

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

Towards IMTS, Rev.3 (item6)

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

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.

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
- ⇒ December: First meeting of the Expert Group which identified list of issues for the revision

Outline of the revision process

2008

- ⇒ February: Endorsement of revision process by the Statistical Commission
- ⇒ May-July: Worldwide consultation on 17 critical issues
 - Report available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>
- ⇒ September: First country workshop in Bangkok
 - Report available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm
- ⇒ November: First virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS - Discussion of results of worldwide consultation and draft proposals on the 17 issues
 - Report available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>

Outline of the revision process

2009 – first half

- ⇒ March: Discussion of the IMTS revision at the meeting of the Inter-agency Task Force on IMTS
- ⇒ March: Second virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on first drafts of chapter 1 (Coverage) and chapter 2 (Trade System)
- ⇒ March: Second country workshop in Bogotá
- ⇒ May: Third virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on first drafts of the remaining chapters of IMTS, Rev.3

Outline of the revision process

2009 – second half

- ⇒ July – August: Worldwide Consultation on first full provisional draft of IMTS, Rev.3 (IMTS2010?)
- ⇒ October: Second meeting of the EG-IMTS to review and endorse the draft for IMTS, Rev.3 (IMTS2010)
- ⇒ By end of December: Preparation of the final provisional draft of the revised recommendations and submission to the Statistical Commission

Adoption and Implementation

- ⇒ February 2010: Adoption of the revised recommendations and a plan for implementation by the Statistical Commission

- ⇒ Elements of the Implementation plan
 1. Translation of IMTS, Rev.3 (IMTS2010) in all UN languages
 2. Promotion of IMTS, Rev.3 (IMTS2010) by the TF-IMTS members through different means (workshops etc.)
 3. Revision of Compilers' Manual
 4. Development and work on the further research agenda

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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
- 2 meetings plus 3 virtual meeting of EG-IMTS

3. Further direct participation of countries:

- 2 worldwide consultations
- 2 workshop for developing countries



Participation in the revision process

Country replies to the first round of worldwide consultation:

- **115 countries replied**
- **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