



## FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other questions****Invitation to participate in the Conference of the World Tourism Organization on Analysing Tourism in the Global Economy: Applications of the Tourism Satellite Account (2005)**

1. The World Tourism Organization (WTO)<sup>1</sup> is organizing a major Conference on Analysing Tourism in the Global Economy: Applications of the Tourism Satellite Account, to be held in 2005. The ILO has been invited to lead a session on “Monitoring labour markets in the tourism sector”. The following issues will be addressed in that session: emerging labour shortage in the hotel and restaurant sector in mature economies; skills profiles and requirements; investments in human resources development; and wages and productivity. A background document to be prepared by the Office will be based on several country studies. The Conference will be an opportunity for the ILO to present to a global sectoral audience the first results from the Sectoral Activities Department’s (SECTOR) Action Programme on the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector and to generate broader support, particularly for its component on labour statistics in tourism.
2. The Director-General and the WTO have expressed their intention to consider concluding a formal cooperation agreement between the two agencies. Areas of cooperation would include: promoting employment in the tourism industry; developing employment and labour statistics in tourism; combating child labour and sexual child abuse in relation to tourism; developing training and education for tourism workers; strengthening support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in tourism; and promoting sustainable tourism development socially, environmentally and economically.
3. There have been contacts and exchanges of information between the secretariats of the ILO and the WTO since the 1980s. More recently, the ILO cooperated with the WTO in the development of a Recommended Framework for Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA), which was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2000.<sup>2</sup> The ILO has been

<sup>1</sup> The WTO was recognized as a fully fledged specialized agency of the United Nations by the General Assembly in December 2003 (resolution A/RES/58/232).

<sup>2</sup> Doc. E/CN.3/2000/11.

represented by SECTOR on the WTO Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism.

4. SECTOR has started developing a methodology for tourism labour accounting systems (TLAS) as part of its Action Programme on Addressing Crises and Creating More and Better Jobs in the HCT Sector, 2004-05. The methodology will be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption as a supplement to the TSA. WTO cooperation on the TLAS will ensure proper linkages with the TSA. The testing and piloting of the TLAS methodology is being developed in cooperation with member States, which are being supported by the WTO to implement the TSA.
5. ***The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend that the Governing Body take note of the information concerning the WTO Conference on Analysing Tourism in the Global Economy: Applications of the Tourism Satellite Account (2005) and of the ILO being invited to lead a session on “Monitoring labour markets in the tourism sector”.***

Geneva, 24 September 2004.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 5.