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**Worldwide Consultation : Preliminary answers to Question 1 – UNSD**

**Item 19 a**

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UNITED NATIONS  
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STATISTICS DIVISION  
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*item 19a of the provisional agenda*

## Worldwide consultation: preliminary answers to Question 1

Note by UNSD

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Statistics on International Trade in Services (SITS) decided in February 2006 to do a worldwide consultation asking many interested parties on possible changes to the existing Manual on SITS. A questionnaire was constructed by April 2006 and was sent out in June by several Task Force members. UNSD approached its partners for replies to the questionnaire. A total of 248 questionnaires were sent to 198 National Statistical Offices and 50 international agencies. To increase response rate questionnaires were sent as much as possible in the country's preferred language.

So far, 112 replies were centrally received by OECD as chair of the Task Force. Of these replies, 94 contained answers regarding Chapter 1 of the Manual. Among these, there were 11 countries or areas of which two different offices provided answers. As there were responses also from 5 international organizations, the actual number of countries or areas responding was 78.

### **Summary**

Whereas this a preliminary analysis, as not all answers have been received yet, the tendencies discussed here seem quite straightforward. Most answers agree with the existing list of priority recommendations and the existing order, and also agree with the proposal of the Task Force to include partner country information in the second, third and fourth recommendations, rather than having a stand alone fifth recommendation on trade in services by partner country. However, a number of useful comments and suggestions disagreeing with the general view have been put forward.

**Question 1.1 Do you agree with the existing list of priority recommendations in Chapter 1?**

A majority of responses (88 of the 94 responses) agreed with the existing list of priority recommendations in Chapter 1. Six offices (from Australia [Trade Ministry], Bolivia, China Hong Kong, Iraq, the Philippines and Yemen) disagreed.

**Question 1.2 If not, please suggest any amendments to the priority recommendations.**

Suggested amendments were inclusion of mode of supply, inward FATS and persons working abroad as priority recommendation.

**Question 1.3 Do you agree with the existing order of priority in the recommendations in Chapter 1?**

A majority of responses (77 of the 94 responses) agree with the existing order of priority recommendations in Chapter 1. Sixteen respondents would like to see the order changed.

**Question 1.4 If not, please suggest any amendments to the order of recommendations**

There seems to be a tendency by those who would seek a change in order to prefer FATS statistics over FDI, and to put Trade in services by partner country as the second or third recommendation.

**Question 1.5 Given the importance of partner country information it has been proposed to include the need for partner country information in the second, third and fourth recommendations, rather than having a stand alone fifth recommendation on “trade in services by partner country”. Do you agree?**

As was the case for Question 1.3, 77 of the 94 respondents agree with this proposal of the Task Force; 14 respondents disagree. Some comments were added both by those who agree as by those who disagree. In case of agreement, it was argued that trade in services by partner country is of high importance for trade negotiations. Those who disagree believe it does more just to the recommendation, if it is presented by itself.

**Question 1.6 Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding Chapter 1?**

Nineteen comments were received on this Question. These comments and suggestions vary widely and could not be condensed for this summary.

Please see the accompanying PDF files with Summary and Comments for more detailed information regarding Question 1.