

# Second meeting of the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

3-6 November 2009, New York

## Agenda item 7: Report on the Results of the second round of worldwide consultation



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## Introduction

- This report presents the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of worldwide consultation on the full text of the provisional draft of the IMTS2010.
- Total of 99 countries replied and over 500 detailed comments
  - 31 developed countries
  - 68 developing and transitional countries
- Comments provide an excellent basis for the review of the provisional draft of the IMTS2010.
- The quantitative results and the comments of countries show that countries overall agree in overwhelming majority with the draft text of all chapters and annexes.

## General comments on IMTS2010

### **Overall:**

- Countries are satisfied with the draft;
- Comprehensive, balanced and useful;
- A significant improvement and update of the previous text;
- The combination of theoretical concepts and practical considerations.

### **Needs emphasized:**

- The normative character of the recommendations and the meaning of terms 'recommended' and 'encouraged' to be clarified;
- The immediate update of the *Compilers Manual*;
- Training/ technical assistance/ capacity building;
- The translation into the official UN languages available as soon as possible.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 0.1 (regarding the introduction): Do you overall agree with the contents of the introduction?	97	1

- ❖ Explanation regarding the need for the revision and history of recommendations for IMTS are found to be especially useful.
- ❖ It is suggested to indicate the differences to the previous recommendations and to include in the summary – what countries are ‘encouraged’ to do.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 1.1 (regarding chapter I Scope and time of recording): Do you agree with the general guidelines on IMTS scope and time of recording?	98	1

- ❖ It is suggested to
  - present ‘estimation of trade’ below customs and statistical threshold separately with additional detail.
  - further clarify the application of the criterion of change of ownership.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 1.2 (regarding chapter I Scope and time of recording): Do you overall agree with the specific guidelines on IMTS scope?	96	1

- ❖ It is suggested to
  - provide more guidance on terms like gold in circulation, the time limit for temporary admission, etc, in the Compilers Manual;
  - present the goods and transactions which are recommended (or encouraged) to be separately identified in a consolidated form.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 2.1 (regarding chapter II Trade system): Do you overall agree with the contents of this chapter?	92	2

- ❖ It is pointed out that the need for data compilation/ estimation for free zones etc. should also depend on their economic significance.
- ❖ It is suggested to further specify the types of trade, besides re-exports and re-imports.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 3.1 (regarding chapter III Commodity Classification): Do you overall agree with the contents of this chapter?	97	1

- ❖ Countries welcome the new para on the use of HS chapters 98 and 99.
- ❖ Not all countries agree with the recommendation on the use of SITC or the formulation of this recommendation.
- ❖ Countries also express their interest to be informed about correlation tables between the different classifications.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 4.1 (regarding chapter IV Valuation): Do you overall agree with the contents of this chapter and its recommendations on statistical value of the exported and imported goods?	94	4

- ❖ It is requested that clear guidance or a standardized approach for the compilation or estimation of imports valued FOB is provided in the Compilers Manual.
- ❖ It is suggested that separate collection of data for freight and insurance should only be encouraged but not recommended.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 5.1 (regarding chapter V Quantity measurement): Do you overall agree with the contents of this chapter?	99	0

- ❖ It is noted that countries do not always follow the units of quantity recommended by WCO.
- ❖ It is requested to provide detailed guidance on the recommended estimation of quantity information.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 6.1 (regarding chapter VI Partner country): Do you overall agree with the contents of this chapter and its recommendations on the partner country attribution?	95	0

- ❖ Most agree on the usefulness of the additional collection of country of consignment.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 6.2: Do you support the additional recommendation in para. 6.26 that country of consignment is recorded as well, for both, imports and exports, recognizing at the same time, that this may not be always feasible and the implementation of this recommendation may be considered by some countries as a rather longer term objective?	77	12
Question 6.3: Do you agree with the new recommendation that for some categories of imported goods the country of purchase might be preferable to country of origin (see para. 6.31)?	73	13

- ❖ The agreement of countries on 6.2 and 6.3 is less strong.
- ❖ Many countries pointed out the difficulty of compiling the information on country of consignment.
- ❖ It is suggested only encourage but not to recommend the compilation of country of consignment for exports.
- ❖ The proposal to record for some categories of goods the country of purchase is supported by several countries on conceptual grounds but, overall, is considered as confusing and difficult to implement.



# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 7.1 (regarding chapter VII Mode of transport): This chapter is new. Do you overall agree with its contents?	90	6

- ❖ Majority welcome this new chapter.
- ❖ Several countries view the information on mode of transport as of bad quality.
- ❖ Suggest that the recommendation to be better placed in the Compilers Manual

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 8.1 (regarding chapter VIII Data compilation strategies): This chapter is new. Do you agree in general with its contents?	97	0

- ❖ There were a few individual comments, which express concern that some of the statements regarding institutional arrangements are overstepping the scope of these recommendations.
- ❖ One comments points out that that the potential burden of data compilation from non-customs sources is understated.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 9.1 (regarding chapter IX Data quality and metadata): This chapter is new. Do you agree in general with its contents?	95	1

- ❖ Several countries point out the need for resources, training and practical guidance in order to implement these recommendations.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 10.1 (regarding chapter X Dissemination): This chapter has been significantly updated. Do you agree in general with its contents?	95	1

- ❖ It is suggested to better reflect the role of passive confidentiality as the leading principle for IMTS.
- ❖ Some find the suggested release dates as difficult to follow and others as not sufficiently ambitious.

# Results of Consultation

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 11.1 (regarding chapter XI Supplementary topics): Do you overall agree with the contents of this chapter?	89	3

- ❖ Countries requested to provide further guidance and best practices on the calculation of trade indices and seasonal adjustment.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Question 12.1 (regarding Annexes A-F): Do you agree that the proposed Annexes are useful?	93	1

- ❖ It is suggested to add additional annexes either to this recommendation or to the Compilers Manual concerning the rules for adjustment to the invoice value to obtain CIF/FOB value, quantity conversion factors and classification conversion tables.



## Results of Consultation – A Summary

- The overwhelming majority of countries overall agree with the contents of the individual chapters and annexes.
- Only regarding the specific questions on the recording of partner country the agreement is less strong.
- There are no major differences in the replies of developed countries and developing countries.
- The individual comments of countries require careful examination.

# Thank you for your attention!