



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
Strengthening Data Compilation and Analytical Capacity
3-6 April, 2017, Male, Maldives

Concept note

BACKGROUND

In order to better measure international trade, new recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics were adopted by all UN member states through the UN Statistical Commission in 2010. Countries have started implementing the new elements of these international standards, notably the trade by mode of transport, trade by country of consignment, trade by inward and outward processing, and imports valuation on an FOB basis.

Statistical offices are facing challenges to implement these new data elements, in addition to facing the practical challenges in their data compilation, such as the access to customs and other data sources, exclusion or inclusion of certain transactions, type of goods and territories, and data verification and imputation). Further, the expectations of the users of trade data have increased, and office nowadays also need to provide data analysis or data visualizations, and different skill sets are need to do so.

Finally, international merchandise trade statistics should be properly understood in conjunction with other types of economic statistics and macro-economic frameworks, such as national accounts statistics (see the System of National Accounts 2008), balance of payments statistics (see BPM6), and statistics of international trade in services (see MSITS 2010). The links with those statistics should be well understood and the 2012 Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics are useful in this regard.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOPS

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- a. to address any questions regarding methodology and challenges in data compilation of IMTS;
- b. to exchange country experiences with issues such as data acquisition, data compilation strategies, data dissemination, etc., related to compilation of IMTS;
- c. to establish close cooperation among institutions providing, compiling and using trade statistics; and
- d. to acquire practical knowledge in trade data analysis through the use of TradeSift and in data visualization.

PARTICIPANTS

The target group of participants are first of all the compilers of IMTS, and secondly the users of IMTS.

ORGANIZER

The Workshop is a joint undertaking by Maldives Customs Services and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).



PLACE and DATES

The Workshop will take place in Male, Maldives, from 3 to 6 April 2017

CONTACT INFORMATION

Maldives Customs: Ibrahim Asim, Tel: +960 3334168, E mail: asim@customs.gov.mv

UNSD: Markie Muryawan, Tel: +1 212-963-3083, E mail: muryawan@un.org