

Towards the new IMTS



▶ Chief editors and contacts

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▶ Presentation outline

1. Timeline and drafting mechanisms for IMTS2026
2. IMTS structure
3. New sub-chapters and topics
4. Next steps

Timeline and Drafting Mechanism for IMTS 2026

Q1, 2024:
-Start drafting sections and chapters (v1)
-Summary of changes to UN Statistical Commission

Q2, 2024:
Continuing with drafting sections and chapters (v2)

Q3, 2024:
Finalizing drafting sections and chapters (v3)

Q4, 2024:
Consolidate and proofread consolidated chapters (v4)

Q1, 2025:
-Editing by consultant and ensuring consistency (v5) and finalization by chief editors (v6)
-Approve by TT co-leads (v7) and endorsement by UNCEBTS bureau (v8)

Q2, 2025:
Undertake global consultations(v8)

Q3, 2025:
Final editing(v9)

Q4, 2025:
Final review by TT-ITS, approval by co-leads and endorsement by UNCEBTS (v10)

Q1, 2026:
-UNSC endorsement
-Working on language editing, cover (v11-en)

Q2, 2026:
-Working on language editing, cover (v11-en)

Q3, 2026:
Translation to other UN languages (v11-fr/es/ar/ru/cn)

Q4, 2026:
Translation to other UN languages (v11-fr/es/ar/ru/cn)

Drafting and editing approach

- ▶ Alignment with guidance notes
- ▶ Inclusion of new and emerging topics
- ▶ Review for consistency and to avoid duplication
- ▶ Alignment with other trade manuals where applicable (MSITS, HIBTS, MPIBTS)
- ▶ Editing principles
 - Plain English: clear and accessible language
 - Increased use of diagrams and visuals

1. Introduction
 2. Conceptual framework
 3. Institutional arrangements and data sources
 4. Trade system
 5. Classifications
 6. Valuation
 7. Quantity measurement
 8. Partner country
 9. Mode of transport
 10. Data compilation strategies
 11. Quality assurance framework
 12. Bilateral trade asymmetries
 13. Dissemination
 14. Specialized topics
- Annexes

New sub-chapters and topics

- ▶ New sub-chapter on IMTS and MSITS (to be developed in collaboration with MSITS team)
 - ▶ Trade by currency topic to be included in Valuation chapter
 - ▶ Trade Flow, Nature of Transactions and Customs Procedure Codes (Goods)
 - ▶ Linking trade, business, and other statistics
 - ▶ Bilateral trade asymmetries
 - ▶ Standard outputs and alternate aggregates
 - ▶ SDMX-IMTS
- ▶ New topics in Specialized topics:
 - Impact of trade on environment and sustainability
 - Impact of trade on well-being, labor, and productivity
 - Cultural and creative industry goods
 - Global production arrangements and value chains
 - Digital trade
 - Indicators on trade statistics

IMTS Scope

- ▶ Non observed trade and informal cross border trade:
 - Option A: Full scope, includes the legal and illegal movement of legal and illegal goods by all units
 - Option B: Includes illegal and informal movement of otherwise legal goods by all units
- ▶ Reconvening focus group in November

Nature of transactions

- ▶ Convening focus group
- ▶ Reviewing global consultation responses
- ▶ Investigating options for recommended presentation of Nature of Transaction outputs

October-December 2024:

- ▶ Finalising outstanding draft chapters/sub-chapters
- ▶ Consultation and review of draft IMTS (Version 2) by TT-ITS
- ▶ Outstanding topics/focus groups
 - IMTS Scope (Non-observed trade and Informal Cross Border Trade)
 - Nature of transactions
- ▶ Preparing summary of changes for UNSC

2025:

- ▶ Global consultations (planned for Q2 2025)

Questions?

