

TWINNING CONTRACT

Institutional Capacity Building for the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) and Developing the Legal Framework for Statistics in Egypt

EG/07/AA/F106



MISSION REPORT

on

Review of data sources, part II (focus on Tourism Statistics)

Component no 7/5.1.4

Mission carried out by
Ms. Selma Mustafic Mulalic, Statistics Denmark
Cairo, 11-14 October 2010

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List of Abbreviations

CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics
ToR	Terms of Reference
TSA	Tourism Satellite Account
RTSA	Regional Tourism Satellite Account

Executive Summary

The mission was carried out in October 11th to 14th 2010 by the short-term expert Ms. Selma Mustafic Mulalic from Statistics Denmark. This mission was originally supposed to be carried out jointly by Statistics Denmark and Statistics Sweden, but the Swedish experts chose to cancel their participation at the last moment. This meant that the mission changed its character since the Danish and Swedish experts were supposed to supplement each other.

The purpose of this activity was to make an assessment of the Egyptian tourism statistics and to give support to develop a reliable, relevant and user oriented system for tourism statistics. The activity should follow-up on the work previously done within the Medstat II frame regarding Tourism Satellite Account. The mission report from the last Medstat II is attached to this report as background information (see annex 4).

The overall assessment is that there was made a big progress since the Medstat II. The basic foundation for the Egyptian tourism statistics is good and the most of the necessary data are available. Many experts are involved in production of tourism statistics and the cooperation between major stakeholders is good. TSA tables 1 to 7 and table 10 will be published during 2011. The consultant has addressed some issues which could be discussed and improved, mainly regarding integration and harmonization of the different tourism statistics.

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Egyptian-Danish Twinning Project „Institutional capacity building for the central agency for public mobilisation and statistics”. It was the first mission to be devoted to tourism statistics in Egypt within Component 7/5.1.4 of the project. The mission was aimed at defining a strategic plan forming the base of the further implementation of the project in this statistical area.

The concrete objective of the mission according to TOR (see annex 1) was to present a general/draft work/action Plan in accordance with giving support to develop a reliable, relevant and user oriented system for tourism statistics in Egypt.

The consultant would like to express her thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which she received during the stay in Egypt, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

This views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, CAPMAS or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

The mission consisted of 4 working days. During all 4 days meetings were held with participants from the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Central bank of Egypt, and from different departments in CAPMAS. A complete list of participant is given in the annex 3.

The first mission day was used for a presentation of current status of tourism statistics in Egypt and a presentation of development in the field of tourism that occurred since Medstat II (CAPMAS). The most important tourism surveys were presented, and all six surveys are used to cover different aspects of tourism industry and tourism revenue in Egypt. The outbound tourism is covered by travel figures from the Central bank of Egypt, based on settlements statistics. TSA tables 5 and 6 were also presented as well as input data to these tables. The informal sector is mention as one of the weaker points of the Egyptian tourism statistics.

The second mission day was used for presentation and discussion of tourism statistics in Denmark.

The third mission day was used for presentation of TSA tables 1 to 4 (the Ministry of Tourism), and for general discussion of production and dissemination of tourism statistics including TSA. TSA in Egypt is based on international guidelines, it is still under development, but TSA tables 1 to 7 and table 10 will be published in 2011.

The fourth day was used for final clarifications and a preliminary assessment by the Danish consultant.

The presentations and discussions produced a good picture of the situation regarding Egyptian tourism statistics. The main conclusions and recommendations are presented in section 3 of this report.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

At the final mission day, the key findings and recommendations were presented and discussed.

The overall assessment is that there was made a big progress since the Medistat II. The basic foundation for the Egyptian tourism statistics is good and the most of the necessary data are available. Many experts are involved in production of tourism statistics and the cooperation between major stakeholders is good. In accordance to the last mission's recommendations a technical group, where all the relevant institutions are represented, is created. TSA tables 1 to 7 and table 10 will be published during 2011. However, the consultant has addressed some issues and challenges for Egyptian tourism statistics. There is still lack of information or undercoverage of some sectors and important parts of tourism activity. The informal sector is mentioned as one of the weaker points of the Egyptian tourism statistics. The most relevant issues for Egyptian tourism statistics are the still existing differences between different parts of tourism statistics, for instance between TSA and Travel item.

As a recommendation for organizational aspects of tourism statistics and TSA it would be advisable to use existing or to create a new group, in which all the institutions would be represented, with following responsibilities:

- To analyse and discuss the existing differences in the different statistics, in order to explain, reduce or remove these differences
 - For instance to discuss the treatment of local transportation of tourists and the treatment of airway tickets provided by the national airway company
- To set an agreement on how data (incl. confidential data) should be exchanged between the different institutions, a written agreement would be advisable in order to avoid delays

As a recommendation regarding compilation of data and the other aspects of statistical production it would be advisable to focus on compiling data on the most important sectors/elements in tourism statistics:

- The other sectors/elements can be covered using estimations systems/models
 - Old surveys
 - Similar surveys
 - Assumptions
 - Different statistical models
- Simpler and more efficient operational system would be possible and advisable
- Prioritizing is very important to insure stability and better quality control, and in the long run reduces the consistency problems

As a long-term recommendation it would be advisable to work towards a more harmonized system where different tourism statistics are integrated and the consistency between TSA and Balance of Payments is guaranteed.

The experience from the TSA project could, in the longer run, be used to develop RTSA which would represent the importance of the travel and tourist industry for the different regions in Egypt.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Mission, objectives, activities and expected output, general framework for *the tourism statistics and satellite accounts in Egypt*

Mission

The long-term objective (mission statement) of the institutional support to Egypt is to develop a national system of tourism statistic (NSTS) for producing, disseminating and communicating the growth and importance of the travel- and tourist industry in Egypt. The system should permit the major stakeholders in Egypt to evaluate, monitor and communicate the most important touristical aspects in the country.

Objective

The objective of this one week mission is to present a general/draft work/action plan in accordance with giving support to develop a reliable, relevant and user oriented system for NSTS in Egypt.

Description of Activities

This one week mission conducted the following activities:

- Evaluation of the current state of NSTS and TSA in Egypt with a focus on the development since Medstat II mission in January 2010.
- Evaluation of the cornerstone for developing a NSTS and TSA in Egypt.
- Advice on the orientation and focus for developing a reliable, relevant and user based information NSTS and TSA
- Preparation of a work-plan for developing NSTS and TSA in accordance with the most important areas and concerns.
- Advice on the organization of NSTS and TSA in Egypt
- Forthcoming advice and training, coming missions

The above activities will be conducted in collaboration between Statistics Sweden and Statistics Denmark and with the support from the CAPMAS staff in Egypt. Special attention should also be made to the needs and demands from the National Accounts, Tourism Ministry and the Central Bank of Egypt.

Expected results

The expected output according to the terms of reference for the mission is:

- A report evaluating the current situation in Egypt with respect to NSTS and TSA and the needs of its major stakeholders.
- A tentative work plan for developing a NSTS and TSA in Egypt

Annex 2. Programme for the mission

Agenda of Workshop 5-1-4 National Accounts Review of data sources and methodology for tourism statistics/accounts

Date	Topic
Monday 11/10/2010	-Presentation of currant status of tourism statistics in Egypt -Development that occurred since MEDSTAT II in the field of tourism statistics
Tuesday 12/10/2010	Presentation of data collection method and production in tourism statistics in Denmark
Wednesday 13/10/2010	Discussion over production and dissemination of tourism data and preparation of satellite accounts for tourism in Egypt
Thursday 14/10/2010	General discussion Results and recommendations

Annex 3. Persons met

CAPMAS:

Marwa Gomaa, Assistant to the RTA-Adviser
Mohamed Osman, Translator

Annex 4. Medstat II

MEDSTAT II- Tourism Sector- Technical Assistance Mission

Subject : Tourism Satellite Account and Tourism Generated Employment

Cairo, from the 13th to the 15th of January 2009

Report

1. Introduction

Within the framework of the MEDSTAT II programme (tourism sector), a three-day technical assistance mission on Tourism Satellite Account and Tourism Generated Employment was carried out from January 13th to 15th in Cairo by the short-term expert Mr Rafael Roig.

During this mission, the short-term expert met the below-listed personnel from the Ministry of Tourism, from the Ministry of Economic Development, and from different departments of the Central Agency For Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt:

Mr. Mostafa Mohamed Sediek – CAPMAS (Head of the Central Department for Productive Resources)

M. Sanaa Mohamed Ebada – CAPMAS (General Manager of Data Information)

Ms. Ghada Mostafa Abd Alla

Ms. Kadria Said Ali – CAPMAS (Tourism Coordinator)

M. Saadeya Zaki Mohamed – CAPMAS (1st Specialist)

M. Ehab Mahmoud Mohamed – CAPMAS (2nd Specialist)

Ms. Somya Abd El-Aziz – CAPMAS (General Manager)

M. Maha El Masry – CAPMAS (General Manager)

M. Azza Mohamed – CAPMAS (Manager Department)

M. Madiha Saleh – CAPMAS (Director Labour Statistics Division)

M. Fadia Mostafa Mahmoud – CAPMAS (Manager Department)

M. Naglaa Ahmed El Mahdy – CAPMAS (Manager Department)

M. Ali Hassan Mohamed – CAPMAS (2nd Specialist)

Ms. Fathia Ragab Mansour – CAPMAS (Director Tourism Division)

M. Magdy Hafez – Ministry of Economic Development (1st Specialist)

M. Mona Mohamed Saleh - Ministry of Economic Development (2nd Specialist)

M. Laila Mostafa Hamad - Ministry of Economic Development (2nd Specialist)

M. Fatma Ahmed Salem - Ministry of Economic Development (National Accounts)

M. Olfat Abd El Samei - Ministry of Economic Development (General Manager)

M. Kmal Ebrahim El Arabi - Ministry of Economic Development (Expert in Economic Accounts)

M. Yasser Wafic Fkry – Ministry of Tourism (Tourism Coordinator)

Unfortunately, the Central bank of Egypt, which is the institution in charge of the balance of payments, was not represented during this three-day meeting.

The TA mission was oriented mainly to the practical issues related to the compilation of the TSA and of TGE statistics, given the lack of experience in Egypt regarding the compilation of the TSA specially. To this aim, a general introduction on Supply and Use Tables, TSA, classification and a throughout analysis of table 1 to 10 were broached by the short-term expert.

2. General overview of the Egyptian tourism statistics and national accounts systems

In the initial session, a general overview of the Egyptian tourism statistics and National Accounts frameworks was carried out by the Egyptian experts. In this respect, it should be pointed out that the Egyptian TSA project is foreseen to be led by the Ministry of Tourism, although the compilation of TSA tables will be carried out by the National Accounts Department of the Ministry of Economic Development with the tourism statistical data produced by the Central Agency For Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

Although National Accounts were initially compiled by CAPMAS, in the mid 90's this responsibility was assumed by the Ministry of Economic Development. The present system of National Accounts follows SNA 68 accounting principles, although the implementation of the SNA-93 methodology is envisaged in the short or medium term. Moreover, at present no supply and use tables (SUT) or input-output tables have been recently compiled, thus the most recent input-output tables available are referred to year 1992. This fact hampers the production of TSA tables and the assessment of the economic effect of tourism in the Egyptian economy.

The most relevant problems faced in the compilation of National Accounts are the non-observed economy, and the extremely high number of the so-called "out-door businesses". Both issues give rise to an underestimation of the output of certain activities, since it is rather unlikely that the business register includes these sorts of businesses. In this respect, it should be pointed out that the Egyptian national accountants showed a great interest in solving these problems and suggested the usefulness of some technical support to sort them out.

From the tourism statistics perspective, CAPMAS produces several sets of data: Number of visitors' overnights by country groups, tourists' distribution by means of transport, hotels capacity (number of hotels, rooms and beds), occupancy rates of hotels by governorate, and total tourism expenditure by country group.

Some time was devoted to underline the importance of having an up-to-date business register to be used for sampling purposes in the economic surveys required for the SUT. The participants from CAPMAS stated that a register, in which the enterprises are classified according to the International Standard Industries Classification (ISIC) at four digit level, is currently available.

As above mentioned, no participants from the Central Bank of Egypt attended the meeting, and therefore the compilation method of the Travel item of the balance of payment could not be discussed in depth.

3. Technical discussion on general TSA issues

Due to the limited experience of the Egyptian institutions in compiling TSA and, in consequence, to the lack of specific difficulties experienced in the estimation process of the TSA, it was decided to analyse in depth the peculiarities of the ten TSA tables and the sources of information that are needed for their estimation, taking into account the Egyptian statistical system's characteristics.

As a starting point, the short-term expert made two general presentations: one on the tourism products and industries classifications, and the second on the scheme of TSA within the national accounts framework, in particular within the SUT.

3.1 Tourism products and industries classifications

The presentation on this subject aimed at highlighting the usefulness of the linking of the tourism products and industries to those established for the SUT or input-output tables, in order to facilitate the compilation process of TSA tables. One of the situations that were discussed was when it is convenient to divide an industry into two separate industries and, if this is not possible because of the lack of information, when it is recommended to divide a product into two different products. Finally, special mention was made to the fact that these classifications should, first of all, meet the national requirements and peculiarities; and, secondly, guarantee the international comparability of the results.

At present, the industries and products classifications used in Egypt are respectively the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC) and the Central Products Classification (CPC).

3.2 Description of the SUT system and its linkages to TSA

In this presentation, the short-term expert underlined the features and variables on the scheme of the SUT. In this respect, two important issues were mentioned during the presentation: on the one hand, the linkage between the TSA and the national accounts concepts, and on the other hand how relevant tourism related information that is implicitly included in the SUT can be extracted for TSA purposes by means of supplementary supply and demand sources of information.

As previously mentioned, the most recent input-output tables available are for year 1992. However, the Ministry of Economic Development is planning to compile more updated SUT, albeit the decision on the reference year has not been taken yet.

4. Technical discussion on the compilation of the TSA tables

The participants discussed on the approaches available for estimating the tables included in the international methodologies, specifically in the "Tourism Satellite Accounts: Methodological References" (TSA-MR) drafted jointly by WTO, OECD and EUROSTAT.

An issue that has to be borne in mind when compiling the TSA tables is that both demand and supply tables have to be valued according to the net treatment of package tours. This means that tourists do not purchase a new product, the package-tour, but the services it might contain (accommodation services, passengers' transport services, bars and restaurant services, etc). In this respect, it is important to clarify that, if package-tours are considered as new products in the SUT (gross valuation), then the corresponding adjustments both in the supply and in the use tables will have to be carried out.

The core of the TSA is table 6, in which the reconciliation between supply and demand is undertaken. Obviously, for the balancing purposes, both sets of variables have to be valued according to the same accounting criterion, that it is to say, at basic prices. So it should be borne in mind that for the demand tables it is necessary to transform the data of the surveys, which are valued at purchasing prices, into basic prices, by identifying the distribution margins and the net taxes on products.

4.1 Table 1: Inbound tourism consumption

During the discussion on the estimation of inbound tourism consumption, the Inbound Tourism Survey was briefly commented. This survey will provide the information required to estimate the non-residents tourism consumption by products. To this end, it is advisable that the questionnaire asks for the expenditure on those products explicitly included in the tourism products classification.

Moreover, it is highly recommended to ensure the consistency between TSA data on inbound tourism, Balance of Payments credits of the "Travel" and "Passengers' transport services" items, and the Non-residents consumption in the economic territory in National Accounts. Otherwise, the credibility of these three statistical operations could be seriously damaged. In order to avoid this, it is desirable that the institutions involved reach an agreement on the estimation method to be used and on the figure of inbound tourism expenditure.

Finally, the adjustments to be undertaken in the data of the inbound tourists that have purchased in their country of origin a package tour when visiting Egypt were thoroughly commented. Moreover, due to the negligible relevance of inbound same-day visitors in Egypt, the distinction between same-day visitors and tourists proposed by the TSA-MR could be omitted.

4.2 Table 2: Domestic tourism consumption

The latest survey on domestic tourism was accomplished in the year 2005. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that its results were not totally satisfactory, despite the large sample size. The most likely reason for this was the extremely long reference period for the trips- in fact, households were asked to provide information on the expenditure on their trips during the last year.

In year 2009 CAPMAS is planning to launch a new domestic tourism consumption survey. In this occasion the reference period for the trips will be reduced to the last three months, in order to try to overcome the shortcomings of the previous survey.

Similarly to the case of the inbound tourism consumption survey, the domestic tourism survey should ask households about their expenditure on the tourism products that are listed in the TSA.

Domestic tourism consumption should include:

- The expenditure linked to domestic business trips carried out by residents in Egypt (according to the National Accounts definitions). In occasions, business travellers are not able to provide reliable information on their expenditure, as these are paid directly by the companies. For this reason, the best way to get this information is through business surveys, instead of using household surveys.
- The expenditure on goods and services purchased in Egypt by residents when travelling abroad.

4.3 Table 3: Outbound tourism consumption

The comments on the consistency between the data from TSA, National Accounts and Balance of Payments for table 1 are also applicable to table 3.

From the economic point of view, the expenditure made by residents in Egypt abroad is irrelevant for the Egyptian economy (in fact the information from this table is not used in table 6 in which the balancing of supply and demand is undertaken) and, in consequence, compilation of table 3 should not be deemed as a priority in the TSA project.

4.4 Table 4: Internal tourism consumption

This table summarizes all the demand elements that have to be taken into account at the time of balancing demand and supply in table 6.

By definition, internal tourism consumption comprises the tourism consumption by both residents and non-residents within the economic territory of the country of reference, plus the so-called “other components of visitors’ consumption”. According to TSA-MR, this last component encompasses in its turn two elements: domestic business trips; and tourism expenditure in kind, that is defined as the consumption of non-market individual goods and services provided to tourists by units classified in the general government sector or in the non-profitable institutions serving the households sector.

Usually this concept is related to trips that are partially funded by government units or NPISH to certain groups of the population, for instance the elderly, pilgrims, students, etc. As a consequence, in general terms this information should be obtained directly from the units that are partially funding these trips, given that it cannot be collected by means of household surveys, as these usually do not know the total amount that has been funded by the government or the NPISH sectors.

4.5 Table 5: Production accounts of tourism industries and other industries

Table 5, which represents the production and generation of income accounts of the tourism characteristic industries, derives directly from the SUT or input-output framework. For this reason, if the tourism characteristic industries of the TSA are treated separately in the SUT, then the compilation of table 5 is easier.

As it has already been pointed out, if in the SUT or in the input-output tables package tours are valued on a gross basis, then it is necessary to make the corresponding adjustments in the SUT. In particular, output, intermediate consumption and households' final consumption should be modified according to this valuation criterion.

Obviously, the information for table 5 and for the SUT comes from annual business surveys, in which enterprises are asked about revenues, output, intermediate consumption, employment, investment, etc.

4.6 Table 6: Domestic supply and internal tourism consumption by products

Table 6 is the core of the TSA system, since it summarizes supply and demand, and it is in this table where supply and demand are confronted. From this balance, the contribution to the main macro-aggregates can be inferred (tourism GDP, tourism GVA, etc).

For balancing purposes, it should be borne in mind that, apart of the net valuation of package tours, table 6 should be valued at basic prices and, in consequence, also the demand side tables should follow this valuation criterion (in fact tables 1 to 4 include a row for the distribution margins).

The supply side variables in this table come directly from table 5. So, the columns referred to the output of the tourism industries have to be equal to those in table 5. Similarly, the column for internal tourism consumption comes from the last column of table 4, and once the imports for every single product have been subtracted, the internal tourism consumption net of imports for each product has to be allotted to the different industries that produce that specific product. When this process for every row (tourism product) has been concluded, the tourism ratio of the tourism characteristic industries can be calculated by dividing the total tourism share by the total output of that industry. Finally, it could be assumed that the contribution of tourism to the GVA of a specific industry is equal to its tourism ratio, and then the total tourism GVA can be easily estimated.

4.7 Table 7: Employment in the tourism industries

Although employment might be regarded as one of the most relevant socio-economic variables when analysing the impact of tourism in the economy, the analysis of this variable in the TSA international methodologies is rather insufficient. This is due to the fact that it does not provide an estimate of the tourism generated employment, given that this table just highlights the total employment in the tourism industries.

Nonetheless, a more accurate estimate on direct tourism generated employment could be obtained, by applying the tourism ratios of table 6 for the different industries to their corresponding total employment figures of table 7.

Table 7 shows the total employment in the tourism industries according to different variables such as sex, status in employment or any other variable that could be of interest for the compiling country. However, it is important that the figures on total employment in the different industries come from the National Accounts, in order to ensure that output, GVA, salaries, etc. per employee are reasonable.

4.8 Table 8: Tourism gross fixed capital formation of tourism industries and other industries

For the treatment of Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) in the scope of the TSA, the TSA-MR proposes table 8, in which the total GFCF of the tourism characteristic industries are allotted to a set of tourism capital goods.

This approach proposed in the international methodology has two limitations: On the one hand, it only provides information on total GFCF of the tourism industries, but it does not propose a procedure to estimate tourism generated GFCF. On the other hand, the classification of tourism capital goods is not in line with any international classification on capital assets in the framework of National Accounts; moreover, tourism industries might invest not only in tourism capital goods but also in non-tourism related capital goods.

The information requested for compiling table 8 might come from the GFCF matrix by purchasing industry and type of capital goods. In Egypt, at present, the National Accounts Department of the Ministry of Economic Development does not produce this matrix and it is not foreseen its compilation in the short-term. However, as in the international TSA methodology the treatment of GFCF is not solved, this variable is not taken into account when assessing the contribution of tourism to the main macro-aggregates. For this reason, for the time being, table 8 should not be deemed as a priority and its elaboration can be postponed to subsequent stages of the TSA project in Egypt.

4.9 Table 9: Tourism collective consumption by functions

Table 9 aims at showing up the non-market collective services related to the tourism phenomenon that are provided by the government to develop the legislation, the structures and organization in the field of tourism.

It should be underlined that the government functions in table 9 are not fully in line with the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) used in National Accounts. COFOG goal is to classify general government expenditure according to the government functions, and not according to the social groups the expenditure benefits (for instance, it is not possible to extract from the COFOG the portion of the *public order and safety services* that has benefitted to the tourists).

Due to the fact that the information required for compiling this table is of an administrative nature, the Audit Offices of the countries, which are in charge of the surveillance of the government expenditure, usually have very reliable information that is used both for the SUT tables and for the General Government sector accounts.

Although the tourism collective consumption has a direct effect on the tourism GDP, the TSA-MR states in paragraph 2.80 that "...for the time being, the approach to this component

will only have an experimental character due to the lack of experience in this field. As a consequence, for the time being, the estimates of this aggregate should not be used for international comparisons”.

4.10 Table 10: Non monetary indicators

Table 10 shows non-monetary indicators that might be of a certain importance for the TSA. However, the set of non-monetary indicators in table 10 proposed by the TSA-MR should be considered as a reference, and might be adapted by the countries to their necessities and to the availability of the information.

Usually these pieces of information come from tourism related surveys, business surveys and business registers. But it is important that the information for table 10 is also used for the compilation of the monetary tables, in order to avoid inconsistencies between monetary and non-monetary data (such as senseless daily average expenditure or incongruous average revenues per night, per room, etc).

In the case of Egypt, the compilation of table 10 does not pose any problem, since CAPMAS already publishes, in its Annual Statistical Bulletin, data on the visitors overnights by country groups, tourists distribution by means of transport, hotels capacity (number of hotels, rooms and beds), occupancy rate of hotels by governorate, and total tourism expenditure by country group.

5. Recommendations and future actions

First of all, as a recommendation for the organizational aspects of the TSA, it would be advisable to set up an inter-institutional platform in order to establish in a clear way the role of the institutions involved in the TSA project. Afterwards, it would be advisable to create a working group, in which all the institutions of the platform would be represented, with the following responsibilities:

- To design and supervise the project. It should define the different phases of the project and their accomplishment in due time, in order to avoid delays.
- To choose the reference year of the first TSA and the regularity of the publication (annual, biannual, etc).
- To draw up the Egyptian TSA methodology.
- To set an agreement on how dataset to be published should be disseminated (organization and design of the tables). TSA-MR tables should be regarded exclusively as a proposal and as a common framework. Consequently, countries should decide on the information to be released, and on the way this information is going to be presented (design of the tables, selection of the dataset to be published, etc), in order to meet the national users' needs.
- To analyse and discuss the methodological and statistical difficulties faced during the compilation process, in order to ensure the application of common solutions.

As mentioned in point 2, the most recent input-output tables are referred to year 1992. Hence, if it is foreseen to produce TSA fully in line with National Accounts, it would be necessary to compile more recent SUT or input-output tables. Concerning the National Accounts

benchmark year, it would be advisable to make it coincide with an Economic Census (if it is foreseen in the short-term to carry out one). Otherwise, a year for which the largest amount of information is available should be chosen.

Meanwhile, the team in charge of compiling the TSA could start working in the compilation of the demand tables (table 1 to 4), in order to become familiar with the TSA methodology, to be aware of the estimation difficulties, and to identify the information gaps.

The most appropriate approach to estimate the travel item of the Balance of Payments should be analysed and agreed with the Bank of Egypt, so the consistency between TSA and Balance of Payments figures is guaranteed.

Due to the lack of resources and time constraints, the Egyptian TSA team should focus on compiling those tables that are strictly necessary to be able to accomplish the reconciliation of supply and demand. Thus, in the initial stages of the TSA, it is recommended to devote all the efforts to tables 1, 2, 4, 5, 6. On subsequent phases, the Egyptian TSA could be enlarged by approaching the estimation of the remaining data sets.