



Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics

3-6 November 2014, New Delhi, India

Organized by UNSD, DGCI&S, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and CSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

Concept Note

Background

Rapid technological advances in the past few decades in transport, computing and telecommunications, including the development of the internet and electronic commerce, have resulted in enterprises availing themselves of resources for production at more distant locations and have enabled them to serve ever wider markets. This trend towards globalization, reinforced by liberalization policies and the removal of regulatory obstacles to economic activities, has fuelled the steady growth of multinational enterprises, international investment and trade in goods and services. Better communication and transport have also facilitated the movement of people for the purposes of tourism, migration, employment and trade.

International trade, including foreign direct investment, is widely recognized as a driver of economic growth connecting businesses from many economies around the world. If we talk about trade, the discussion is no longer just a discussion about how we exchange transactions on a bilateral basis, but is more and more a discussion about how our economy fits with other economies into global value chains. The discussion is no longer just about who our direct partners are in the value chain, but also about those partners, who are at the beginning and at the end of the global value chains, and who may exercise a certain control over its processes.

In other words, trade has become global and complex. Trade in goods, and trade in services, are now integral and very important parts of the global operations of businesses.

In order to better measure the ways, in which international trade is conducted, new international recommendations in the area of trade statistics have been adopted by the UN member states through UN Statistical Commission, notably for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) and for Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2010). Implementation of IMTS and SITS are part of implementation of integrated economic statistics within the frame of the SNA 2008. This seminar should therefore be regarded as part of the global program for the implementation of the System of National Accounts (the 2008 SNA).

Objective

The objective of seminar is to improve the understanding of the recommendations for trade statistics and to share experiences on how to improve the implementation in national statistical systems with better coordination and cooperation among data providers and compilers. The ultimate goal is to produce the highest quality of international trade statistics, which are relevant for the policy makers at home and which are also comparable at the regional and international levels. The seminar strives to achieve this by (i) clarification and elaboration of a number of more difficult conceptual issues and (ii) identification of good practices in the implementation of the international recommendations.

Topics

The topics that will be discussed in the seminar, are:

- Highlights of international recommendations in the area of economic and trade statistics, notably IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010
- Selected compilation practices (trade in goods and services) relevant for the region
- Integrate economic statistics, statistical business registers and the linking of trade and business statistics
- Compilation of External Trade Indices
- Compilation of Travel and Tourism statistics

Participants

The seminar is intended for official statisticians from national statistical offices, central banks and ministries. One of the goals of seminar is to bring these communities of statisticians closer together both nationally and internationally. Within the framework of Integrated Economic Statistics, it is necessary for national stakeholders to establish good communication channels to collaborate in finding solutions for measurement problems and streamline the production of statistics. At the practical side, the central bank and the statistical office need to work together to produce high-quality trade and balance of payment statistics for evidence-based policy making.

Organizers

This meeting will be organized by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Central Statistical Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.