



STATISTICS

# **Current Account Task Team (CATT): Recent Activities**

Maria Borga, Deputy Division Chief,  
IMF Balance of Payments Division

Third Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts  
on Business and Trade Statistics

September 30, 2020

# Outline

- **Task Teams for updating the standards**
- **Current Account Task Team (CATT)**
- **CATT Research Topics**
- **GNs currently posted for public consultation**

# Task Teams for Updating the Standards (*BPM6 & SNA*)

- Task Teams have been formed to research issues and make recommendations for the update of the Standards
- Balance of Payments Committee (BOPCOM) Task Teams
  - Current Account Task Team (CATT)
  - Direct Investment Task Team (DITT)
  - Balance of Payments Task Team (BPTT)
- Joint BOPCOM and ISWGNA Task Teams
  - Globalization Task Team (GZTT)
  - Intellectual Property Products Task Team (IPTTT)
  - Financial and Payments System Task Team (FITTT)
  - Informal Economy Task Team (IETT)
  - Islamic Finance Task Team (IFTT)
  - Communications Task Team (CMTT)
- <https://www.imf.org/en/Data/Statistics/BPM>

# Role of the CATT

- Provide technical inputs and make recommendations through **Guidance Notes (GNs)**
- Addresses current account issues on the Committee's research agenda
- In addition, CATT may consider other current account methodological issues raised by its members and by the other TTs relevant for the BPM6 update
- CATT will operate during Phase I of the BPM6 update process (March 2020–March 2022).
  - CATT may be consulted during Phase II (drafting of BPM7 chapters) on an as-needed basis
- To meet deadlines and avoid duplication, CATT will:
  - Take account of current or completed work on topics related to issues under its purview
  - Coordinate with other Task Forces or Working Groups on cross-cutting issues
- GNs posted for public consultation before going to the Committee for decision
  - For certain recommendations, a testing phase is envisioned after it is approved
- Currently 3 GNs open for public consultation at:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Data/Statistics/BPM/CATT>

# Description of the CATT



**Eurostat and  
IMF co-chair**



**Membership  
representing BP  
and SNA  
communities/  
countries with  
varying levels  
of statistical  
development**



**Coordination of  
work on cross-  
cutting issues  
(including with  
SNA task team  
on  
digitalization)**



**Review of  
guidance notes  
by BPTT and  
AEG**



**Public  
consultation for  
4 weeks**



**To the BOPCOM  
for decision**

## **Global & Collaborative Initiative**

# Current Account Task Team (CATT) Research Topics : **High-priority** items

Issue No.	Research Topic	Links to other TTs	Date
C.1	Recording transactor-based components of services (travel, construction and government goods under services)		October 2020
C.2	Goods and services account by (trading) enterprise characteristics		October 2020
C.3	International trade classified by currency (including for trade linked to long-term trade credits and advances)		June 2021
C.4	Merchanting and factoryless producers; clarifying negative exports in merchanting; Merchanting of services	GZTT/IPTT	April 2021
C.5.1	Statistical impact of the change in treatment of operating leases in business accounting	IPTT	October 2020
C.5.2	Economic ownership in the context of financial and operating lease transactions pertaining, in particular, to aircrafts		April 2021

# Current account Task Team (CATT) Research Topics : **Medium-priority** items

Issue No.	Research Topic	Links to other TTs	Date
C.6	Trade in services classification	GZTT/ DZTT	April 2021
C.7	Treatment of travel packages, health-related travel, and taxes and fees on passenger tickets		December 2020
C.8	Recording penalties and fines		February 2021
C.9	Valuation of trade under long term contracts		June 2021
<b>GNs of other Task Teams relevant to the CATT</b>			
	Valuation of imports and exports (CIF/FOB adjustment)	GZTT	Reviewed by CATT September 2020

DZTT= Digitalization Task Team

# GNs in Public Consultation

- **C.1 Recording of transactor-based services (travel, construction, and government services, n.i.e.)**
- Some services in *BPM6* are classified based on who is involved in the transaction rather than the product involved
  - For example, travel services exports cover goods that nonresident travelers acquire in that economy either for their own use or to give away
  - Because they are associated with the notion of travel
- Raises questions about clarity on the distinction between goods and services and the analytical value of maintaining transactor-based services in the balance of payments
- Recommends separation of goods and services that can be classified in goods and other services categories from respective transactor-based services to allow closer alignment to product-based services classification and better delineation between goods and services
  - Helps alignment with the SNA
- For construction, recommends treating as the entity paying for the construction as the economic owner



# **GNs in Public Consultation (continued)**

- **C.2 Trade by enterprise characteristics**
  - Recommends the development of an encouraged data collection template that introduces further disaggregation of the imports and exports of goods and services by enterprise characteristics, including by foreign-controlled firms, domestic MNEs, and purely domestic firms
  - Also recommends some collections that would support the analysis of Global Value Chains (GVCs)
- **C.5.1 Change in Treatment of Operating Leases in Business Accounting**
  - Introduction of a new International Financial Reporting Standard on Leases (IFRS 16) in January 2019 that is no longer aligned with the 2008 SNA and BPM6 regarding the concept of economic ownership poses some serious challenges for compilers to separately record cross border operating and financial leasing activities
  - Recommends adjustments to reported data on leasing activities to preserve the fundamental concepts of economic ownership in the 2008 SNA and the BPM6

Thank you for your time and attention

Maria Borga

[Mborga@imf.org](mailto:Mborga@imf.org)

Backup slides

2020				2021				2022
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Launch BPM6 Update Process</b>	<b>Develop TORs for—and convene—TTs</b>	<i>TTs produce GNs, seek worldwide feedback</i>				<b>Committee decides on changes to BPM6</b>	<b>Produce Annotated Outline of BPM7</b>	

← Phase 1



Phase 2 ↓

2022			2023				2024				2025
Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Draft BPM7 Chapters and Appendixes</b>							<b>Preliminary Draft BPM7 to Committee</b>		<b>Revised Draft for review</b>		<b>Final Draft Delivered</b>

*Worldwide consultations, including through regional outreach seminars*

*TTs: Task Teams; TORs: Terms of Reference*