



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Workshop on Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics
Abuja, 30 August - 2 September 2005**

Purpose of the Workshop

The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNSD) in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are making special efforts to improve the availability of international merchandise trade statistics of African countries in view of the increasing demand from users all over the world. Because customs records are still the principal source for trade data, we would like to bring trade statisticians and customs officers together in this workshop. UNSD and other international organizations provide experts in these matters and will organize the workshop which will be held from 30 August 2005 until 2 September 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The main purpose of the workshop will be to identify difficulties and to try to find solutions for a more effective compilation of merchandise trade statistics as an output of automated customs systems. Special attention will be devoted to cases where ASYCUDA is implemented or is in the process of being implemented in the customs administrations. Therefore, we would like to invite to the workshop two country representatives – a person responsible for compilation of trade statistics from the national statistical office and a customs officer responsible of the collection of customs records relevant to trade statistics. At the end of the workshop we will summarize the most important points regarding the compilation issues of the ECOWAS member states.