg Group has neither the authority or resources except collaterally through its constituent membership to develop proposals in preparation for the revision of the CPC. But the Group fully supports this work and looks forward to the first opportunity to review the results of the national experiences in using the CPC and the proposed revisions to it.

The Voorburg Group cannot guarantee complying with any deadline set by the Statistical Commission. Although it would do its best to respect any such deadline, the timeliness of its operations is a direct function of the good will and the workload of its members. The Group is resolved to its purpose to provide the forum for discussion of such proposals as they relate to service statistics.

For your recognition of the importance of its contribution, I thank you on behalf of the Group and look forward to the Commission's deliberations and conclusions in connection with the CPC.

Sincerely yours,

Howard N. Hamilton
Secretariat
The Voorburg Group