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COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA



**Workshop on the updated and new recommendations
for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010)
and their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan region,
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Country Note

Sudan

Republic of the Sudan
Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

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Sudan Note on External Trade Statistics

1. Introduction:

1.1 This note presents the methodology of collection, compilation, processing and dissemination of external trade statistics in the Sudan.

1.2 The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is responsible for the compilation, processing and dissemination of external trade statistics in the Sudan.

1.3. Sudan follows the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concept and Definitions, Revised 2 (IMTS, Rev.2) and the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual in compilation of external trade statistics.

2. Source of Trade Data and Institutional Arrangements:

2.1 Customs Administration is the source of trade data. In addition, the Central Bank is the source of exports of Petroleum and petroleum products data.

2.2. ASYCUDA System has been introduced at the major Customs offices in the Sudan since 1992, for processing of customs trade documentation.

2.3. The CBS and Customs Administration signed the Service Level Agreement between them on 22 September, 2002 to formalize the procedures relating to the flow of information between them. Also in the same year the CBS and COMESA signed the Service Level Agreement between them

3. Trade System:

External trade statistics in the Sudan has been established on the General Trade System.

Under the General Trade System, imports include all goods entering the economic territory of the Sudan and exports include all goods leaving the economic territory of the Sudan.

4. Coverage:

4.1 Goods of exports, imports and re-exports in the Sudan are captured through Customs Administration.

4.2. The external trade Statistics of the Sudan cover all merchandise imported into or exported from the Sudan (with exception of the particular classes of merchandise) whether or not the imports are intended at the time of imports for use or consumption in the Sudan or for re-exports.

- The following classes of merchandise in the Sudan are not included in the imports and exports statistics:
 - i. Monetary gold.
 - ii. Goods in transit.
 - iii. Personal belongings and household effects for personal use.

- The following classes of merchandise are not included in the imports statistics:
 - i. Goods directly imported by Diplomatic Missions into the Sudan except human aids e.g. cereals medicines etc....
 - ii. Goods imported solely for temporary exhibition.
 - iii. Fish taken and brought in by Sudanese ships and boats.
 - iv. Samples.
 - v. Bona fide gifts.

- The following classes of merchandise are not included in the exports statistics:
 - i. Bunker fuel and stores delivered to vessels departing from the Sudan for their use.

- ii. Bunker fuel and stores taken on broad aircraft.
- iii. Goods sent abroad solely for temporary exhibition in galleries or museums and fairs.

5. Commodity Classifications:

The Harmonized Commodity Description Coding System (HS) at the eight-digit level has been used since 1995 by Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) for collection and dissemination of external trade statistics. The HS has been upgraded from (HS 96) to (HS 2007) with assistance of COMESA in 2007.

6. Valuation:

Imports are based on CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight). Exports are based on FOB (Free on Board).

7. Quantity Measurements:

The quantity of measurement is the net weight in kilogram. The term "supplementary unit" means a unit of measurement of quantity other than kilogram. The allocation of supplementary units to HS headings are based on the recommendation of WCO.

8. Partner Country:

8.1 The trading partner country in case of imports is the country of origin, and in the case of exports is the country of last known destination.

8.2 The two – and three – digit alphabetical codes are used for processing and reporting purpose.

9. Mode of transport:

9.1. The mode of transport at the time goods cross the statistical territory border is classified as follows:

- a) Sea Transport
- b) Rail Transport

- c) Road Transport
- d) Air Transport
- e) Mail
- f) Fixed Transport (to this code, a second digit may be added to meet national needs)
- g) Inland Waterways
- h) Other Modes of Transport

9.2. The Mode of Transport which are used in Sudan are Sea, Road and Air Transport and mail.

10. Data Processing:

10.1. With assistance of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) the Eurotrace software (Master Unit) has been installed at Foreign Trade Statistics Administration, CBS, since 1996, for compilation and processing of external trade statistics data. The latest version of the Eurotrace software (Eurotrace Windows) is already being installed.

10.2. The Foreign Trade Statistics Administration at CBS receives the monthly declaration files (electronic files) from the Customs Administration. The monthly declaration files are collected from the Computerized Customs Offices. The monthly declaration files are then transferred into Eurotrace System.

10.3. Checking and correction are done to clean the trade data in the Eurotrace System.

11. Dissemination of External Trade Statistics:

The CBS produces the following reports on external trade statistics:

- i. The Annual Report: It contains yearly statistics on exports, imports and re-exports classified by commodity, division, chapter and country.
- ii. Sudan Foreign Trade Statistics Summary, produced on annual basis. The Reports includes trade balance, exports of petroleum and petroleum

products and non-petroleum products, summary of export and import commodities, trade balance by country groups.

iiv. The CBS publishes the external trade statistics on its website (www.cbs.gov.sd).

12. Data Validation Procedure:

The CBS applies data validation procedures in processing of customs data to improve the quality of data.

Some of these procedures are as follows:

- a) Validation checks of customs procedure codes (CPC).
- b) Validation checks of commodity nomenclature.
- c) Validation checks of country nomenclature.
- d) Validation checks of valuation.
- e) Validation checks of quantity units.
- f) Validation checks of quantity measurement.

13. Problems in Processing of External Trade Data:

The main problem in the Eurotrace System is related to the quantity, gross and net weight that when the monthly declaration files are transferred into Eurotrace, a lot of declarations appear with incorrect quantities and the gross and net weights are not accurate.