Amendments Regulations for Compiling and Disseminating IMTS in COMESA

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Amended Regulations for COMESA

Agenda:

- Background
- Rationale
- The Amendments
- The Committee on Statistics
- Way Forward and Next Steps
Background

- **April 1997**: COMESA Common Statistical Rules (CSR) and Regulations developed and adopted by COMESA Council of Ministers
- Based on UNSD Concepts and Definitions
- **Objective**: Data made comparable at all levels
- **December 2000**: CSR Revised according to new Concepts and Definitions of the UNSD
- **May 2001**: Proposed changes adopted by Directors of Customs and Statistics
Rationale

- The CSR over the years have been overtaken by events!
  - HS product codes change every 5 years
  - Most countries using Asycuda++/World
  - Advancement in technology for data remittance
- Articles become obsolete
- Revised UNSD Concepts and Definitions - IMTS2010
The Amendments

a) Name should be changed to read: Regulations for Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in the COMESA Region.

b) List of Customs Procedure Codes (CPCs) in Article 5 to follow standard format of Asycuda++ codes whenever possible.

c) Article 7: The Regional COMESA tariff shall be based on the latest WCO’s six digit HS of codification.

d) Article 11: Reference to COMESA regional tax codes deleted.

e) Article 12: Form Number limitation to 6 digits, item number 2 digits and office code 4 digits deleted.
The Amendments .... ctd

f) **Article 13**: Registration date changed to assessment date.

g) **Article 17**: Regional Centre replaced with Secretariat

h) **Article 18**: Items country of last consignment, first destination, freight, insurance and amount of taxes moved to compulsory data.

i) **Article 19**: On statistical tables produced deleted.

j) **Article 20**: Date of registration changed to assessment

k) **Article 22**: Minimum of 3 years for keeping data deleted.

l) **Article 23**: Reference to Article 19 deleted.

m) **Article 24**: Changed to include SITC and BEC as other nomenclatures
Amended Regulations for COMESA

The Amendments .... ctd

n) **Article 25**: Computerize processing of IMTS deleted

o) **Article 26**: Rephrased to empower the Committee on Statistical Matters

p) **Article 29**: To refer to Regulations

q) **Appendix II** for Country and Currency codes updated

r) **Appendix IV** for CPCs deleted

s) **Appendix VI** part b) for HS codes deleted.

t) **Appendix VII** for tax codes deleted.
The Committee on Statistics

- The amendments were presented to the Committee on Statistical Matters for COMESA
- The Committee was requested to consider and adopt the recommendations for onward presentation to next Council.
- The Committee adopted the recommended amendments.
Way forward and Next Steps

- Amended IMTS Rules and Regulations taken to Legal Drafting Committee
- Drafted IMTS Rules and Regulations presented to Council
- Council adopted new IMTS Rules and Regulations
- New Rules and Regulations came into force – August 2010!
Thank you