



**African Union**  
a United and Strong Africa



## ***Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics***

**Implementation of recommendations on international trade statistics**

**12 – 16 May 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### **1. Background**

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the African Union Commission (AUC) organize a Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) from 12 to 16 May 2014 at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The seminar will focus on the status and challenges in Africa for implementation of international recommendations on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS). In order to gauge compliance to international recommendations, AUC and UNSD have developed African IMTS Quality Assessment questionnaire based on National Assurance Quality Framework (NAQF) which was endorsed by UN Statistical Commission. The participants are invited to complete the questionnaire, and the result of the questionnaire would be discussed in the meeting along with selected items of concern. In addition, the participants will be also exploring the following topics: the use of IMTS for BOP purposes, informal cross border trade, data collection for trade in services/tourism and compilation practices on selected services categories, statistical business register, linking trade and business statistics, FATS, and data dissemination.

### **2. Venue**

The Seminar will be held on 12 – 16 May 2014 in the African Union Commission **New Building** in the **Small Conference Room 1**.

Location : African Union Commission Headquarters  
Place : New Building, Small Conference Room 1  
Address : Roosevelt Street (Old Airport Area) W21K19  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel : (251) 11 551 77 00  
Fax : (251) 11 551 78 44  
Website : [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

### 3. Requirements for Visa to enter Ethiopia

Participants are required to obtain visa from the Ethiopian embassy in their respective countries. As an alternative, participants can obtain visa on arrival at the airport. If you wish to do so, kindly send your passport details, by **28 April 2014**, to Mr. Nougbodohou Samson Bel-Aube ([Bel-AubeN@africa-union.org](mailto:Bel-AubeN@africa-union.org)) and Mr. Jose Awong Alene ([AleneJ@africa-union.org](mailto:AleneJ@africa-union.org)).

### 4. Participant Registration and Identification Badges

All participants are invited to come to the African Union Commission on Monday, 12 May 2014 through the **New Gate of the New Building**. Participants should bring their valid passports to show to security officers. The list complete of participants will be posted at this gate.

Participants are requested to register on **Monday, 12 May 2014 between 08:00 and 09:00**. The identification badges of the meeting will be available in the Small Conference Room 1, where the seminar will be held.

### 5. Seminar Language and Materials

The seminar will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in French.

In order to minimize the impact on the environment, the number of copies of in-session documents will be kept to a minimum. With regard to pre-session documentation, delegates are urged to bring their own copies for the meeting, including the information documents.

Pre-session and information documents are available on the United Nations web site at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/addis2014.asp>. In-session and other documents will also be posted on the United Nations web site when made available following conclusion of the seminar.

### 6. Accommodations

Participants are encouraged to book the accommodation as early as possible. You can either reserve by your own or through Mr. Nougbodohou Samson Bel-Aube ([Bel-AubeN@africa-union.org](mailto:Bel-AubeN@africa-union.org)).

Hotels within walking distance from African Union Headquarters are as follows:

\* King's Hotel: +251 11 371.13.00. The negotiated price is USD 55.

\* Hotel de France (Tel: +251 11 554 73 89). The negotiated price is USD 65.

The following hotels cost more than USD 120:

\* Radisson Blu Hotel (<http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-addisababa>)

\* Intercontinental Addis Hotel (<http://www.intercontinentaladdis.com.et>)

\* Jupiter International Hotel (<http://www.jupiterinternationalhotel.com>)

## **7. Airport Transfer & Transportation**

Most hotels provide airport shuttle services. Non-metered taxis are available throughout the day and prices are based on mutual agreement.

## **8. Other information**

### **❖ Weather**

May weather is usually dry and characterised by warm weather with temperatures between 13°-26° Celsius.

### **❖ Voltage**

From 220V single phase with up to 220/380 V

### **❖ Currency**

The official Ethiopian currency is Birr (ETB). The exchange rate of USD 1 is equivalent to approximately ETB 19.44 (as of 17 April 2014).

### **❖ Language**

The official language is Amharic, the other most widely spoken language is Oromo. English is the most commonly spoken foreign language.

### **❖ Local time**

The time zone in Ethiopia is East Africa Time (GMT +3)

### **❖ Telecommunications**

Ethiopia's telephone country code: +251. SIM Cards are available at Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation offices throughout the city.

### **❖ Health Requirements**

A valid yellow fever certificate is required.

## **9. Contact Persons**

### **African Union Commission**

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