

Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of
the International Recommendations for International
Merchandise Trade Statistics
Bogotá, 31 March - 3 April, 2009

**UNSD activities in the field of
International Merchandise Trade
Statistics (IMTS) (item 04)**



Presentation by Nelnan Koumtingué

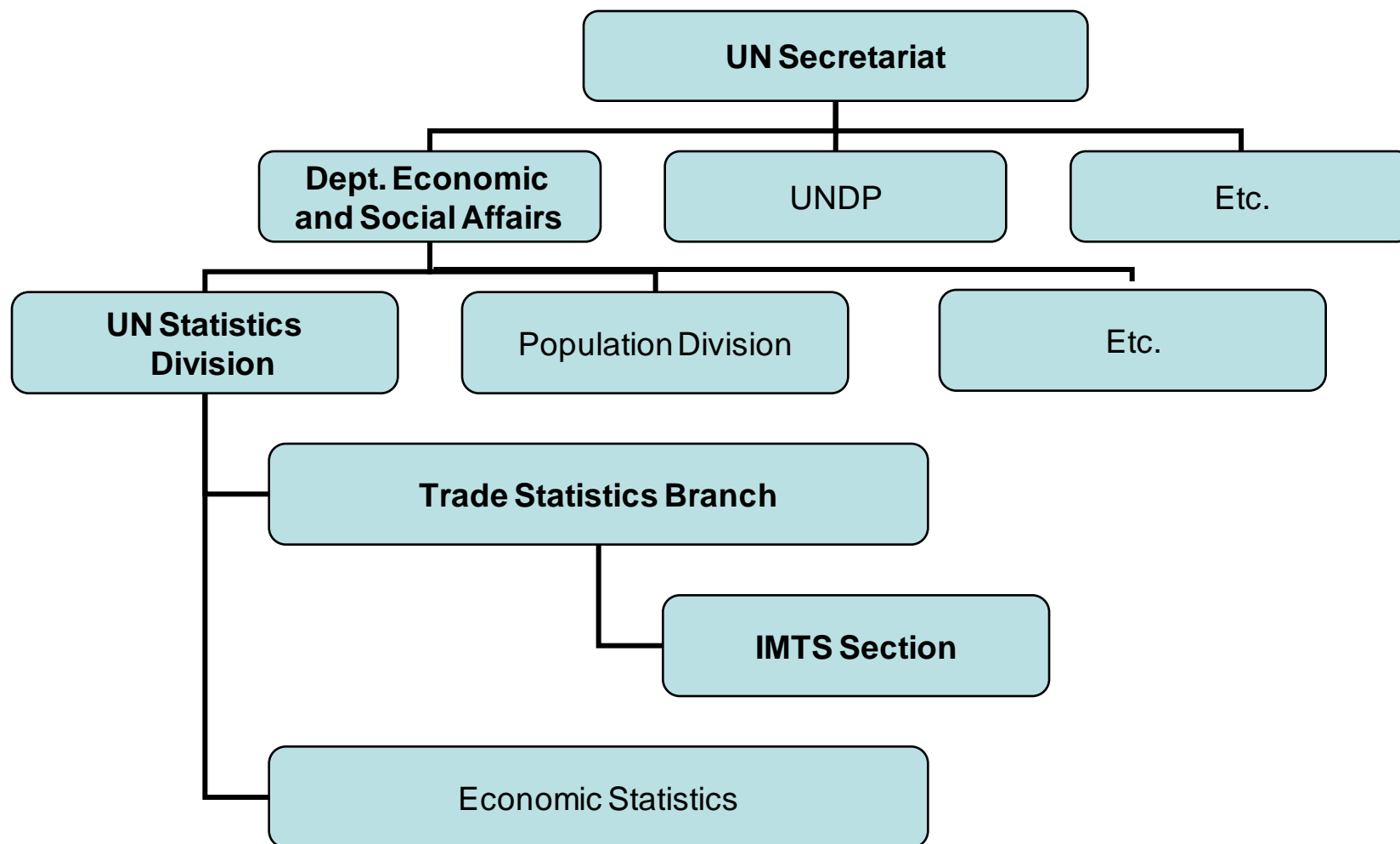
Associate Statistician,

United Nations Statistics Division, International Trade Statistics Section,

2 United Nations Plaza, DC2-1544, New York, New York 10017,

Phone: (917) 367-5466, Fax: (917) 367-5106, e-mail: koumtingue@un.org

The United Nations



Activities of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Section

Four working areas:

1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations

1. UN Comtrade Database

2. Analytical tables (publications)

1. International Coordination and Technical Assistance

1. Methodological work on IMTS

The IMTS Section is responsible for:

the development and maintenance of the IMTS methodology, including IMTS concepts and definitions (IMTS, Rev. 2) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 4)

i. Concepts & Methods

- IMTS, Concepts & Definitions <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=317>
- IMTS, Compilers Manual <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=111>
- IMTS, Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imtssupplcompilersmanual.htm>
- Unit Value index and trade indices calculation (Strategies for Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade; A technical report.)
- IMTS, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.3 (2010)

ii. National Practices

- IMTS, National Compilation and Dissemination Practices 2006 (2008) <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradereport/default.asp>

1. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

Commodity classifications:

- Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Revision 4) and correspondence tables <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/sitcrev4.htm>
- Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC): correspondence table with the Harmonized System -2002 and SITC, R3) <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>
- Other IMTS classifications and related correspondence tables <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>
- Statistical Territories of the World for Use in International Merchandise Trade Statistics <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>

2. UN Comtrade Database

The UN Comtrade database (<http://comtrade.un.org/>):

- More than 1 billion trade records starting from 1962;
- Collection and standardization of detailed merchandise trade statistics by partner and commodity (over 160 reporter countries);
- Modern data processing system with extensive verification procedures regarding totals, data by partner and commodity, and quantity information;
- Powerful web-based dissemination system with free and subscriber access;
- Additional services: Knowledge base, Community Forum

→ reference database for worldwide data on IMTS

→ Also available at UN Data <http://data.un.org/>

3. Analytical tables (publications)

Free access to analytical tables covering trade values and indices for individual countries and regions.

- International Trade Statistics Yearbook tables (annual data)
 - Consisting of country tables, Commodity tables, and analytical tables
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics tables (monthly and quarterly data)
 - Analytical tables (containing world and region totals for trade values and trade indices for total exports, total imports, manufactured goods exports and fuel imports)
- Annual Totals Table (Country totals compared)
- Historical data (1900-1960) (forthcoming)
- Other analytical outputs:
 - Unit value calculation based on UN Comtrade data
 - Conversion factor calculation

4. International Cooperation and Technical Assistance

- UN Statistical Commission (40th Session this year)
- Task force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
- Further cooperation with other international and regional organizations: OECD, FAO, WCO, ECLAC, Eurostat, ALADI, etc.
- Conduct workshops to support countries in the implementation of the international recommendations on IMTS
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm
- Participation in other meetings/ workshops on IMTS

Thank you for your attention

Muchas Gracias