



# Positioning the ACS in Economics Statistics: International Merchandise Trade Statistics

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## Scope

- I. Background
- II. Trade and Trade Statistics in ECA's Programmes
- III. Capacity Building
- IV. ECA Trade Statistics related Publications

## I. Background:

- Creation of the African Centre for Statistics in August 2006
- Six thematic areas:
  - Statistics Coordination
  - Censuses
  - Surveys
  - Economic Statistics
  - Training
  - Data management

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## I. Background (cont'd)

- Economic and Environmental Statistics Section with functions to include Basic Economic Statistics:
  - Prices,
  - Trade,
  - Industrial Statistics,
  - Business surveys,
  - System of National Accounts,
  - and Environmental Statistics, etc.

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## II. Trade and Trade Statistics in ECA's Programmes

**Trade statistics, essential component of National Accounts and Balance of Payment Statistics**

**Keys inputs for trade policies and regional economic integration**

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## II. Trade and Trade Stats in ECA's Prgmes (cont'd)

**ECA major programme in trade analysis: TFED to which is attached the ATPC,**

**NRID: NEPAD and Regional Integration Division: IMTS essential to understand the dynamic of African economic integration**

**ACS: Trade statistics through its economic statistics programme**

- Capacity Building
- Data collection and dissemination

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### III. Capacity Building in Trade Statistics

Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building in Africa (RRSF) as the overarching framework: assesses problems, constraints and challenges facing statistical capacity building in Africa

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### III. Capacity Building (cont'd)

Revamping of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA): ACS, AfDB, ACBF

- Workshops for training of trainers
- Curricula development
- Advisory services to training institutions
- On-the-job training at **NSOs**
- Twinning arrangements
- Development of methodology guides and standards

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### III. Capacity Building (cont'd)

**ACS staff are undergoing skills development in various areas including trade statistics:**

- Training on EUROTRACE (Comoros)
- Training of Trainers on EUROTRACE (Currently ongoing in Luxembourg, with EUROSTAT)

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### IV. ECA Trade Statistics related Publications

Three major statistics Publications:

African Statistics Yearbook

African Socioeconomic Indicators

Compendium of Intra-African and related Foreign Trade Statistics.

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## IV. ECA Trade related Statistics Publications

### Coverage:

Direction of Trade by country and subregion  
Intra-African Trade by country, subregion and econ. grouping  
Intra-African Trade by SICT section  
Trade by SITC section

### Sources:

COMTRADE  
Countries Publications  
DOTS  
Estimates

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## IV. ECA Trade related Statistics Publications

### Problems encountered:

Availability of data and its coverage  
Timeliness  
Diversity and conflict of sources  
Insufficient national dissemination

### Best practice:

Harmonization of Trade data: Trade Data reconciliation committee (NSO, Custom Authority, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance)

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## Conclusion and recommendations

- ACS to position itself in capacity building in IMTS in close collaboration with its partners
- Countries to improve the coordination of their statistical system as recommended by the NSDS

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# Thank You



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