

Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of the International Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

Bangkok, 9-12 September, 2008

Towards IMTS, Rev.3

Need for the revision; Outline and status of the revision process



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Need for revision

- a) Changes in the way international merchandise trade is conducted
- b) Changes in the legal environment,
- c) Changes in related statistical frameworks, in particular the *1993 SNA and BPM*,
- d) Changes in user needs,
- e) Need for further clarification of some existing concepts and improvement of the overall readability.

Main areas for revision and updating

(based on the review of national practices in 2006)

- a) General issue of coverage
- b) Goods for processing
- c) Goods crossing borders as a result of transactions between related enterprises
- d) Trade system
- e) Valuation
- f) Partner Country
- g) Sources of data and data compilation strategies

Outline of the revision process

2006

⇒ Review of National Practices

2007

- ⇒ Development of multi-year strategy for update and establishment of an IMTS Expert Group
- ⇒ Establishment of list of issues at the First meeting of the Expert Group, 3-6 Dec. 2007

Outline of the revision process

2008

- ⇒ Endorsement of revision process by the Statistical Commission, 26–29 Feb.
- ⇒ Worldwide consultation on a list of issues, May–July, plus workshop in September
- ⇒ Preparation of report on the results from the worldwide consultation in September/October
- ⇒ Discussion of the report and conclusions from the worldwide consultation and of the revision outline at a Virtual meeting of the Expert Group, November

Outline of the revision process

2009

- ⇒ Discussion of status of IMTS, Rev.3 at the meeting of the Task Force on IMTS in March
- ⇒ Worldwide Consultation on first full provisional draft of IMTS, Rev.3, May to July
- ⇒ Preparation an updated provisional draft and discussion and endorsement of this draft by the Expert Group in September
- ⇒ Preparation of the final provisional draft of the revised recommendations and submission to the Statistical Commission by end of December

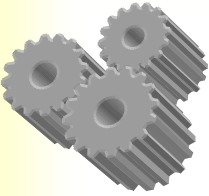
Outline of the revision process

2010

- ⇒ Adoption of the revised recommendations (and an implementation plan) by the Statistical Commission, March 2010
- ⇒ Preparation of updated Compilers' Manual

Guiding principles for drafting the revised recommendations

- ❑ user needs should be identified for better focus of the revision process;
- ❑ recommendations have to focus on detailed trade statistics (by commodity and partner country) suitable for multiple uses;
- ❑ recommendations should (i) be internally consistent; (ii) be operational; (iii) be cost effective; (iv) not increase the overall respondents burden; (v) be in line, where applicable and to the extent possible, with the recommendations for the related areas of statistics including BOP, SNA, and structural business statistics;
- ❑ the scope of IMTS, Rev.3 should include the different stages of the statistical process such as concepts and definitions, data sources, data compilation strategies, institutional arrangements, data quality, metadata, dissemination and analysis;
- ❑ the boundary between recommendations contained in IMTS, Rev.3 and additional guidance to be provided in the updated compilers manual should be clarified;
- ❑ priorities need to be established as required during the revision process.



Participation in the revision process

1. Statistical Commission:

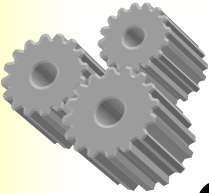
- endorsement of revision process and
- approval of final text

2. Expert Group and Task Force on IMTS:

- Assists UNSD in the revision process
- Two meetings plus one virtual meeting of EG

3. Direct participation of countries:

- two worldwide consultations
- at least one workshop



Participation in the revision process

Country replies to the first round of worldwide consultation:

- **110 countries replied so far**
- **About 1000 individual comments - more than 50 per question**
- **Countries provided huge resource of background information and guidance for the revised recommendations**

Information about the revision process:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>

(website of the Expert Group)

» Thank for your
attention

Participation in the revision process

Annex 1: Terms of reference of the United Nations Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

1. The United Nations Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics has been established to:
 - (a) Ensure active country involvement in the revision of the recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics;
 - (b) Review and endorse the draft revised recommendations;
 - (c) Provide guidance on the implementation of the revised recommendations after their adoption by the Statistical Commission.
2. The United Nations Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics will be convened by the United Nations Statistics Division.
3. The United Nations Statistics Division, in its capacity as the convener of the United Nations Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, will submit to the Statistical Commission periodic progress reports on the revision process and the implementation of the revised recommendations.