Joint GCC-STAT/UNSD Regional Workshop on
International Merchandise Trade Statistics
7-10 February 2016, Muscat, Oman
Draft – 23 November 2015

**TENTATIVE PROGRAMME**

**Day 1: Sunday, 7 February 2016**

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<td>GROUP PHOTO</td>
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<td>09:30 - 10:30</td>
<td>PRE-SESSION - SETTING THE STAGE</td>
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<td>10:45 - 12:30 &amp; 13:30 - 14:15</td>
<td>SESSION I – DATA QUALITY FRAMEWORK &amp; ASSESSMENT</td>
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Day 2: Monday, 8 February 2016

08:00 - 9:30

SESSION III – DATA COMPILATION IN THE CASE OF A CUSTOMS UNION

a. Introduction by UNSD
b. Data compilation in the case of a GCC Customs Union (presentation by GCC-Stat)
c. Compilation practices in other customs union (presentation by SACU) TBC

9:30 - 10:30 & 10:45 - 11:15

SESSION IV – TRADE SYSTEM & MOVEMENT OF GOODS

a. Introduction by UNSD
b. Customs Procedure Codes (CPC) & Trade System: Inclusion of free zones (presentation by UNSD)
c. Presentation on country practices – result of pre-workshop questionnaire
d. Roundtable discussion on compilation challenges related to trade system and movement of goods (moderated by UNSD)
e. Harmonization of Customs Procedure Codes (CPC) in GCC (presentation by GCC Customs Department) TBC

11:15 - 12:30 & 13:30 – 14:45

SESSION V – COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION AND QUANTITY INFORMATION

a. Introduction by UNSD
b. Understanding Harmonised System & HS 2017 (presentation by WCO)
c. Importance of quantity information & method to check unit values (presentation by WCO)
d. Progress made on revision of BEC-Broad Economic Categories (presentation by UNSD)
e. Correspondence tables between editions of HS and other classifications (presentation by UNSD)
f. Presentation on country practices – result of pre-workshop questionnaire
g. Roundtable discussion on compilation challenges related to commodity classification and quantity information (moderated by UNSD)

15:00 - 16:00

GROUP DISCUSSION 1: MOVING TOWARDS IMTS 2010

Day 3: Tuesday, 9 February 2016

08:00 - 11:00
TECHNICAL VISIT TO CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

- Visit to Customs Office in Oman – Customs System and Data Validation (TBC)

11:00 - 12:30 & 13:30 - 14:15

SESSION VI – DATA COMPILATION STRATEGIES

- Introduction by UNSD
- Data acquisition & Institutional Arrangement (presentation by GCC-Stat)
- Standardizing raw data to comply with IMTS 2010 (presentation by ECOWAS) TBC
- Presentation on country practices – result of pre-workshop questionnaire
- Roundtable discussion on compilation challenges related to data compilation strategies: checking and cleansing raw data, tools and techniques (moderated by UNSD)

14:15 - 14:45 & 15:00 - 16:00

SESSION VII – RECORDING OIL & GAS EXPORTS, PARTNER COUNTRY & OTHER ISSUES

- Introduction by UNSD
- Compilation of oil & gas exports: use of non-customs record, confidentiality issues (presentation by UNSD)
- Presentation on country practices – result of pre-workshop questionnaire
- Roundtable discussion on compilation challenges related to oil & gas exports, country of consignment, mode of transport, recording of trading enterprise, etc. (moderated by UNSD)

Day 4: Wednesday, 10 February 2016

08:00 - 10:30

SESSION VII – DATA ANALYSIS & DISSEMINATION

- Introduction by UNSD
- Bilateral Asymmetry in IMTS; How to reduce it? (presentation by UNSD)
- Exploring trade data using advanced data visualization (presentation by UNSD)
- Global SDMX-IMTS Data Structure Definition (presentation by UNSD)
- Presentation on country practices – result of pre-workshop questionnaire
- Roundtable discussion on compilation challenges related to data analysis and dissemination (moderated by UNSD)

10:45 - 12:30

SESSION IX – LINKING TRADE AND BUSINESS STATISTICS & EXTERNAL TRADE INDICES

- Introduction by UNSD
- Result of 2015 Global Survey on Linking Trade And Business Statistics (presentation by UNSD)
- Result of 2015 Global Survey on External Trade Indices (presentation by UNSD)
d. Presentation on country practices – result of pre-workshop questionnaire

e. Roundtable discussion on compilation challenges related to linking trade/business statistics and external trade indices (moderated by UNSD)

13:30 - 16:00

CLOSING SESSION

a. Roundtable discussion: implementation of IMTS 2010 and identification of the important issues for the participating countries (moderated by GCC-Stat)
b. Conclusion and recommendations of the Regional Workshop

PROGRAMME ANNEX

Day 1 – 4: 7 – 10 February 2016

10:30 - 10:45

COFFEE BREAK - MORNING

12:30 - 13:30

LUNCH

14:45 - 15:00

COFFEE BREAK - AFTERNOON