MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THE URUGUAY ROUND

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Services

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE BY RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF DATA IN SERVICES

Addendum

The following communications have been received from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA). They are in addition to the replies received by other international organizations and reproduced in document MTN.GNS/W/5.

1. QUESTION: ARE YOU COLLECTING STATISTICS ON SERVICES IN YOUR AREA OF WORK?

1.1 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU does collect telecommunications statistics on an annual basis which are published in the Yearbook of Common Carrier Telecommunications Statistics. Another statistical publication is the Table of Telex Relations and Traffic, the latest edition being that of 1985. Other data are published as Lists or Directories.

1.2 Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA)

Given the complexity and broadness of work regarding different aspects of the services issue, efforts are being made in the region to ensure proper coordination among different regional and subregional organizations to avoid duplication of work and to assure best use of financial and technical resources available. SELA's responsibility in this context is to coordinate regional efforts in this area and contribute to the formulation of the region's position regarding the international debate on services.

The Permanent Secretariat has not been collecting statistics or working on the statistical problem. However, in the Secretariat's document entitled "Methodological Note for Service Sector Studies" (SP/CL/XI.0/DT No. 15 September 1985) some brief analysis is included in pages 32-37 on the statistical aspects of studies on services. Statistical work on services will be carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the regional level, given its greater technical infrastructure in this area. Organizations like the Junta del Acuerdo de Carthagena (JUNAC) and Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) are also participating in this effort at the subregional level.

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Further statistical information on services will be provided by the national studies that are being undertaken in several countries of the region using as a reference the above-mentioned methodology. Some of these national studies are already available.

2. QUESTION: IF SO, WOULD YOU BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE SOURCES ON WHICH YOUR SERVICES DATA ARE BASED?

2.1 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Sources of the data, as publised by the ITU in the Yearbook, are the Telecommunications Administrations of ITU Member Countries or Recognized Private Operating Agencies to which questionnaire forms are sent regularly on an annual basis.

3. QUESTION: WOULD YOU BE IN A POSITION TO INDICATE THE MAIN PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND THE QUALITY OF SUCH SERVICES DATA?

3.1 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The major problem encountered is the lack of replies from a number of countries probably due to the unavailability or incompleteness of data, the lack of staff to collect data and/or complete the forms, the difficulty to understand required information, and the sheer negligence or lack of appreciation of usefulness of statistics.

4. QUESTION: COULD YOU PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF WORK DONE IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR ELSEWHERE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES DATA IN YOUR AREA OF WORK?

4.1 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU makes a continuous effort to improve the quality of certain data and to keep them updated regularly. This is largely done as indicated below:

(a) field experts on projects - particularly planning projects;

(b) area representatives - outposted field project officers who administer projects in a number of countries in their subregions;

(c) sectoral studies and master plans carried out in some countries;

(d) participation in subregional or regional telecommunication conferences where some data is collected.

5. QUESTION: ARE YOU PROVIDING ANY FORM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF SERVICES STATISTICS (E.G. HOW TO DEVELOP A STATISTICAL SYSTEM OR DATA BASE IN SERVICES)?

5.1 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Very limited technical assistance is being provided in the specific area of telecommunication statistics except as a secondary objective in planning projects and master plan projects and sectoral studies as indicated in 4 above.