UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
Vienna, 26-27 March 2008

item 2 of the provisional agenda
(Review of decisions of other international meetings with regard to merchandise trade)
and
item 5(a) of the provisional agenda
(Revision of IMTS, Revision 2)

Decision of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session, 26 - 29 February 2008 on International merchandise trade statistics (Item 3i)

(Extract from DRAFT REPORT, which was issued on 7 March 2008 and which is subject to final UN editing and formatting)

Provided by UNSD

STATISTICAL COMMISSION **7 March 2008**
Thirty-ninth session
26 - 29 February 2008
Agenda item 7

DRAFT REPORT
(This report is subject to final UN editing and formatting)

[…]

Decision 9: International merchandise trade statistics (Item 3i)

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report by the Secretary-General on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and endorsed the United Nations Statistics Division initiative and strategy to revise the existing recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics; requested that the draft revised recommendations be submitted to the Commission for adoption at its forty-first session in 2010;

(b) Took note of the terms of reference for the Expert Group on international merchandise trade statistics;

(c) Requested that the revised recommendations provide an updated conceptual framework as well as guidance on data compilation and dissemination in the context of an integrated approach to economic statistics;

(d) Requested that the revised recommendations are harmonized to the extent possible with the updated recommendations for statistics of international trade in services, the system of national accounts and the balance of payments statistics;

(e) Requested that in revising the recommendations a due consideration be given to the concern of minimizing the cost of data collection and compilation;

(f) Took note of the commitment expressed by the Statistical Office of the European Community, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the World Customs Organization to actively participate in the revision process.

[…]