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

Lusaka, Zambia, 1-5 November, 2010

Agenda item 13:
Data compilation strategies:
Customs and non customs data sources; institutional arrangements
- Points for discussion -

Group IV
Egypt, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe,

A   Data sources

Q1;   Do you have a long term strategy?

Countries are encouraged to review their current data compilation practices and to develop a long term strategy to deal with the emerging issues to ensure uninterrupted availability of high quality and timely trade statistics (para. 8.1)

ANSWER: - Yes

We have MOU for the all Instituations

Use of Customs records

Q2:   Do you plan to cooperate with customs in the use of information contained in the Customs Procedure Codes? (What are the issues?)

It is recommended that statisticians closely cooperate with customs experts in order to correctly allocate customs procedure codes and associated trade transactions according to the general or the special trade system. **(para. 8.4 – New recommendation)**

ANSWER: - Yes, CPC are there but the Trade type how \Customs are allocate

Q3: Do you plan to make information about the customs procedure applied to individual transactions part of the dataset for trade statistics? (What are the problems?)

It is recommended that information about the customs procedures applied to individual transactions is part of the dataset provided by customs to the agency responsible for the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics. **(para. 8.6 – New recommendation)**

ANSWER: - Yes

- The problem is to add the databank with CPCs so that can be produced with the data
- CPC miss classification

A   Data sources

Q4: Do you have access to accompanying information?

Compilers should gain access to and use the additional information available at Customs, such as the commercial invoice, transport documents, import licenses and certificate of origin that is usually accompanying the customs declaration (as required and as permitted by law). (para.8.7)

Use of Customs records

ANSWER: - No

- Special arrangement is required

Q5a Do you supplement customs based data with information obtained from other sources, as necessary to achieve full coverage? (para. 8.9 – Updated recommendation)
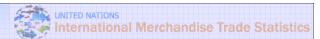
ANSWER: - Yes

- ICBT, other source

Q5b Will you/ do you consider an integrated approach to economic statistics when using non-customs sources? (What are the issues/ problems?)

In the case of the use of non-customs data sources such as enterprise surveys **it is recommended** that countries take an integrated approach to data collection and make use of business registers and enterprise identification numbers in order to obtain the required information with minimal costs and burden on enterprises. (Important for satisfying additional data requirements) **(para. 8.11 – New recommendation)**

ANSWER: - Yes

- No comprehensive Business Register/CRE
- They need to be updated

B   Institutional Arrangements

Q6:   Based on your experience what is needed for effective institutional arrangements and to further strengthen them?

Effective institutional arrangements are usually characterized by

(a)   the designation of only one agency responsible for the dissemination of official trade statistics,

(b)   a clear definition of the rights and responsibilities of all agencies involved,

(c)   the establishment of formalized working arrangements between them including agreements on holding inter-agency working meetings as needed and on the access to micro data that those agencies collect.

(d)   The formal arrangements should be complemented by the informal agreements between the involved agencies and institutions as required. (para. 8.16)

ANSWER: - Yes

To avoid conflicting statistics, MOU, Legal Framework

Bring all the institutions on board

Q7: Do you, whenever appropriate, actively participate in the discussion of national legislation or relevant administrative regulations? (Always, sometimes, never?) (in order to establish a solid foundation for the high quality and timeliness of trade statistics. (para. 8.14)

ANSWER: - Never

Q8: Do you periodically review the definitions, methods and the trade statistics themselves

(to ensure that they are compiled in accordance with the recognized international methodological guidelines, are of high quality, and are available to users in a timely fashion. (para. 8.18))

ANSWER: - Yes

Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Q9: **On which items (chapters) would you like to see the updated Compilers Manual to provide more guidance/ best practices and examples?**

IMTS Compilers Manual - Draft table of contents:

- **Part I** **Legal framework and data sources**
- Chapter 1 Legal framework
- Chapter 2 Customs declarations and related customs records
- Chapter 3 Non-customs administrative sources
- Chapter 4 Enterprise surveys - *Yes*
- **Part II** **Data compilation**
- Chapter 5 Institutional arrangements
- Chapter 6 Statistical territory and organization of data collection
- Chapter 7 Integration of data from different sources
- Chapter 8 Data processing and database management
- Chapter 9 Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting - *Yes*
- Chapter 10 Data compilation in the case of customs unions
- Chapter 11 Integrating trade and business statistics - *Yes*

Q10: Where do you think you might be able to contribute your experiences and best practices?

Example: Chapter 7 Integration of data from different sources
The reconciliation and integration of customs and non-customs data

❖ **includes adding non-customs to the customs data and substituting non-customs for the customs data.**

❖ **To merge and crosscheck data collected from customs and non-customs sources is a complex and time-consuming activity.**

❖ **Compilers need to be aware of the conceptual and practical difficulties in reconciling and integrating data from different sources**

Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Q10: Where do you think you might be able to contribute your experiences and best practices?

Example: Chapter 11 Integrating trade and business statistics

❖   **Linking HS Code and ISIC .**