

## Report of the Interagency Task Force meeting on Statistics on International Trade in Services Statistics

UNESCAP, Bangkok, 10-11 March 2009.

### Welcome and opening.

1. Mr. Ilpo Survo, UNESCAP, Chief of the Statistical Information Services Section opened the meeting, welcomed participants and introduced Mr Artur Andrysiak (UNESCAP) who arranged the venue. He noted that UNESCAP was more a user than a producer of trade statistics and informed the Task Force (TF) that two tables on trade in services had been recently introduced in the UNESCAP statistical yearbook where UNESCAP aggregated services data for Asian countries. The group was also informed that the UNESCAP office in Tokyo provides training in trade in services data collection (capacity building). Mr Survo wished the group a fruitful meeting.
2. Mr Andreas Lindner (OECD) thanked UNESCAP for arranging the venue and noted that the group had reached a milestone and would be, at this meeting, discussing the last clarifications to the revised *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (MSITS 2010). The next step would be to help countries implement the MSITS 2010 and provide clear guidance on the different concepts like FATS or FDI. He also stressed that an important part of the meeting would be to cover problems of data quality and in particular he emphasized the mutual concern that user may be confused when comparing country data which may sometime be different across International Organisations. He finally drew the TF member's group's attention to some Task Force governance issues that would be discussed at the Joint Task Force meeting (12 March 2009).
3. The Chair underlined that the main objective of the meeting was to review and discuss the latest drafts of the MSITS 2010 following the second worldwide consultation. The "other items" of the agenda were chosen to be treated first to allow time for discussion. Some further amendments to the Agenda were proposed: UNWTO suggested the addition of an item devoted to the future report to be provided to the UN Statistical Committee, as well as implementation plans, and UN suggested the Chapter 1 to be the last to be discussed. The TF adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the last meeting. A list of participants is attached at Annex 1 and the agenda at Annex 2.

### **Promoting trade in services statistics also in emerging and developing countries.**

4. UNSD informed the group that the TFSITS internet site was up to date (last update end of 2008) and would be further updated after the Bangkok TF meeting. A draft of the Newsletter would be distributed before the Paris meeting in November.

5. UNSD reported on a Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services organised by UNSD for CIS countries in cooperation with CISSTAT and the State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine, to provide training to both NSOs and CBs, and also provide the current country-practices in compiling trade in services statistics. This seminar is seen as an example of good cooperation between IMF, UNSD and EFTA.

6. UNECLAC informed the group that Statistics on international trade in services are compiled according to the BMP5 in the ECLAC/CEPAL region. FATS are usually not available, and only a few countries (Brazil, Chile, etc.) are carrying on initial exercises. Problems with availability of partner country data were noted. A table presenting a general overview of selected Latin American countries was provided. ECLAC noted that there is room for further improvement and listed areas for future work. Other points included

- The recent publication, *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy, 2007* and the publication *Trend 2008 in international trade of the Caribbean region*. The statistical yearbook 2008 is under final revisions to be published at the end of March 2009.
- The development of a database on economic indicators on tourism for 160 countries and 18 sub regions, under an agreement between ECLAC and UNWTO.
- Recent seminars organized by ECLAC included a workshop on statistics of international trade in services (Chile 2008) and a meeting of experts on international trade in services (Mexico 2008 Organized by PROMEXICO).

7. The TF noted the numerous activities going on in ECLAC/CEPAL regions and raised the question on how to pool material for seminars. To link the seminar documentations to the different events on the TFSITS website was mentioned as a possible option. The WTO reminded the group of the availability of its seminar material ([available also on TFSITS website](#)). The UNWTO suggested the TF to organize a joint seminar once a year.

8. UNSD described its collection of trade in services data and informed the group that more developing countries are providing further details. It was noted that UN ServiceTrade database is still not part of UN database, but there are plans to include it in future. UNSD proposed to discuss the item on progress made on the agenda on a regular basis.

9. Upcoming trade-in-services statistics seminars include:

- Latin American and Caribbean countries focusing on statistics of international trade in services in close collaboration with UN ECLAC, fourth quarter of 2009, Brazil;
- Least developed South East Asian countries in close collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, second quarter 2009, Vientiane, Laos;

- CIS countries focusing on tourism statistics in close collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, third quarter 2009, Moscow, Russian Federation;
- UNWTO is planning a capacity building program for English speaking African countries, to improve Travel item in the BOP.
- WB in co-operation with WTO is planning a seminar in South Africa for mid June.
- EUROSTAT is planning workshops on implementation of BPM6 and BD4, including one on goods for processing for the EU Member States.

### **Compilation guidance**

10. There was an agreement on the need to develop, relatively quickly, a compilation guide focusing on statistical issues such as data collection, organising enterprise surveys and using administrative data sources. The TF stressed that the work on the MSITS 2010 compilation guide should not duplicate the work of the IMF on the BPM6 compilation guide (to be started in 2010). Further, the compilation guide should reflect country practices; therefore, national experts would be invited to contribute to the guide. A preliminary list of names would be discussed at the November Task Force. The TF agreed to draw on the experience of the compilation guide on Remittances and on the work done on BPM6 Compilation Guide, (when started). The Compilation Guide could be developed following a modular approach and made available on internet. The TF also discussed the need for a separate User Guide but did not take a decision on whether it should be developed.

### **Problems of data quality and historical consistency**

11. The WTO raised the issue of different data presented for the same countries across international organizations. Cases of interest included breaks in individual countries treated differently in the agencies' databases, issues of misallocation, countries using former versions of BPM, different data sources serving different organizations (for Denmark: IMF sourced by CB and EUROSTAT-OECD, sourced by NSO). The TF welcomed the WTO note written from a user perspective and noted the two dimensions of the issues raised: The need to check consistency a) between national sources (usually Central Banks and Statistical Offices) and b) across international organization. To define a taxonomy of problems was seen as a useful step to further discuss these issues at the next TF meeting in Paris.

### **Comparison of international data collection**

12. Following a proposal from the OECD, the suggestion to design a common framework (to IOs) for trade in services data collection was welcomed by TF members. This could allow better governance of IOs data collection. OECD would nominate a person, preferably knowledgeable in SDMX, in charge of preparing a program of work (stocktaking) for the OECD November WPTGS and eventually in charge of designing a prototype questionnaire. Preliminary check on the exchange rates, the "vintages" and the institutions sending the data would be presented. This exercise would be useful as a case study to be used in other domains.

## Other business

13. **OECD trade directorate** presented the Service Trade Restrictiveness Index project. Difficult issues listed included a) the classification by activity of FATS/FDI *versus* EBOPS (product/transaction based) and the issue of the correspondence. b) The distinction of services used for final consumption and services used as inputs in the production process. It was noted that this second issue is more a question for National accounts compilers than for BOP where this distinction doesn't exist. Final results for the pilot sectors (telecom, construction and business services) will be available in the summer. Following an OECD trade directorate request OECD statistics directorate together with Eurostat have sent out a special metadata request to check if telecom services statistics are actually collected on a net or on a gross bases.

14. **OECD health accounts** colleagues had provided an information note on the System of Health Accounts which is under revision by OECD jointly with the World Health Organisation and Eurostat. The Health division suggested that some text specifically related to trade in health services could be added to the Manual. The TF agreed that some more text could be added to the health section in the Analytical Annex (which will be provided on Internet – see below). The deadline was set to end of May.

## Review of the worldwide consultation (WWC) comments and consequent revisions by Chapter

15. UNSD noted that the world wide consultation (WWC) was the result of a good cooperation between International agencies. 221 countries had been approached (NSOs, CBs, International Agencies) and more than 100 replies had been received including 77 which were elaborated. It should be noted that among the 77 questionnaires, in several cases different organizations from the same countries have replied. The TF acknowledged that in general the countries are supporting the Manual. A third round of WWC would take place in July-August 2009.

16. The WTO led the TF through the country comments on Chapter 2, it was noted that more comments were made available from countries on this Chapter than on Chapter 5. The need for consistency with changes in other Chapters was underscored.

- On par. 5, it was noted that a lot of countries tend to think that BOP+FATS=Total, and overlaps are not taken into consideration (for example: intra-firms trade recorded in BOP res-non res trade and in FATS). WTO suggested adding a section in chapter V with appropriate text in chapter III and IV.
- Some more text should be added par 7 on concordance tables and the importance of linking trade and business registers
- On par. 9 (2.51) the need for more information on merchanting and goods for processing was pointed out. A box would be inserted in chapter III.
- Given comments on chapter 2, there would probably be a need to give more preeminence to current box 2 in Chapter1.

- The terminology labour mobility and labour-related flows may require additional explanation.
- In paragraphs related to the definition of FATS, a mention to the EU recommendation Manual of FATS would be added.

17. The IMF presented the changes made to Chapter 3, which had been further aligned with the BPM6 (approved in December 2008 and available on the [web](#)) and underlined that most comments dealt with the EBOPS classification. One issue raised was that “supplementary items “but also “standard items” are different between BPM6 and EBOPS, even if the definitions are the same. On general EBOPS terminology, the TF agreed that the terms “EBOPS standard item”, “EBOPS supplementary item” to be used in an analogous way to BPM6. The term “alternative groupings” that are specific to EBOPS was changed to “complementary groupings”.

- Time-shares need to be better explained.
- A table linking EBOPS items and alternative grouping (with correspondence identities) as well as standard BOP would be added at the end of the chapter.
- As call centers (par 3.197) can relate to every possible activity and should be distributed across services, they remain difficult to define. Additional text was suggested saying that normally they should be reported into the services categories listed, but if not, they can be recorded into call center category in the complementary groupings.
- References to correspondence with CPC rev1.1 in the EBOPS 2010 needed to be updated to CPC rev 2.
- References to paragraph numbers in BPM6 will be checked against the final version of the BPM6 as these could still be changed.
- Box 1 p.40 needs to be checked for consistency with Table 3.
- Include correspondence EBOPS2002vEBOPS2010 highlighting the main changes between the classifications, including the elimination of merchanting services.

18. The OECD presented the WWC country comments and suggestions specifically on EBOPS. In general, countries agreed with suggested amendments to EBOPS. Among discussed further changes following actions were agreed:

- The supplementary breakdown of Direct Insurance item 6.1 will be changed to standard.
- The supplementary breakdown of Architectural services item 10.3.1 will be changed to standard.
- In Insurance and pension services (item 6) Separate pensions from standardized guarantee services.
- In item 12 Government services, a further breakdown, would be added as in the previous EBOPS classification, consequently, the supplementary item 7 Embassies and Consulates can be removed
- A supplementary item 11.2.3 “Other cultural and recreational services” could be added provided further clarification on exact definition of cultural services is obtained from UNESCO. Item 11.2.4 would correspond to “other”.
- Distribution services would be removed from supplementary list and be included in the complementary groupings together with merchanting and trade-related services.
- IMF will check OECD’s proposal on a definition of originals.

- The breakdown of the charges for the use on intellectual property, n.i.e (item 8) would be the following:
  - 8.1 Franchise and trademarks licensing fees
  - 8.2 Licences for the use of the outcome of research and development
  - 8.3 Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software
  - 8.4 Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual and related products
  - 8.5 Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute other personal, cultural and recreational products.

The last item (8.5) is subject to further discussion with IMF as this has to be in line with the content of table 3 and of the box p.40 and knowing that copyrights on books also have to be covered.
- The breakdown of the research and development services (10.1) would be the following
  - 10.1.1 Work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge
    - 10.1.1.1 Provision of customized and non-customized R&D services
      - 10.1.1.1.2 Sale of proprietary rights arising from R&D (patents, copyrights, etc.)
        - 10.1.1.1.2.1 Patents
        - 10.1.1.1.2.2 Copyrights arising from R&D
        - 10.1.1.1.2.3 Industrial processes and designs (including trade secrets)
        - 10.1.1.1.2.4 Other
    - 10.1.1.2 Other R&D services (testing and other product/process development activities)
- For audiovisual services, the same breakdown as for software is required.
  - 1.1.1 Audiovisual services
    - (of which originals)
  - 11.1.2 Other related services
- Detail on the license to use would be added to the complementary groupings Audiovisual transactions and to the computer software transactions.
 

These “licenses” refer to all licenses a, b, c and d (the goods item in bold): in table 3. The detail would be the following (here in the case of audiovisual transactions)

  - License to use audiovisual services – customized all types.
  - License to use audiovisual services – Non customized – downloaded or otherwise electronically delivered.
  - License to use audiovisual services – Non customized - provided on a physical media with periodic license fees.
  - **License to use audiovisual services - Non customized - provided on a physical media with right to perpetual use.**
- A complementary grouping ICT services would be added if the international definition is different from the category “Telecommunications, computer and information services”.
- A complementary grouping Cultural transactions would be added provided that an internationally agreed definition of Cultural transactions/products is made available by UNESCO as soon as possible (with correspondence to HS, CPC classifications).
- A complementary grouping Trade Related Transactions would be added and be the sum of distribution services, merchandising and other trade related services.
- The TF decided not to give priority to any breakdown in travel nor in transportation.

- The TF agreed on the name “environmental transactions” and noted that correspondence to CPC version 2 had been provided by WTO.

19. The OECD guided the TF through the revisions to Chapter 4. Main points noted were the following:

- Remaining references to majority ownership (based on the notion of percentage of shares detained) should be changed to the principle notion of control (based on the notion of voting power).
- The box on confidentiality should be removed.
- To remove Box on page 4 on *The problem of intermediate and ultimate control in outward FATS*;
- To insert the last sentence in 4.41 (*Countries may wish to disaggregate sales in each industry as between sales of goods and sales of services as a first step toward a product basis*) into the main recommendations in Section H;
- To remove the last sentence from 4.55 (*Because of legal and practical obstacles it is unlikely to be easily estimated for outward FATS*);
- A table presenting inward FATS should complement the current table on outward FATS
- Text on Special purpose entities should be removed. (there is already a reference to BD4 and BPM6 for further details)
- Eurostat would send further comments to OECD in a written form

20. On Chapter 5, the TF underscored that the text was nicely written. It was suggested to underline the importance of this Chapter in the introduction. The TF agreed to forward remaining comments to WTO by e.mail.

21. The UNWTO presented Annex 6 and just noted the need to better edit the reference to EBOPS.

22. On Annex 7 presented by OECD, it was suggested to highlight the usefulness of the annex in the introduction. The annex would be presented as a “dynamic document” on internet but would not be part of the actual Manual. The TF agreed on

- The need to review the BEA example on software services.
- To establish correspondence to ISIC in the Canadian table presenting trade in services by industry.

23. On Cross-cutting issues, the TF agreed that the time was too short to prepare a separate annex and it was decided to stick with the text in the current box 1 in Chapter 3. Moreover, as BPM6 and IMTS are now fixed, there is no scope for aligning the two Manuals, so some more text could be made available on internet but does not need to be part of the Manual.

24. On correspondence tables,

- UNSD has started working on the bridge table between EBOPS and CPC Version 2.0 and expects to complete the project as soon as possible.

- Eurostat will prepare the ICFA-EBOPS classification as soon as the final EBOPS will be made available from IMF.

25. On Chapter 1, it was noted that the availability of the chapters in English only had restricted the number of country replies. It was noted that some text on differences between MSITS 2002 and MSITS 2010 was already available in Section B. This information would be complemented by a correspondence table between EBOPS 2002 and EBOPS 2010 – to be provided by IMF - highlighting main changes including the move of merchanting from services to goods.

26. The TF agreed the following actions, division of tasks and responsibilities as set out in table 1 below.

**Table 1: 2009-2010 timetable and division of labour for completing the revision process of MSITS**

Text	Lead organisation	Action	Deadline	Comments
Summary	All	Draft	November 2009	Has to be reviewed and updated
<b>All Chapters and annexes</b>			<b>15<sup>th</sup> June 2009</b>	<b>UNSD to provide some editing input. Question of language translations of the final public draft for review.</b>
Chapter 1	UNSD	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Box 2 needs to be given more prominence. The importance of chapter 5 and of the analytical annex should be stressed. The “differences from first edition” presented should be complemented by EBOPS 2002/2010 correspondence in chapter 3.
Chapter 2	WTO	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Add text on importance of linking trade and business registers. Explain terminology (labour mobility/labour related flows). EU FATS regulation to be quoted.

Chapter 3	IMF	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Include EBOPS2002 to EBOPS2010 correspondence table highlighting main changes i.e. merchanting, goods for processing <i>etc.</i> and EBOPS2010/alternative groupings/CPCv.2. Clarify terminology on standard-supplementary-complementary groupings.
Chapter 4	OECD	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Replace remaining references to ownership by control. Include Eurostats comments (to be sent asap.) Remove box on confidentiality.
Chapter 5	WTO	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Comments sent by e.mail to be integrated.
Annex I (EBOPS)	IMF/OECD	Redraft	End of April	
Annex II (EBOPS-CPC)	UNSD/IMF	Draft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	
Annex II (EBOPS-GNS)	WTO	Draft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	
Annex III (ICFA-EBOPS)	Eurostat/UNSD	Draft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	
Annex IV (GATS extract)		No change		
Annex V (GNS list)		No change		
Annex VI TSA and IRTS	UNWTO	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	
Analytical Annex	OECD in consultation with WTO and WHO	Redraft	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Example on software in Section I to be reviewed correspondence with ISIC to be added to Canadian trade by industry table. The annex will be provided dynamic on internet. Extra text on OECD trade project will be included in health section
Glossary	UNCTAD	Draft	15th June 2009	
Bibliography	UNSD	Draft	15th June 2009	
ACRONYMS list	UNCTAD	Draft	15th June 2009	

Index	All	Draft	October 2009	
Prepare report to the Statistical Committee	Chair/UNSD	Draft	End September	To be started ASAP as chair will be on leave 3 <sup>rd</sup> July - 22 <sup>nd</sup> October. Should include implementation plans and future project on compilation guidance.
Post final drafts for public review with notice to countries on the possibility of input.	UNSD		July – August 2009	
Integration of final comments into the text	WTO-UNSD		September 2009	
Careful review of final version	All		October 2009	
TFSITS Validation of final version of MSITS and discussion on the content of the report to the statistical Committee			19-20 November 2009 TF meeting in Paris, La Murette.	The TF will also discuss possible names of national experts to contribute to the future work on the compilation guide.
Prepare submission for UNSC 2010	Chair and UNSD		November – December 2009	
Prepare MSITS publication			Spring-Summer 2010	

27. It was noted that the chair should contact UNCTAD regarding update of the acronyms and the glossary. The UNSD would provide some editing inputs. A person external to the TF would need to be nominated to read the whole manual and check it for consistency.

28. There was a consensus not to add a subtitle and to leave unchanged the title of the Manual. The Manual would be shortened to MSITS 2010.

29. The deadline for producing the report for the statistical commission (TFSITS chair + UNSD representative) was set to end September but it was decided to start the drafting of the report as soon as possible. The report should include implementation plans and future project on compilation guidance.

30. UNSD informed the TF on an interagency Meeting on trade in goods and trade in services that took place in New York last February back to back with the statistical commission and gathering Chief Statisticians from major organisations. This new meeting would take place on a regular basis and could be seen as a useful forum to advance the trade related work.

31. The next meeting would be at the OECD, Paris, 19-20 November 2009.

Annex 1

**Participants list for Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services/Liste des participants pour Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services**

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**Meeting of the Task Force on Statistics  
of International Trade in Services (TFSITS), 10-11 March 2009  
(joint meeting with TF on International Merchandise Trade Statistics : 12 March 2009- see below)**

ESCAP Bangkok, Meeting Room E

**Agenda**

***Tuesday 10 March 2009 9.00***

**1. Welcome and opening**

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

**3. Approval of the minutes of the last Task Force (September 2008) *TFSITS (2009) 23***

**4. Promoting trade in services statistics also in Emerging and Developing Countries .**

a. TFSITS Website and Newsletter – *UNSD TFSITS (2009) 12*

b. Overview of seminars and expert groups –*UNSD TFSITS (2009) 20*

c. Experiences and plans from ECLAC region *TFSITS (2009) 13*

d. Data collection experience and databases –*UNSD TFSITS (2009) 21*

**5. Compilation guidance – *UNSD TFSITS (2009) 24***

**6. Problems of data quality and historical consistency - *WTO TFSITS (2009) 14***

**7. Comparison of international data collection - *OECD TFSITS (2009) 15***

**8. Any other business**

-Progress report on data collection for the STRI project and data needs – *OECD*

*TFSITS (2009) 16*

- Note on System of Health Accounts and Trade in Health Services and Goods *OECD*

*TFSITS (2009) 17*

**9. Revision of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS)**

a. Summary analysis to the worldwide consultation (WWC) - UNSD TFSITS (2009) 01 UNSD

b. Review of WWC comments and consequent revisions by Chapter

- i) Chapter 2: Conceptual framework for the development of statistics on international trade in services - WTO TFSITS (2009) 03**

**Wednesday 11 March 2009 9.00**

- ii) Chapter 3 : Services transactions between residents and non-residents - IMF TFSITS (2009) 04 (OECD on EBOPS TFSITS (2009) 05 and WTO on Environmental Transactions TFSITS (2009) 22)**

- iii) Chapter 4: Foreign affiliates statistics and the international supply of services – OECD TFSITS (2009) 06**

- iv) Chapter 5: Trade in services statistics by mode of supply – WTO TFSITS (2009) 07**

- v) Annex 6: The Manual and Tourism satellite Accounts – UNWTO TFSITS (2009) 08**

- vi) Annex 7: The analytical “annex” – OECD TFSITS (2009) 09**

- vii) Questions on cross-cutting issues (OECD proposes to analyse the WWC replies) TFSITS (2009) 10**

- viii) Concordance annexes - UNSD TFSITS (2009) 11**

- Draft correspondence table between ISIC categories for Foreign Affiliates (ICFA) and the EBOPS - EUROSTAT TFSITS(2009) 18

- ix) Chapter 1: General introduction and foundations of the Manual - UNSD TFSITS (2009) 02**

c. Review and update timetable and division of labour for completing the revision process of MSITS - OECD TFSITS(2009) 19

d. Report to the UN Statistical Committee and implementation plans.

**10. Date and location of next TF meeting (OECD Paris La Muette 19-20 November 2009 )**

**11. Closing**