



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
First meeting
New York, 3-6 December 2007

Presentation
UNSD

Item 8: Commodity Classification and Mode of Transport

**The United Nations Expert Group on
International Merchandise Trade Statistics
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Agenda item 8

**Commodity Classifications and
Mode of Transport**

UNSD Introduction

Use of the Harmonized System (HS)

- It is recommended that countries use HS (Harmonized System) for the collection, compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS)
 - » NCDP questionnaire confirmed almost universal use of HS for compilation (94% of respondents) and dissemination (87%) of IMTS
 - » Significant increase compared with 1996

Use of other classifications and correlations tables

- SITC (Standard International Trade Classification) is used for data publication by 62% of countries
- BEC (Broad Economic Categories) is used for data publication by 45%
- ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification) is used by 22%
- CPC (Central Product Classification) is used by only 9%

Due to periodic update of HS respective correlation tables require update as well:

- SITC Rev. 4 was approved by SC in 2006 and is defined in terms of HS2007 subheadings
- UNSD issued draft correlation tables between HS2007 and BEC and asked UN Expert Group on classifications for opinion

Commodity classifications - potential issues for discussion

- Use and importance or concerns regarding SITC, BEC, ISIC and CPC for IMTS
- Conversion of data frequent discussion point at workshops with countries - Are further recommendations or guidelines regarding data conversion needed ??
- Compilers Manual advices on use of HS chapters 98 and 99 – should this be made a recommendation ??

Mode of transport

- According to NCDP questionnaire information by mode of transport is widely available (about 80% of respondents)
- There appears to be a strong demand for trade data broken down by mode of transport
- IMTS, Rev1, paragraph 148 recommended that countries should collect import and export data by mode of transport, broken down into three categories:
 - Air
 - Water (of which Sea, Inland waterway)
 - Land (Railway, Road, Pipeline)

Mode of transport

– potential issues for discussion

- Share the experts the impression of high availability and strong user demand regarding information by mode of transport ??
- Should IMTS, Rev3 contain a recommendation for the collection of mode of transport ??
- What breakdown should be recommended for a collection of information by mode of supply ??

Thank you for your attention