

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS STATISTICS DIVISION

Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics First meeting New York, 3-6 December 2007

> Presentation UNSD

Item 5: Country Practices and Compliance

The United Nations Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics First meeting New York, 3-6 December 2007

International Merchandise Trade Statistics:

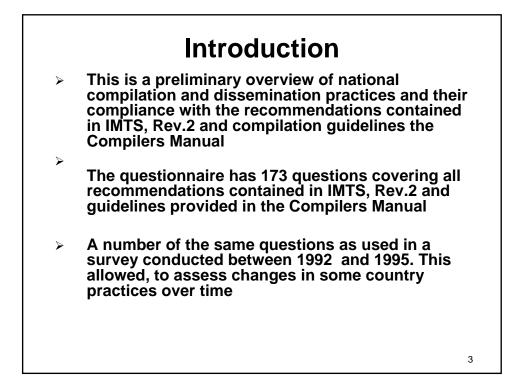
National practices, Compliance with IMTS, Rev.2, and Areas where international recommendations might need a revision

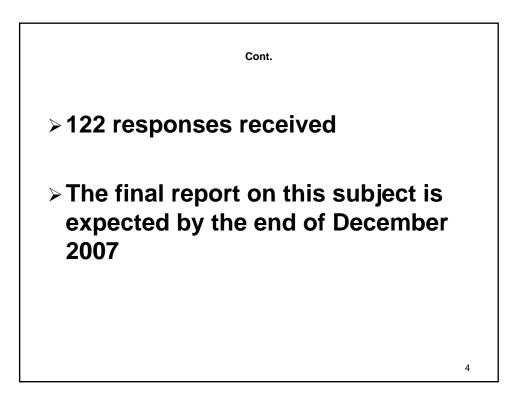
> Vladimir Markhonko Chief of Trade Statistics Branch United Nations Statistics Division

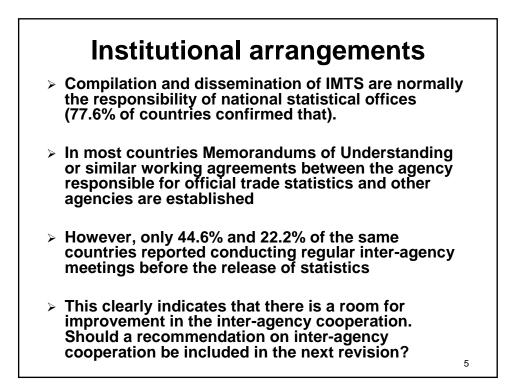
Contents Introduction 1. Institutional arrangements 2. Sources of data 3. Coverage and time of recording 4. Categories of included and excluded goods 5. Kyoto convention and relevant customs procedures 6. Trade system 7. **Commodity classifications** 8. **Quantity measurements** 9. 10. Valuation Partner country 11. 12. Data quality Trade by mode of transport 13. 14. Reporting and dissemination

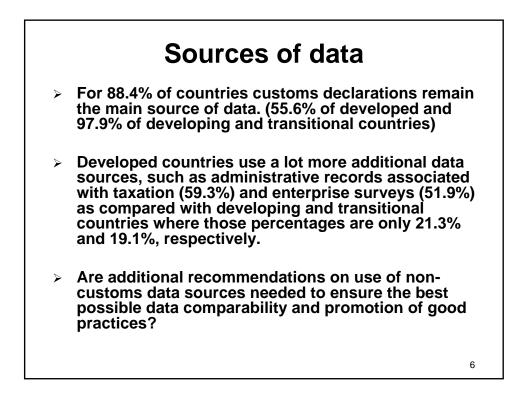
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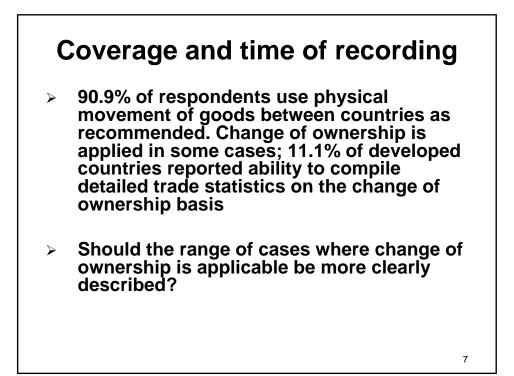
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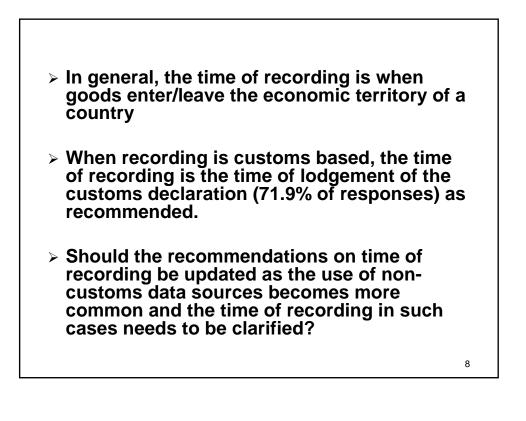












Categories of included and excluded goods

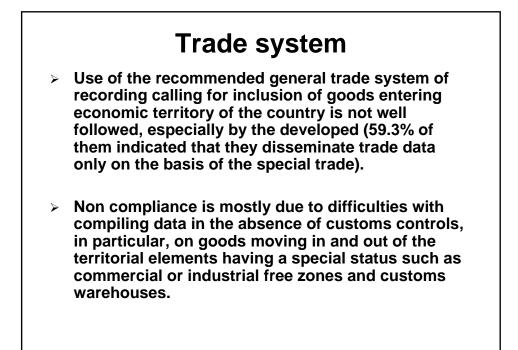
Annex 1 and 2 to #137.5 report summarize practices with respect to the inclusion and exclusion of certain categories of goods.

Annexes confirm a good compliance with IMTS, Rev.2 recommendations and improvement in the compliance rate for most of economically important categories of goods since 1996.

Do we need to add/delete certain categories of goods to the lists of inclusions/exclusions?

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Quantity measurements

All developed and practically all other countries collect quantity data. The percentage of countries collecting such data increased from 79.3% in 1996 to 93.4% in 2006.

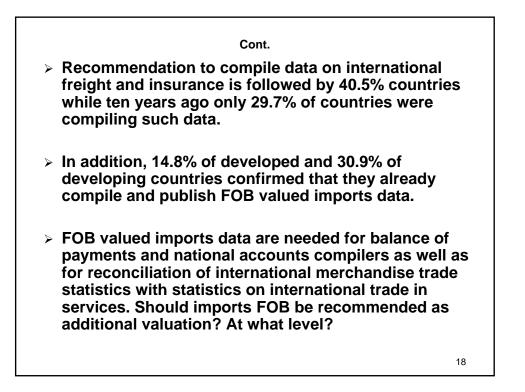
There is a solid compliance with the recommendation to use the net weight for quantity measurement of all commodities, where applicable (76% in 2006 as compared with 70.9% in 1996).

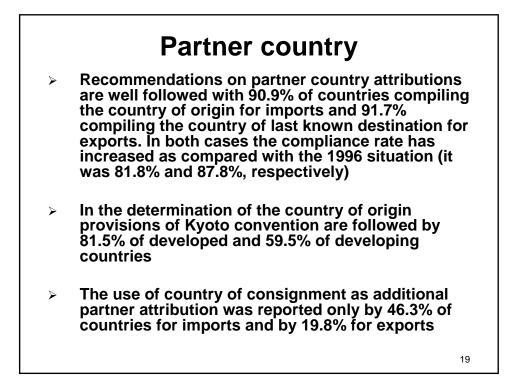
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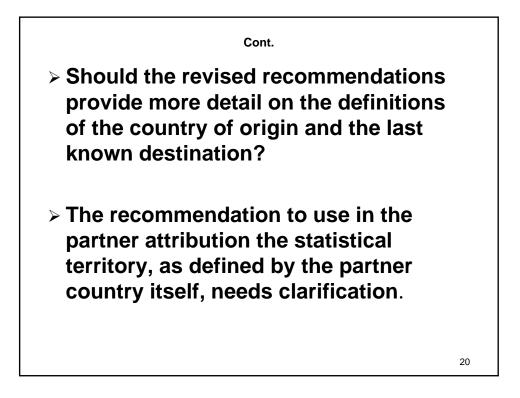
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Valuation

- Recommendations to use CIF-type value for imported goods and FOB-type value for exported goods are very well implemented
- Over the last decade use of the CIF-type valuation of imported goods increased from 90.5% to 93.4% while the FOB-type valuation increased form 94.6% to 96.7% (as reported by countries)
- How accurate the value data are? E.g., when the terms of goods delivery are other than CIF or FOB.







Data quality
IMTS, Rev.2 does not contain comprehensive recommendations on data quality. Do we need such recommendations in IMTS, Rev.3? (e.g., recommendations on quality dimensions, quality indicators etc.).
Some relevant information:
 in 80.2% of cases customs administrations conduct seminars to train traders and their agents in the filing of customs declarations.
 Customs records are being assessed and 72.7% of countries use commodity prices or unit values for this purpose.
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Cont.
An important factor in improving data quality is conducting of bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with the trading partners.
It is a very good sign that such studies have become a common practice for most developed (70.4%) and for a significant part (40.4%) of other countries.
Should we include in IMTS, Rev.3 a recommendation to conduct such studies more systematically?
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Trade by mode of transport

Compilation of trade statistics by mode of transport is increasingly a common practice as 88.9% of developed and 76.6% of other countries compile such data

Should we provide international recommendations to recognize the importance of trade by mode of transport and to ensure better data comparability?

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