Project 06/07K: Strengthening the Development of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and the compilation of e-commerce in Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on the compilation of IMTS and the application of methodological concepts

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Partner Country Attribution

Introduction & Key Issues

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Statistician

Trade statistics by partner country

- Trade statistics by partner country (values and quantities) have significant analytical value

- They are used for:
  – Analysis of economic trends, balance of payment, trade shares, trade policy, etc.
  – As a checking tools for data reliability
  – Trade estimation for non reporting countries

- To ensure comparability, partner country attribution is important

Types of partner country attribution

- Country of purchase/sale
  - Based on purchaser / seller resides
- Country of consignment/last known destination
  - Based on whether existence of any commercial transactions (to define country of consignment)
- Country of shipment
  - Based on where goods are shipped to/from.
- Country of origin/consumption
  - Based on where it is produced and where it is consumed

IMTS Rev.2 Recommendation

- Follow the relevant provisions of the Kyoto Convention for determining country of origin of goods

- It is recommended that for partner country attribution
  - For import, _country of origin_ and _country of consignment_ to be collected as additional information
  - For export, _country of last known destination_

- It is recommended that for country classification
  - The statistical territory of each country, as defined by the country itself, constitute the basis upon, which the trading partners of each country compile their statistics

NCDP Results

- Recommendations on partner country attribution are well followed with 90.9% of countries compiling *country of origin* for imports and 91.7% compiling *country of last known destination* for exports.

- Determination of *country of origin* provisions of Kyoto convention are followed by 81.5% of developed, 59.5% of developing countries and 25% of workshop countries

Only 25% workshop countries follow Kyoto convention, how about the others?

Countries & Areas

Example on UN Comtrade:

→ US data includes US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, thus, any data referring US VI and PR as partners will be lumped together with US

→ China Hong Kong SAR (344), China Macao SAR (446) and China (156) are two separate areas in UN Comtrade. They also declare trade to each others.

- UN Comtrade Areas
  - France (*France, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Monaco, Réunion*)
  - Italy (*Holy See, Italy, San Marino*)
  - Norway (*Norway, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands*)
  - USA (*Puerto Rico, United States, US Virgin Isds*)
  - Switzerland (*Liechtenstein, Switzerland*)
  - Serbia and Montenegro (*Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia*) [until 2005]
- Any major splits or joints, new country code may be assigned
  - For an example: separate codes for Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia

Discussion Points

- How do you determine the country of origin for imports?
- Do you also record the country of consignment for each declaration?
- How you record and identify re-imports? Do you record from which country?

- How do you determine the country of last known destination?
- Do you also record country of consignment for exports?
- Do you record re-exports?

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