



Global Forum on Trade Statistics
Measuring Global Trade - Do we have the right numbers?

organized jointly by UNSD and Eurostat in collaboration with WTO and UNCTAD
2-4 February 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

Vision of the future of international trade statistics
(updated 15 March 2011)

Responding to demands of policy makers for more information on international trade and its relation to global value chains, employment, environment and the interdependence of economies, the participants of the Global Forum on Trade Statistics identify the following points of improvement.

Improve the relevance of international trade statistics by connecting trade information and integrating it with its economic, social, environmental and financial dimensions while minimizing the response burden.

Specifically,

- Encourage countries to implement the new recommendations for international trade in goods (IMTS 2010) and trade in services (MSITS 2010);
- Develop a common basis across all relevant national institutions to identify enterprises active in international trade, including multi-national enterprises and their foreign affiliates;
- Develop and maintain a statistical trade information system at micro-level around the enterprise register, including multi-national enterprises and their foreign affiliates;
- Establish this statistical information system – under observance of relevant confidential rules - by making optimal use of and connecting existing data sources, such as custom-based merchandise trade statistics, trade and business registers, economic census data, existing

- enterprise surveys, other administrative records, and possibly data sources for employment, environment, or energy;
- Disseminate international trade by enterprise statistics with sufficient product detail for goods and services and with an internationally recommended set of enterprise characteristics;
 - Develop a compendium of good practices to guide on the integration of trade in goods and services and global business statistics;
 - Take note of the joint UNSD, Eurostat, and WTO background document to the Global Forum titled 'International Trade Information Systems in 2020'.

Improve the statistical production process by better defining and organizing the co-operation among national stakeholders

Specifically,

- Encourage all relevant national stakeholders, including the national statistical office, the central bank, the customs authority, and relevant ministries, to develop and use a common operational framework which specifies the objectives and modalities to produce international trade information integrated with other economic, social, environmental and financial information;
- Define within this co-operation framework also the roles, responsibilities and commitments of each stakeholder in the production and dissemination of the international trade information.

Improve international classifications and correspondence tables relevant for research on international trade and globalization, such as research on trade in value added, on global value chains and on outsourcing of business functions.

Specifically,

- Revise the structure of the BEC classification;
- Revise existing and establish new correspondence tables between BEC and HS, BEC and CPC, and BEC and ISIC, in particular where it concerns intermediate goods and intermediate economic activity;
- Establish a (derived) classification of generic business functions for use in research on outsourcing.