PROVISIONAL REPORT
1987-11-05

Voorburg Group on Services Statistics. Report from the Second Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 2-4 November 1987

Opening of the Meeting

1.   The meeting was opened by Mr. Lennart Fastbom, Deputy Director General of Statistics Sweden. Mr. Fastbom noted that the resources assigned to statistics on services were too few, considering the weight of this industry in GNP. A proper basis for these statistics should be developed by creating relevant classifications. It is therefore encouraging that cooperation among the participating countries has been so successful. Mr. Fastbom was also glad that this cooperation has been broadened since the meeting in Voorburg, the Netherlands, in January 1987.

2.   Mr. Ryten, Statistics Canada and chairman of the Voorburg Meeting, was asked to serve as chairman. The Chairman thanked Statistics Sweden for hosting the meeting. He also congratulated the participants for the work done during the last ten months. Progress in helping international organizations and the countries themselves has been made.

3.   A list of participants is attached as Annex 1. Papers received were overviewed and numbered. These are listed in Annex 2.

Classifications

4.   The Chairman proposed that the countries that had worked on a segment of the ISIC should introduce their proposals and mention the following:
- the principles used for defining products,
- the extent, if any, to which associates had different views on principles,
- the extent to which tests for measuring real output had been made.

5.   Papers numbered Stock/1 - Stock/13 were comment-
ed upon.

6.   Concerning paper Stock/1, Mr. Green said that
the paper proposed the amendment of CPC Group 871
Real Estate Services Involving Own Property to read
"Real Estate Services Involving Own or Leased Proper-
ty". It was also proposed that separate Sub-classes be
established within the CPC Group 871 to provide for a
distinction between residential and non-residential prop-
erty. Within the non-residential property category it
was proposed that a further dissection be made to distin-
guish "building and land" transactions from those relat-
ing to "vacant land".

7.   On paper Stock/2 Mr. Ohashi said that leasing
and rental industries are regarded as among the most
important service industries in Japan. They can be divid-
ed into financial leasing and operating or maintenance
leasing, depending on whether the contract can be can-
celled or not during the contract period.
        There was the view that all countries do not
yet need a special industry for renting and leasing. Mr.
Wells indicated that in his specification of finance,
leasing was assumed to be covered in real estate.

8.   Mr. Wells said that paper Stock/3 presents the
results of a cooperative venture involving the OECD
group of Financial Statisticians, Statistics Canada, the
Netherlands CBS, Statistics Sweden and the UK to draft
proposals for finance and insurance in ISIC and the CPC.
        In presenting the proposals it was pointed out
that there is a fundamental departure from ISIC Rev.2
in that the main activities as identified at the two dig-
it level are intermediary and auxiliary activities as
opposed to banking, insurance, etc.
        While suggesting some headings for the CPC,
the paper does not claim to have met the objective of
identifying products that can be valued as components
for output measurement. The difficulties are illustrated
in the annex to the paper, which describes how the out-
put of financial institutions is measured for the UK na-
tional accounts.

9.   In introducing paper Stock/4, Mr. Isacsson said
that post- and telecommunication services defined insti-
tutionally are in Sweden the Post Office Administration
and the Swedish Telecom. It was suggested that the ac-
tivities within the Post Office Administration should be
split into post terminal and courier activity and Post
Office counter activity. It was also suggested that tele-
communication services should constitute two

sions, network activities and radio communication activities.

Paper Stock/4 was said to be too detailed. The question of where to place courier activity was discussed. The view was expressed that institutional sectoring might be embodied in the proposed classification in cases where the activities engaged in are important.

10.   In the range of service activities, Hungary has elaborated the classification of "Recreational, cultural, sporting and other service activities" (Stock/5). In addition, as an associated country, Hungary has participated in the classification of the group, "Other business activities".

In solving their task, the ISIC classification was proceeded from. In addition, the UNESCO classification was largely relied upon. In the course of the work, however, the experience gained from the abundant variety of practical problems which arose from the ongoing elaboration of the VAT system was also profitably used.

In compiling the classification, the considerable heterogeneity of certain groups caused some difficulties. In some cases, in spite of the five-digit breakdown, ensuring due homogeneity was not entirely successful.

The meeting discussed how to treat sporting activities.

11.   Mr. Willeboordse mentioned that there had been no time to discuss principles when working out papers Stock/6 and Stock/7, but implicitly they were those embodied in document Stock/11.

The classification is primarily intended for the international cooperation project and contains nothing more than an enumeration of services for each ISIC-group. The items found in this classification are linked with the theoretical background as far as possible; in the first instance the buyer of the service is considered to be the main starting point.

The view was expressed that where there are likely to be major differences from country to country the classification should remain at a broad level. Mr. Parker pointed to the importance of the use of the information. That must be the guide for the classification.

12.   Mr. Ohashi presented paper Stock/8. Research and development is classified in group 893 within division 89 (Other Business Activities) in the draft ISIC Rev.3. However, since research and development is a service activity which accumulates and provides creative knowledge (information), and thus is considered to occupy an important position as a part of the information industry, a new division should be created for Research

and development next to division 85 (Information Service Activities).

Research and development refers to systematic studies and creative efforts in science and technology which are undertaken for the acquisition of new knowledge of materials, functions, natural phenomena, etc., and for the new application of the storage of knowledge. In the case of research and development activities at companies, development and technical improvements on the product or production process are also included in the category of research and development.

The question arose of whether one can distinguish between basic, applied, and experimental R & D for establishments.

13.   Mr. Ohashi said that in the first complete draft of the ISIC Rev.3, information service activities are classified into two categories: "85 Computer and related activities" and "89 Other business activities". As the weight of information industries in the national economy has been increasing year after year, it is desirable that those service activities which are directly related to information itself among the groups or classes assigned to Japan, be integrated into one single division.

Following the presentation of paper Stock/9 there was a discussion of what information is, and whether publishing should be moved into ISIC 8.

14.   The UK paper, Stock/10, summarises a study made by consultants for the Department of Trade and Industry, which proposes changes in the draft ISIC Rev.3 affecting all parts of the classification relevant to "information services". It proposes a number of further sub-divisions of the classification and some regrouping to reflect expected developments in information provision. One particular topic that it raises is the treatment of printing and publishing, arguing again that they should not be separated in the classifications.

The paper is a useful starting point for the consideration of the definition of the information sector that might be embodied in an annex to the ISIC. It was agreed, however, that such annexes should not be allowed to get in the way of completing ISIC itself.

The discussion suggested that technical developments can disturb groupings such as printing and publishing. In any event, printing and publishing could frequently not be split. The comment was also made that computer retailing was less common than computer wholesaling and that the case for including such a heading was as strong as under retailing.

15.   Mr. Meguerditchian presented paper Stock/11. The classification described is for the products of ISIC 892 -- Technical Activities. It was suggested that the industry be titled Architectural, Engineering and other Technical Activities.

The conceptual principles that were respected in creating the classification of products are listed below. Many of them derive from Peter Hill's paper "On Goods & Services".

(i)   The product or commodity is distinguished from the process or activity of which it is an output.

(ii)   The product or commodity is transactable in isolation of other products. Where a service is normally provided together with another good or service, they are together delineated as a product.

(iii)   It is assumed that the classification is designed to measure the output of establishments, hence the classification has been developed with respect to transactions that take place between establishments belonging to the same company or enterprise, between establishments belonging to different companies or business sectors and units belonging to other sectors such as the personal sector, the government sector or external sector.

(iv)   The products are ones for which market transactions occur but they could also be "in-house" transactions taking place between establishments of an enterprise, which may be valued by internal accounting procedures and for which accounting transfers may or may not be made.

The proposal was based on surveys of the industries. Turnkey projects and the borderline between goods and services were discussed. In particular, the deviation from the ISIC reflected in CPC 898, agriculture, mining and industrial services, was discussed and it was suggested that this CPC classification should be reconsidered.

16.   Mr. Isacsson said that paper Stock/12, presented in a revised version, dealt more with activity classification than with CPC classification. The reason for this is the very complex set of services that the computer service industry supplies. New CPC products were presented in case of data-processing services.

Special attention was directed to a suggestion to change ISIC 8502 of the UN proposals to include only "non-customized" software supply. Sweden also suggested a transfer of data base services from ISIC 8 to ISIC 9.

It was, however, remarked that this proposal was not a big issue, that is, letting it remain in ISIC 8 was said to be quite suitable. As far as "maintenance and repair" of computer systems is concerned, Sweden agreed to a suggestion from Japan that no such class should be established under this kind of activities. It was mentioned that maintenance and repair in many countries was estimated to be a growing industry independently of producers and retailers of the goods. The appropriateness of specifying it as a class within ISIC 8 was expressed.

17.   Mr. Glaab presented paper Stock/13. This present draft of a classification of services takes into account the proposals and comments on two preceding drafts prepared by the different units which at the Federal Statistical Office are in charge of statistics on services. The draft covers the services which are rendered by enterprises, local units and other statistical units.

At this stage, the draft of the classification has the function of a list which shall be tested in close cooperation with institutions outside the Statistical Office. In this test it is intended to find out if
- the draft is sufficiently comprehensive,
- the "right" items have been selected with regard to their importance,
- the terms used are understandable.
The next steps will be the elaboration of explanatory notes, definitions and comments.

18.   Some more general remarks were made during the discussions of the papers. Mr. Hill reminded the meeting that it should not assume that other expert groups (on the SNA, balance of payments, etc.) would deal with all the problems discussed.

On a related aspect, Mr. McLenaghan mentioned that in view of the timing proposed for completion of ISIC and CPC, the views of these expert groups should be taken into account.

Mr. Flaxen mentioned that products should be priced and therefore some precise specifications should be provided as examples.

Mr. Beekman told the meeting that a draft version of ISIC and CPC must be completed by next June.

Mr. Lancetti proposed that the UNSO should be notified of the need for annexes to ISIC dealing with the tourism, energy, and information sectors.

Mr. Lestang pointed out that some industries presently classified among services may have a good as main output; e.g. newspapers, personal computers, software sold in retail stores, and also human blood. It has to be decided if these industries shall remain in the

second part of ISIC, and, if so, to make more explicit the relationship between CPC and ISIC in these cases.

Analytical Classifications

19. Mr. Hill, OECD, commented upon his paper, Stock/15.

The purpose of the paper was to emphasise that the distinction between goods and services hinges primarily on the organisation of production. Goods are produced and subsequently traded so that the actual physical processes of production are separate from the marketing or distribution of the goods. In the case of services, however, production cannot be separated from marketing as services are delivered to consumers as they are produced. The essence of service activity is that production is carried out on behalf of a specific consumer or group of consumers.

Thus, the methods of producing and marketing services are quite different from goods. Moreover, service production generally changes the condition of the consuming economic unit in some way so that the service, once delivered, has no separate identity. It can neither be produced in advance of its delivery nor be exhanged or retraded after its delivery.

The processes by which services are produced generally involve transformations which are not different in kind from those used to produce goods and therefore services cannot be distinguished from goods purely by examining the nature of the transformations themselves. Service production implies a specific relationship between producer and consumer which usually is reflected in direct physical contact. This limits the scope of service production and it also makes it possible for the producer to vary his price from one consumer to another. In practice, price discrimination is extremely prevalent in service activities.

The fact that services, once delivered, have no separate identity (as they constitute some kind of improvement in the condition of the consuming economic unit) means that it is more difficult to classify them than goods. Thus, the classification of services as products, as distinct from the activities which produce them, is inherently more difficult than for goods.

Several examples were mentioned of products which fall close to the borderline between goods and services and about which there might be some controversy as to which side of the border they fall. It was agreed, however, that when a completely separate product (e.g. a suit) was produced out of materials belonging to the consumer, the activity could not be classified as a ser-

vice, even though the producer worked on materials owned by the consumer and had no proprietary claim on the product.

It was also suggested that the distinction between services and factor incomes may need to be clarified in certain areas. The treatment of construction also needed to be examined further.

20.   Mr. Veil, OECD, presented the paper Stock/14.

Service Industries -- residually defined as all industries that are not extractive and transformative -- are characterised by great diversity and heterogeneity. A meaningful analysis of their activities requires classification into major categories. As a reflection of their complex nature a great number of classifications have been developed, with each of them emphasising a particular aspect. The most elementary ones are based on the main sectors that produce services. Another group of classifications considers services from the point of view of consumption. Other general classifications distinguish between different functions. More specific ones focus on the kinds of relationships of services with goods, or relationships between providers and users of services, and on trade and investment orientation of services.

The meeting thought that the paper gave a valuable view on different needs. There was a stress upon the need to be clear on the delineation between output and activity and of alternative aggregations.

Statistical Units for Services Industries

21.   Mr. Green, of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, said that his paper (Stock/16) outlined the Australian experience in developing appropriate statistical units for surveying businesses primarily engaged in the provision of certain personal, property, business and technical services. This outline, and the brief discussion of some of the more important issues underlying the delineation of appropriate statistical units which followed, was preceded in the paper by a broad description of the Australian program of industrial statistics and the statistical infrastructure which supports the program.

The meeting noted that the delineation of appropriate statistical units for services industries statistics in Australia was set within a conceptual context determined largely by the SNA. However, it was noted that in the Australian situation a more pragmatic approach was taken which took particular account of the requirements for services industries statistics and the

availability of data in the accounting records of businesses.

Mr. Bloem pointed to the instability of units, especially in the service industry. About 25 per cent of new businesses close within a year.

22.　　Mr. Glaab, Federal Republic of Germany, commented upon paper Stock/17. He described the statistical units used in German statistics. Highest priority is given to the enterprise, which is defined as the smallest legal autonomous unit, which for reasons of commercial law and/or on tax grounds is keeping books and drawing up balances. This unit is broken down for regional analyses into local units.

Within the local units sub-divisions are made, if it engages in different activities, which are distinguished by a classification of activities. In the German statistics the sub-units are called "establishments". Corresponding establishments of an enterprise with more than one local unit are combined to kind-of-activity-units. Though most of the German enterprises are homogeneous, one-local-unit enterprises, this model has been developed to respond to the requests for a variety of analyses. The model has been introduced for the manufacturing industries and it will build the basis for new statistics on services.

The discussion concerned the definition of local units and establishments and the possibilities to measure value added. Mr. Glaab said that some variables, like persons engaged, wages and salaries, and turnover are collected, but that the value added must be estimated for local units. The experiences of the systems are good. There are 800-900 difficult cases (multi-establishment enterprises).

23.　　Mr. Beekman circulated a paper written for a Round Table on Business Survey Frames (Stock/25) which in its annex has a draft for the introduction for ISIC, Rev.3, dealing with statistical units. He urgently asked participants to comment on it, since it will be part of the draft ISIC to be presented to the Statistical Commission and therefore must be finalized as soon as possible in order to be discussed in December and April in Luxembourg and New york respectively.

International Trade in Services

24.　　Mr. Meguerditchian, Canada, presented paper Stock/18.

The paper deals with a variety of items and issues in respect to international trade in services. It

begins with some considerations for the development of a statistical base, covering definitional issues, measurement problems as well as issues related to the organization of the statistical database. The paper then provides a description of the current IMF framework, a review of work undertaken at international levels and elaborates on the need for a strong international coordination of related activities underway.

The meeting found the paper a clarifying documentation of what is going on regarding statistics on international trade. Several speakers emphasized that definitions and classifications should, as mentioned in the paper, be the same for Balance of Payments and National Accounts, and the need, for example, for negotiations. The CPC could be the starting point to reach that aim.

The increasing role of industrial surveys was mentioned as the interest of international trade in services is increasing

25.   Mr. Köll, Statistics Sweden, summarized paper Stock/19.

The Swedish annual survey on service trade transactions by all industries except shipping and banking is carried out to correct the balance of payment figures on exports of services. One advantage of the survey is that the figures are based on book-keeping data and measure thus the gross flow of services. Compared with the foreign currency flows, the survey results ought to be more consistent and comparable with other statistics.

Many quality studies have been carried out and have supplied a lot of information on differences between payment data and transaction data. A new reporting system for export payment was started in March 1987. How the export-payment figures fit with the export transaction-figures has not yet been analysed. As the annual survey is carried out for balance of payments, and the need for correction because of undercoverage no longer exists, the annual survey may be dropped.

There were questions about the high response rate, the sample and population, and how to keep them timely. The long tradition of regulated book-keeping and other statistical sources are the basis for the results.

26.   Mr. Veil presented the papers Stock/20 - Stock/22.

The OECD document "Standardising Member Countries' Balance of Payments Statistics on Trade in Services" sets out proposals for a general definition of services and of trade in services and for a delimitation of services as against goods and factor income. In addi-

tion, It discusses a possible classification of services derived from the Central Product Classification, the Balance of Payments Manual and OECD Countries' available data on trade in services.

The document "Working Party of the Trade Committee: Statistics on Trade in Services" contains a questionnaire destined to collect the views of OECD Countries' balance-of-payments experts on the proposals set out in the document mentioned above. The document "Replies to the questionnaire... on the OECD" note, "Standardising Member Countries'...", presents the replies provided by OECD Countries' balance-of-payments experts to the questionnaire and draws tentative conclusions from them. They will contribute to revising the first document.

The meeting was satisifed with the work on harmonization between the OECD and the SOEC and expressed the hope that it would be a result for December this year or at least for April next year when UNSO has expert meetings on ISIC and the CPC.

27.   Mr. Lancetti, SOEC, presented paper Stock/23.

Eurostat presents in paper Stock/23 its system of nomenclature and data collection on international trade in services.

Information currently available at Eurostat is generally based on Balance of payments data. The standard heading of the 4th edition of IMF Balance of Payments Manual are completed with the "additional details" listed in Annex I and II of the Eurostat document.

Annex IV of the document describes a draft of a new expanded questionnaire on International Trade Statistics presented to the EC member states for collection of information in the short term.

To step up methodological work on nomenclature to be used at medium term, Eurostat is at present preparing a classification of invisible trade (CEI) including services, income, and transfers. This classification (listed in Annex III of Doc. Stock/23) has already been discussed several times with the EC member states and there is a global agreement on it.

In establishing its classification, Eurostat seeks consistency with the IMF Manual, with CPC and as far as possible with national accounts.

OECD being currently working on a nomenclature in international trade in services, the two projects should be harmonized. Doc. Stock/23 describes the main problems: to make the distinction between goods, services, and income, and to assure consistency with the IMF Manual, CPC and National Accounts. Differences vis-à-vis the OECD draft are also described.

The discussion concerned the question of expanding the CPC to the level of Balance of Payments. The issue was among other things to complement the CPC with factor income. That could be done by a memorandum item. However, doubts were expressed about whether factor income is in fact a product and should be a part of the CPC. The CPC should be harmonized with the classification for international trade. An alternative classification might not be created. The borderline cases, such as factor income and income from the distribution of films, ought to be studied and classified.

28. Mr. McLenaghan commented upon paper Stock/24. The recent work of the IMF on statistics on international trade in services has as its basis:

(i) the recommendation of the Working Party on the Statistical Discrepancy in World Current Account Balances, that the IMF and its member countries should improve the coverage, quality and timeliness of balance of payments statistics;

(ii) the recommendation of the Expert Group on External Sector Transactions for the revision of the UN SNA, at its meeting in March 1987 that, as a basis for a harmonized presentation of statistics on international trade in services, a standard list of services should be used in the balance of payments and the national accounts; and

(iii) recognition by the IMF of the needs of policy-makers at the national and global level for enhanced statistics on international trade in services.

The paper presents a draft classification of international transactions in services which is aimed at responding to these requirements. The proposed classification incorporates the standard items included in the 4th edition of the IMFs Balance of Payments Manual (BPM), introduces new items that are becoming increasingly important, such as financial services and communications, and is aimed at achieving consistency with the proposed new Central Product Classification (CPC), at a high level of that hierarchy, in the next edition of the BPM. In proceeding with the development of a new classification scheme for service statistics, the IMF will work closely with the other concerned international organizations.

In the discussion the view was expressed that CPC should be the basis for Balance of Payments classification, not in detail but as building blocks. There should be an exchange of points of view between CPC-, Balance of Payments- and SNA-people in the work that is now simultaneously being carried out.

Current Statistics on Services and the Ways to Display them Internationally

29.   Mr. Albert, INSEE, France, introduced paper Stock/27, which treats the subject of means of displaying current statistics on market services in different countries, in such a way that they are internationally comparable. After defining what can be understood as current statistics, he opposes the systematic description of the architecture of a statistical system on service industries to a pragmatic way of implementing it, step by step.

The architecture of the system consists of three stages:

Firstly, preliminary tools which have to be made available either at an international level (classifications, rules concerning statistical units or treatment of services in the SNA recommendations on methods of collecting data, etc.) or at a national level (permanent registers of enterprises or local units, or periodical censuses).

Secondly, production of new statistics on employment and on variables related to activity, by collecting data from administrative sources, or from sample surveys (annual or infra-annual data must be collected).

Thirdly, elaborated data in the scheme of national accounts, both in the central framework and in satellite accounts, if necessary.

The setting up of such a system, on all the categories of services industries, must be necessarily progressive and viewed in a pragmatic manner.

Five steps may be successively carried out:

a) adaptation to international classifications and rules,

b) gathering in each country of existing data and attempting to make them coherent in the scheme of national accounts. From this starting point, this step will allow the country to have national data internationally comparable,

c) drawing up at an international level a recommendation concerning statistical methods for setting up permanent registers, sample inquiries, exploitation of administrative sources and other ways of collecting more and more data,

d) progressive implementation of this program by countries and progressive improvement of the treatment of services in national accounts,

e) gathering all these data by international communities' statistical offices. International comparisons.

National accounting has a driving role at each step. It needs to be a flexible framework able to adapt

to the greater or lesser paucity or wealth of statistical information.

In the following discussion, architecture was stressed as a guidance for developing countries. The resource situation in the participating countries was mentioned.

Mr. Waite referred to paper Stock/30, a 5-year plan for service statistics in the US. It is relatively speaking easier to create funds for service statistics than for other purposes, also in other countries.

Mr. Lancetti informed the meeting on the progress of the work in Eurostat with a follow-up of the results of the Conference in Palmela in May 1986. Following the working conclusions of the Palmela Conference, Eurostat has convened a meeting of the <u>Cordinating Committee for Services Statistics</u> in October 1987. This committee is responsible for:
- preparing a common basis for the development of a system of statistics on service sectors. More especially, it will coordinate the efforts of the various working groups on particular areas and on problems of classification and methods,
- coordinating the EC work with international organizations.

A paper informing about committee activity will be distributed to participants.

Where to go from here?

30.   The Chairman divided the question into two:
-   How to dispose of the proposals on classification in the light of forthcoming meetings on world classifications?
-   Is there a need for a third meeting?

31.   Mr. Beekman said that the UNSO Advisory Group of experts to meet in Luxembourg in December will receive a new ISIC/CPC draft embodying the proposals received. But it would also be valuable to send the Stockholm papers to the participants at the Expert Group, if necessary after changes by the authors. The December meeting will be followed by a meeting in April in New York where a revised draft of CPC will be discussed. A final version will have to be completed by the end of June, but additional comments from the countries represented at the Stockholm meeting would be welcomed up to then.

32.   The participants agreed to let UNSO distribute the papers Stock/1 - Stock/14 and those of the other papers which could be of interest to the experts of the

UNSO meeting in December. The participants also asked to receive the documents for the December meeting and the resulting drafts of ISIC and CPC, with indications on what changes to the classification were introduced.

Mr. Beekman pointed out that also countries or experts who will not participate in the Luxembourg or New York expert group meetings could send comments on the drafts to UNSO and encouraged participants of this meeting to do so.

33.   The question of the desirability of a third meeting was discussed. The Chairman noted that there are two alternative forums for discussion of all aspects of services statistics. The view was expressed that much work remains to be done in the field of services statistics including its classifications. For example, the Voorburg Group would play a special role in the discussion of output and price measurement of service industries and on a framework for data development.

34.   The role of international organizations was pointed out. The OECD has a number of committees working in the area of services; work is also being carried out by UNSO, the IMF, and SOEC and in committees sponsored by those bodies.

The Chairman concluded that there is an unfinished agenda and got agreement that the Voorburg Group is a suitable forum in which to discuss such work.

35.   There was a question raised on ways to transfer the results to developing countries. The feeling was that at this stage developed countries had to organize their own activities first. In the meantime, bilateral contacts through training programmes might be the most suitable way of transferring experiences.

36.   The meeting agreed on a third meeting in the first week of October, 1988. Regarding the venue, various alternatives were mentioned, for instance Paris and Wiesbaden. A decision will be taken in due course.

37.   There was also agreement to invite to a third meeting of the Voorburg Group a small number of developing countries. UNSO in conjunction with UNCTAD was asked to select and approach countries.

38.   The following suggestions were agreed upon with respect to issues for the agenda of a third meeting:
- comments on the latest version of CPC,
- analytical classifications for services industries,
- output and price measurement.
International trade in and statistical units for services were also mentioned.

39.   Papers for a third meeting are to be expected:
-   regarding output and price measurement, from the US (Mr. Parker), the UK (Mr. Wells), Sweden (Mr. Isacsson) and Norway (Mr. Halvorsen). Norway also promised a paper on the strategy of development of services statistics,
-   regarding analytical classifications, from the OECD (Mr. Veil).

The Netherlands will contribute a paper about implementing CPC, ISIC and SNA on international trade statistics; Australia (Mr. Green), a paper about Australian experiences; France (Mr. Albert), a paper about exhaustive surveys, and Canada (Mr. Ryten), a paper about statistical units.

Closing Remarks

40.   The Chairman expressed the view that the work of the Voorburg Group had advanced considerably since the first day of the meeting in Voorburg in January this year. Highly constructive advice on CPC and ISIC has been conveyed which makes it reasonable to believe that the deadlines of the work of UNSO will be met.

The Chairman also said that the understanding of services has advanced thanks to the discussions in the Voorburg Group. They have also laid a better basis for an awareness of what is happening to services statistics in different countries, in Balance of Payments and in SNA.

The work in the Voorburg Group has also been a test of a particular way of cooperation and assistance. The volunteer commitment is promising for the future. At the next meeting one can foresee more targeted and productive discussions regarding methods and experiences.

41.   The Chairman expressed his and the participants gratitude to Statistics Sweden for its hospitality and arrangements. A special thank you was directed to Mr. Lindblom, Ms. Lönnqvist and the rest of the secretariat.

Mr. Beekman of UNSO thanked the participants for their contributions, Mr. Ryten for his excellent chairmanship and Statistics Sweden for acting as host.