Revising Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) 2023 Update

Markie Muryawan
United Nations Statistics Division
Relationship among (trade) product classifications

- **Primary classification in data collection**
  - HS
  - EBOPS (currently being revised by the trade task team - 2024)

- **Analytical classifications**
  - SITC (currently being revised - 2025)
  - BEC
  - W/120
  - CPC goods/services
SITC = the Standard International Trade Classification

SITC 5 will be based on the forthcoming HS 2028

Used mostly for analytical purposes of the main product groups
Background

- Analytical framework classification
  (since early 2000s after wide adoption of HS as the compilation classification)

- Indications are that many users still find the classification useful for analytical purposes
  - In a decennial survey (2016-2017), 82 out of 108 respondents publish data in SITC
  - The global consultation on ITS research topics in Dec 2021 re-affirmed the need for SITC revision

- The last revision of SITC 4 was undertaken in 2006, aligning with HS 2007
Issues

- Deteriorating correspondence with newer version of HS
  - Amendments in HS 2022, notably on electronic components
  - Increasing number of 1:N and N:N relationships
- Revision cycles, if required

Relationships between HS editions and SITC 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITC 4</th>
<th>1To1</th>
<th>NTo1</th>
<th>1ToN</th>
<th>NToN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS 2002</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>3157</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 2007</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3056</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 2012</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>3230</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 2017</td>
<td>1779</td>
<td>3496</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 2022</td>
<td>1257</td>
<td>4156</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary / Discussion

The outcome of global consultation on research topics in Dec 2021 shows that SITC is actively being used by compilers/users.

The plan is to align the next revision of SITC with HS 2028.

Another issue is about the revision cycle:

Should it be aligned with HS in a fixed cycle (cons: too short for time series analysis) or depending on the scale of drifting with HS (cons: what is the threshold)?

Alternative: the current proposal is to align the revision of SITC with the revision of IMTS Concepts and Definitions (~15 years cycle) – similar with the EBOPS which aligns itself with BPM update.
Thank you