



Compiling Informal and household trade as part of HIBTS

UNCEBTS 8th Meeting
24 June, Singapore

Background

- The activities and progress done by the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and its task teams were presented at the 56th session of the UN Statistical Commission.
- One of the discussions focused on the White Cover version of the Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics (HIBTS), which the Commission endorsed. It also welcomed the implementation strategy and stressed the importance of capacity development.
- Likewise, the Commission requested the exploration of the inclusion of informal and household trade in the Handbook.

Objective

Prepare a guidance note on the measurement of Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT) and Household (HH) trade from a business perspective, supporting the production of statistics in countries where these forms of trade are significant, addressing data needs from users, and supporting the design and evaluation of policies.

Starting point for the development of the conceptual framework

This proposal will consider, as a starting point, that ICBT may be carried out by different economic units.

Recognizing the different challenges and data availability associated with ICBT and formal trade carried out by households, it is proposed to address them separately and provide specific recommendations for each one.



Useful references

These documents already address different aspects of informal cross-border trade and household trade

- BPM7 (2025)
- SNA (2025)
- IMTS (2026)

Main activities and timeline

Activities and outputs	Date
First activities: concept note and organization of work	
Elaboration of the draft concept note on ICBT and Household (HH) trade for HIBTS	April 2025
Invitation of representatives from International Organizations and countries	May-June 2025
1 st meeting of the Group on ICBT and HH trade for HIBTS	July 2025
Guidance Note on ICBT and HH trade for HIBTS	
Revision of the concept note for elaborating a Guidance Note (GN) on ICBT and HH trade for HIBTS:	July 2025
First draft of the Guidance Note	July-August 2025
2 nd meeting of the Group on ICBT and HH trade for HIBTS to agree upon the content of the GN	August 2025
Second draft of the GN	August 2025
Sharing the GN with TT-ITS members	August 2025
Third draft of the GN	August – September 2025
Sharing the GN with the UNCEBTS for receiving feedback and its clearance	October 2025
Final version of the GN on ICBT and HH trade for HIBTS	October 2025

Thank You!

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