



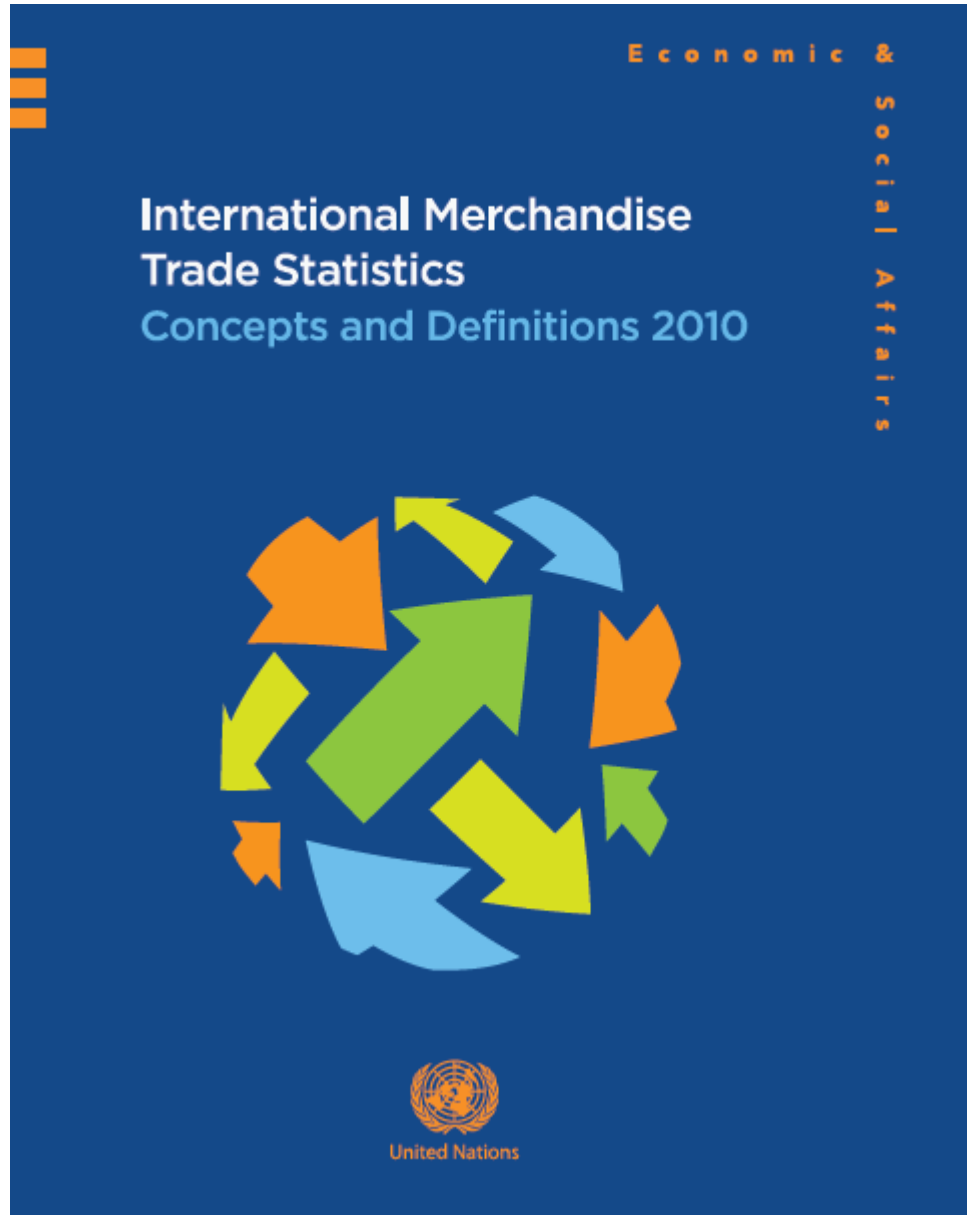
Introduction to IMTS 2010 and Compilers Manual

IMTS 2010 Concepts and Definitions
IMTS 2010 Compilers Manual

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IMTS 2010

(123 pages)



A two year long journey with broad support from countries

- Two rounds of worldwide consultation
 - In 2008 on 17 critical issues
 - In 2009 on the full draft of the revised recommendations
- 3 Virtual meetings of the EG-IMTS
- 2nd meeting of EG-IMTS in November 2009
 - endorsed the draft text of IMTS 2010 subject to several amendments and clarifications
- Submission to United Nations Statistical Commission in 2010
 - Subsequently endorsed by UNSC, known as IMTS 2010



41st Session
United Nations
Statistical Commission

23 - 26 February 2010

Decision of the Statistical

Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)

- The Statistical Commission: [*excerpts*]
 - (b) **Adopted** International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) and **endorsed the implementation programme** [...], including the preparation of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual and continued **technical assistance** activities;
 - (d) Requested that **more attention is given to strengthening institutional arrangements in countries** to ensure that proper national coordination mechanisms exist for the compilation of high quality international merchandise trade statistics; also, cooperation with compilers of statistics on international trade in services, balance of payments and national accounts should be ensured;
 - (f) Advised that in the future research agenda a due consideration is given to the emerging trade policy needs and the globalization issues; **in this context, linkage with business statistics and measuring merchandise trade in terms of value added should be further explored.**

Responding to the needs of balance of payments and national accounts

- ❖ Separate recording of goods for processing without change of ownership and trade with related parties is encouraged in IMTS 2010;
- ❖ IMTS 2010 recommends symmetrical recording of a number of transactions previously treated differently in export and import statistics (i.e. bunkers and stores);
- ❖ Encouragement to cooperate with BOP/NA compilers with respect to the recording of goods of special interest (i.e. media);
- ❖ IMTS 2010, Annex F provides detailed description of conceptual differences between IMTS 2010 and BPM6/2008SNA.

Retained core elements from previous revision

Scope & time of recording

Trade system

Commodity Classification

Valuation

Quantity

Partner country

Scope

Definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as recording of **goods** which **add to or subtract from** the stock of material resources of a country by **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic territory** (para 1.2)

What, How, When, Where



But with clarification ...

- **Estimation of trade** below customs and statistical thresholds, if significant (shuttle trade, travellers)
- **Change of ownership** for some goods (even without entering/leaving economic territory)

Inclusion / Exclusion

- IMTS 2010 describes in details all goods recommended for inclusion and exclusion [Chapter I]
 - If necessary, we can go through them
- If there is a doubt, we go back to the statement of “**scope**”
 - Example: Do we record goods for short term exhibition? How about software?

Time of recording

- ... **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic “or statistical”** territory ...

IMTS2010 Recommendation:

As a general guideline, record goods **at the time when** they **enter** or **leave** the economic territory of a country (para. 1.8)

- Many choices. As an example for imports (customs records): date **of arrival**, -- **of registration**, -- **of assessment**, -- payment **of duties**, -- **of release**, etc.

Trade System

Definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as recording of **goods** which **add to or subtract from** the stock of material resources of a country by **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic territory**

What, How, When, **Where**



Basic terms: Territories

- Economic territory
 - The area under the effective control of a single government
- Statistical territory
 - Territory with respect to which trade data are being compiled
- Customs territory
 - Territory in which the Customs law of a state applies

Trade System = Territory

- **General** Trade System: statistical territories = **all** economic territories
- **Special** Trade System: statistical territories = **parts** of economic territories

IMTS2010 Recommendation:

Use the **general trade system** for compilation of both import and export statistics (para. 2.20)

Commodity Classification

Definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as recording of **goods** which **add to or subtract from** the stock of material resources of a country by **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic territory**

What, How, When, Where

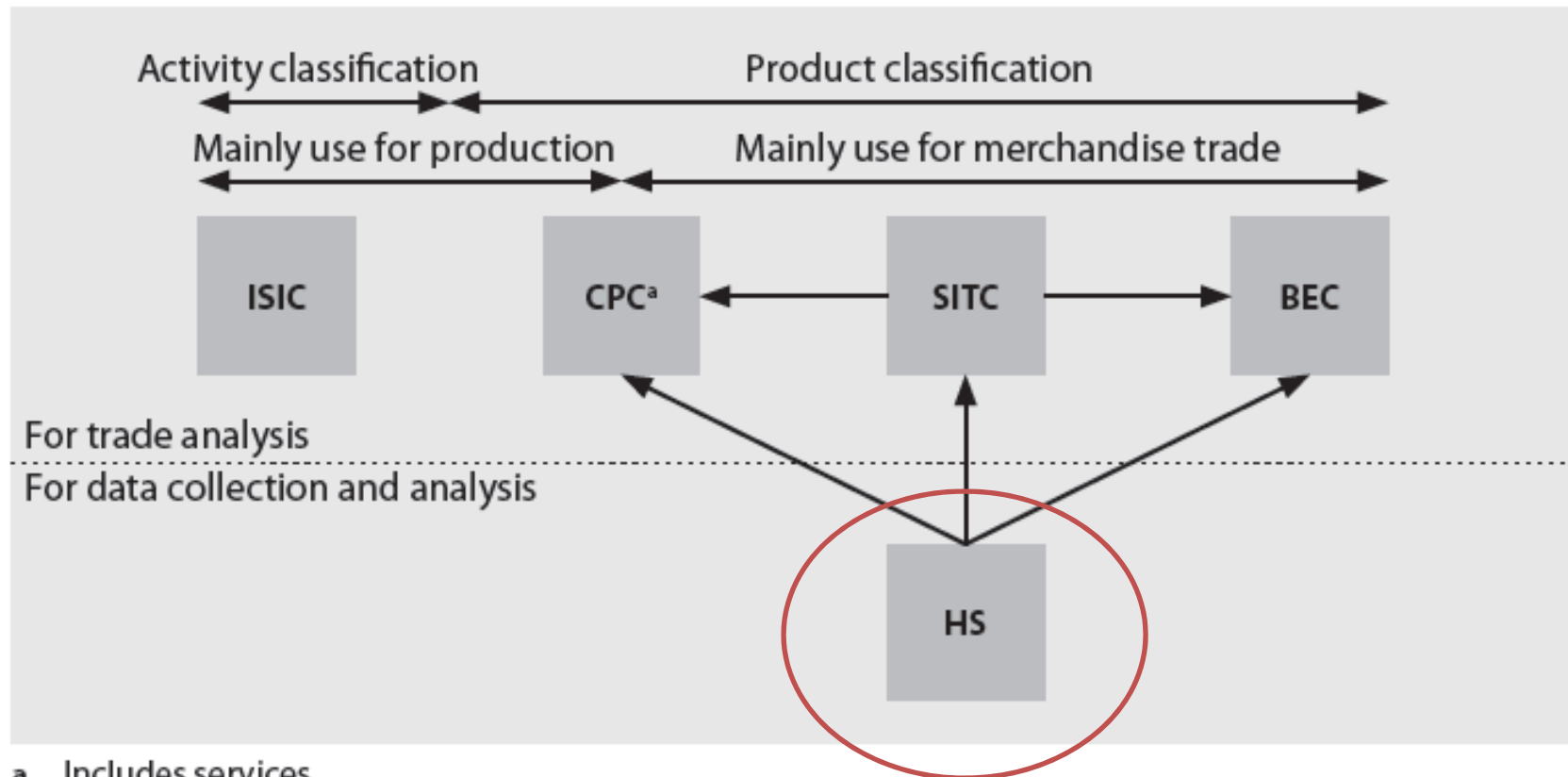
A diagram consisting of four blue arrows pointing upwards from the words 'What, How, When, Where' to the corresponding words in the definition above. The word 'What' is circled in red.

Reasoning

- **Common language** in defining and categorizing goods
 - Is a “smart watch” a watch or an electronic device?
- Without it, trade **data would not be comparable**
- Has been **evolving** since 1900 ...from “minimum list of commodities”, SITC, HS

And now ...

Relationship between different classifications



The latest version

- HS 2017 (in force in 2017) - **WCO**
- SITC Rev. 4 (based on HS 2002) - **UN**
- BEC Rev. 5 (adopted March 2016) - **UN**
- CPC Rev. 2.1 (2015) – **UN**

IMTS2010 Recommendation:

Use **HS** for the collection, compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (para. 3.11)

UNSD maintains **correlation tables** among different classifications

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Valuation

Definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as **recording** of **goods** which **add to or subtract from** the stock of material resources of a country by **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic territory**

What, How, When, Where, **What to measure**



Recommendation

IMTS2010 Recommendations/Encouragements:

Use free on board (**FOB-type**) valuation for **exports** (border of the exporting country) and cost, insurance and freight (**CIF-type**) valuation for **imports** (border of the importing country); countries are **encouraged** to compile **FOB-type** value of **imported goods** as supplementary information (para. 4.8).

- Selected special cases:
 - Goods bundled with services
 - Electricity, gas, oil and water
 - Banknotes and securities and coins not in circulation
 - Returned goods

Quantity

Definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as **recording** of **goods** which **add to or subtract from** the stock of material resources of a country by **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic territory**

What, How, When, Where, **What to measure**



Importance of Quantity

- It can be used in **checking** the reliability of the **value data**;
- It is indispensable in the construction of **external trade indices** and for transportations statistics.

IMTS2010 Recommendation:

Compilation and reporting of quantity information: **collect** or **estimate**, **validate** and **report quantity information** in WCO standard unit of quantity and in net weight on all trade transactions (para. 5.5)

Partner country

Definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as recording of **goods** which **add to or subtract from** the stock of material resources of a country by **entering** (imports) or **leaving** (exports) its **economic territory**

What, How, When, **From/to where**



Partner country attribution

- Imports

- Country of Purchase
- Country of Consignment
- Country of Shipment
- Country of Origin

- Exports

- Country of Sale
- Country of Consignment / Destination
- Country of Shipment
- Country of Last Known Destination
- Country of Consumption

And the recommendation is ..

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- For **imports**: country of **origin**; for **exports**: country of **last known destination** [6.25]
- Country of **consignment**, as the second partner attribution, in the case of **imports** [6.26]

IMTS2010 Encouragement:

- Country of **consignment**, as the second partner attribution, in the case of **exports** [6.26]

Recap: Updated core elements

Scope

- Clarifications, separate identification of certain transactions (inclusion/exclusion)

Valuation

- Imports on the FOB basis (in addition to CIF); valuation of specific categories of goods

Quantity

- Recommendation further clarified

Partner country

- Second partner country (country of consignment)

New data items for international reporting

Valuation

- Imports on the FOB basis (in addition to CIF); valuation of specific categories of goods

Partner country

- Second partner country (country of consignment)

Mode of Transport

- Add as additional data dimension

Customs procedure codes (CPC)

- Customs procedures applied to individual transactions to be made part of the data set provided by customs

Basic Trade dimensions

- Period
- Flow

Basic Trade measures

- Value
- Net weight
- Quantity

Frequency

- Monthly
- Annual

Minimum set

Trade by Commodity and Partner

Extended sets

(1) Minimum set
+ 2nd partner

and/or

(2) Minimum set
+ customs
procedure code

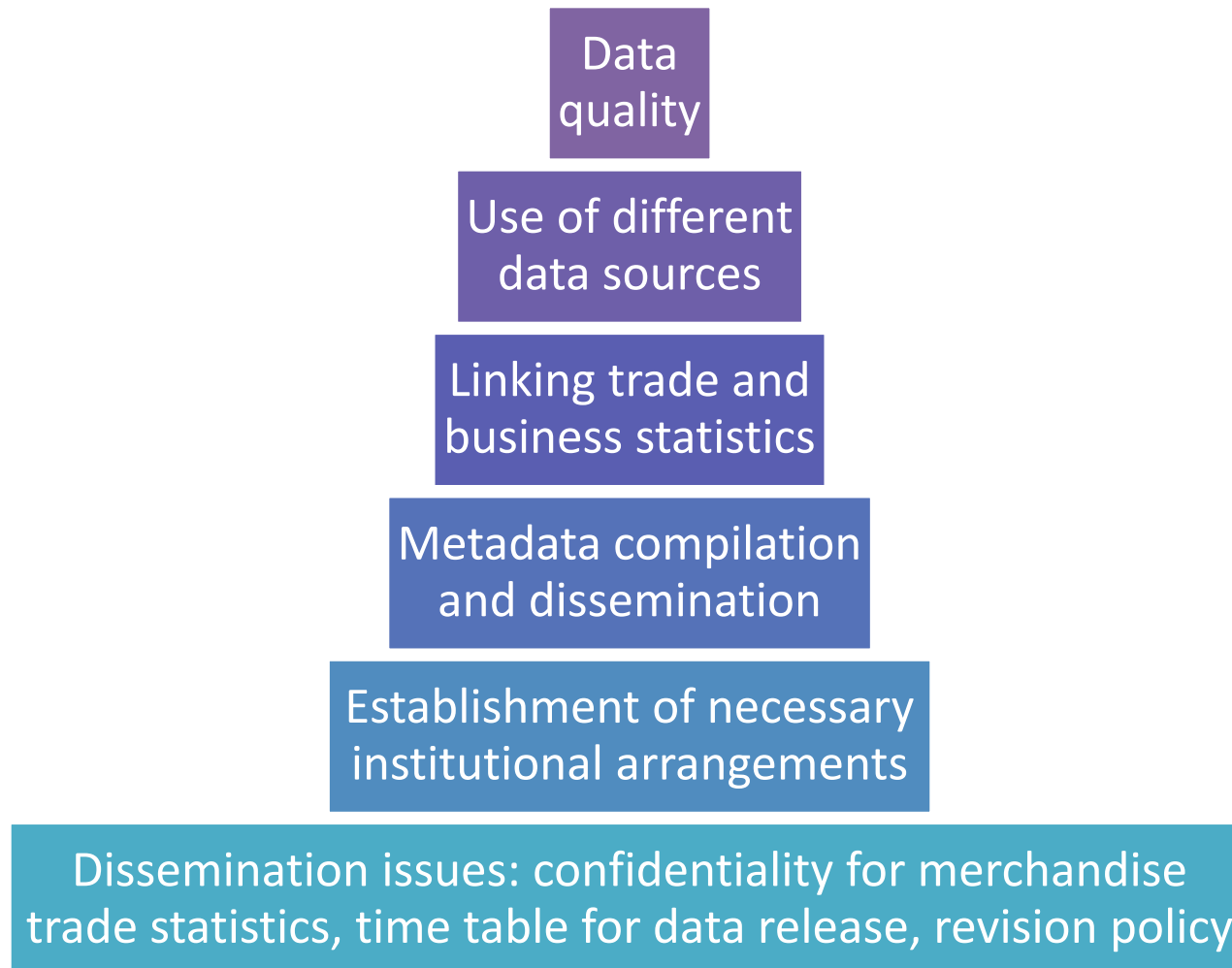
and/or

(3) Minimum set
+ mode of transport

Full set

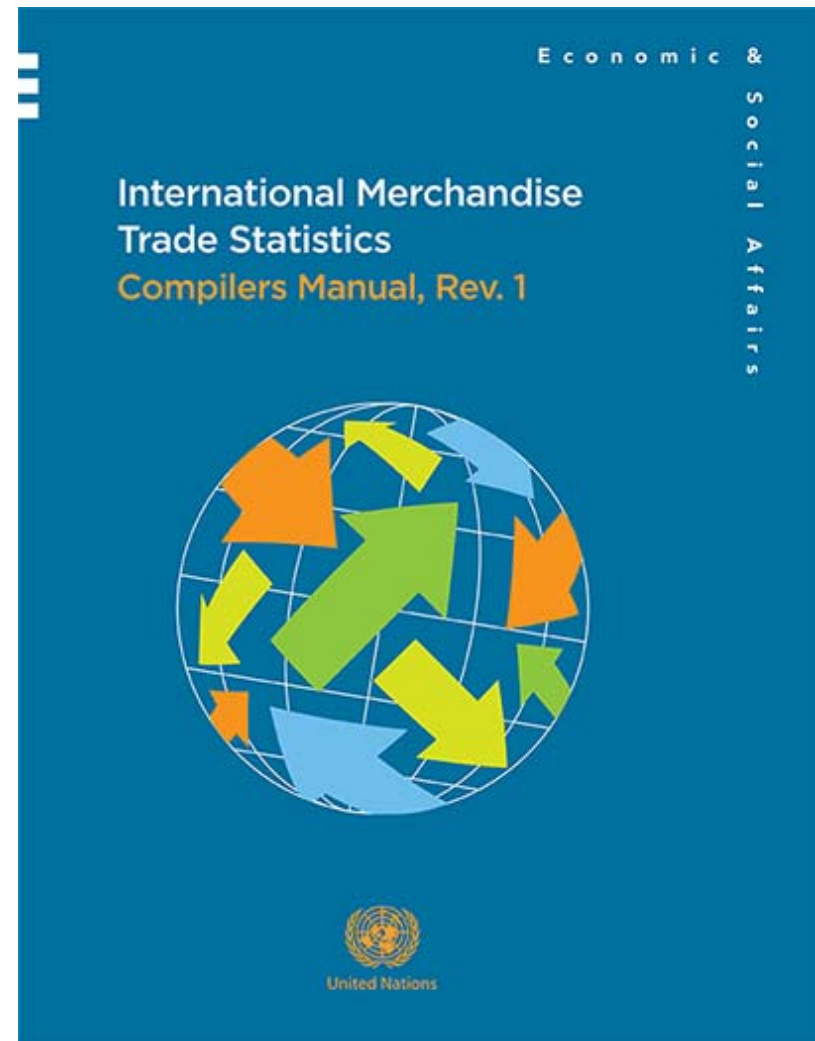
Minimum set
+ 2nd partner
+ mode of
transport
+ customs
procedure code
+ imports FOB

Recommendations in 6 new areas



IMTS 2010 CM

(302 pages)



IMTS Compilers Manual, Revision 1 (IMTS 2010-CM)

Goal: To provide further and more detailed explanation of certain recommendations and practical guidance by describing good practices applicable under different circumstances.

A two year effort:

- September 2010: Agreement on initial draft outline (EG-IMTS)
- January – December 2011: Virtual and face-to-face meetings of the EG-IMTS
- March 2011: Worldwide consultation on the Draft annotated outline
- February 2012: Submission of draft text to Statistical Commission
- Dec 2013: White cover (edited) IMTS 2010-CM released
- 2015-2016: Formatted of EN RU versions released:
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/default.asp>
- Feb 2017: Wiki version released (intended to be a live document where compilers can share the latest country practices):
<https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/I2CG/IMTS+2010+Compilation+Guide+Home>

Part I. Legal framework and data sources

Chapter

- Legal framework
- Customs declarations and related customs records
- Non-customs administrative sources
- Enterprise surveys

Country Experience

- The legal framework for trade statistics in Morocco
- Use of the drawback procedure: experiences of Brazil and Canada
- Example from Norway: use of ships registers
- Example from USA: obtaining information on goods transactions through postal and courier services.
- Experience of Uganda: Informal Cross Border Trade Surveys

Part II. Data compilation

Chapter

- Institutional arrangements
- Statistical territory and organization of data collection
- Integration of data from different sources
- Data processing and database management
- Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting
- Data compilation in the case of customs unions
- Integrating trade and business statistics

Country Experience

- Integrated Foreign Trade System of Brazil: institutional arrangements
- European Union practices concerning specific territorial elements
- Uganda: use of data of the commodity authority
- Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)
- Eurostat merchandise trade statistics quality report
- Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
- OECD-Eurostat Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) database

Part III. Compilation of particular data items

Chapter

- Time of recording
- Commodity classification
- Valuation
- Quantity measurement
- Partner country
- Mode of transport
- Customs procedure code

Country Experience

- European Union experience on time of recording in Intrastat
- Stand-alone commodity descriptors: Canada
- Experience of Italy in distinguishing customized and regular software
- Quantity conversion factors used by UNSD to convert volume and number/units to weight
- North American Transportation Statistics Online Database (NATS-OD)
- Customs regime codes used in the IMTS: China

Part IV. Compilation of data on trade in selected category of goods

Chapter

- Scope of IMTS
- Goods for processing
- Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties
- Electricity, gas, oil and water
- Ships and aircraft
- Other special cases and data compilation for national accounts and balance of payment purposes

Country Experience

- Thresholds applied in the European Union Intrastat system
- Goods for processing: example from Iceland
- Production of external trade statistics on natural gas and electricity: experience of Italy
- Compilation of data on external trade in ships and aircraft: experience of Norway
- Development of a reconciliation table (IMTS/BOP) in the European Union

Part V. Metadata and dissemination

Chapter

- Metadata
- Dissemination
- Other international classifications relevant to trade statistics

Country Experience

- Towards the implementation of SDMX and DDI for IMTS: Experience of Mexico
- Treatment of confidentiality in Germany
- The central role of electronic databases for data dissemination: the case of Brazil
- UNSD correlation and conversion tables available

Part VI. External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data

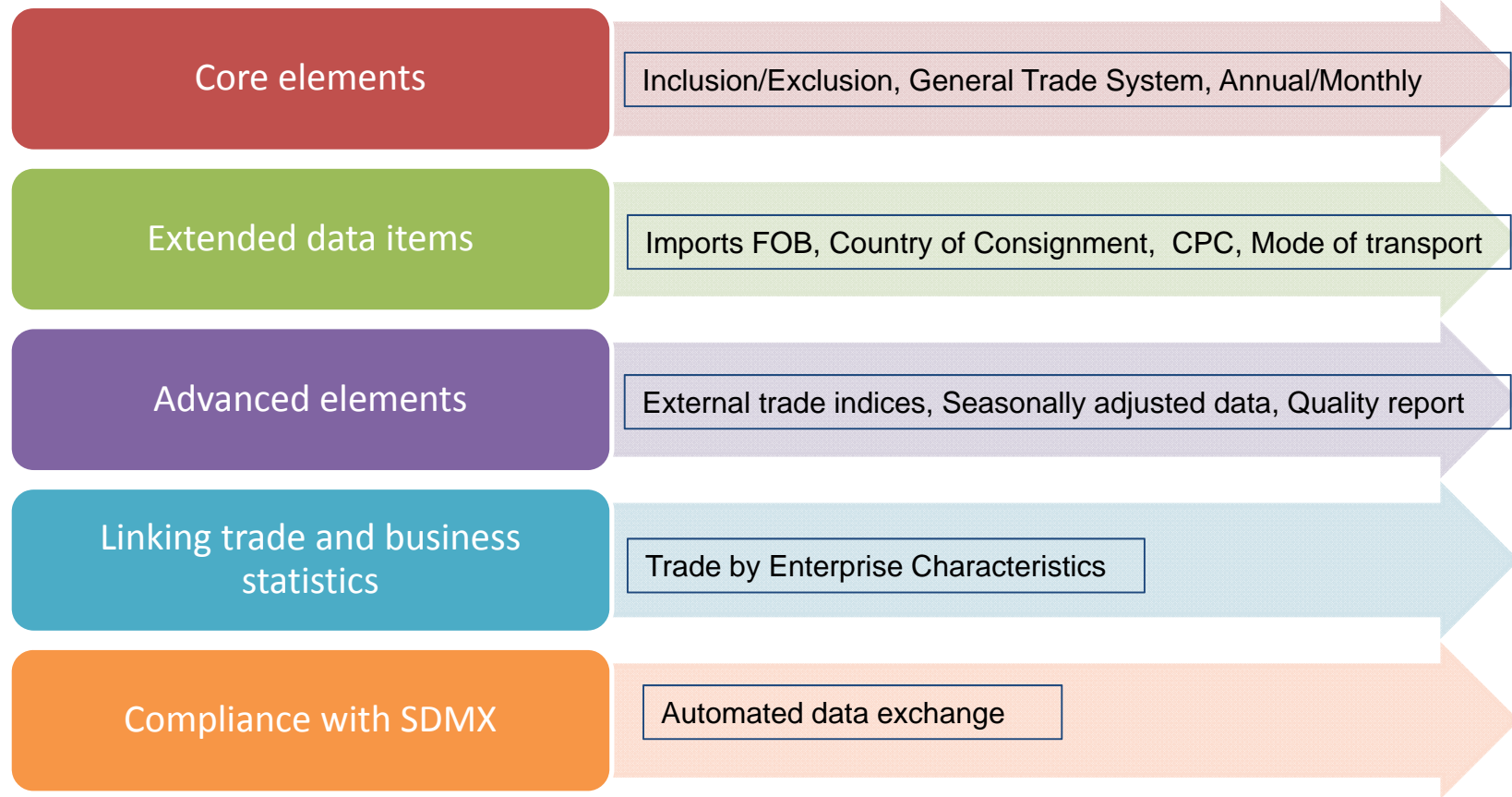
Chapter

- External trade indices
- Seasonally adjusted data

Country Experience

- External trade indices: practices of the Czech Republic
- Seasonally adjusted data: Example of Norway

Gradual/Parallel Implementation Plan (Countries)



IMTS 2010 Implementation at UNSD

Technical assistance

- (i) Workshops and seminars, including partnerships in training
- (ii) Countries mission

Research agenda

- (i) To address bilateral asymmetries in partner statistics
- (ii) Address the issue of quality of quantity information
- (iii) Finding innovative methods of linking trade and business statistics
- (iv) Trade in terms of value added and to clarify the international production chain
- (v) Good practices in the compilation of the trade indices and various analytical indicators and
- (vi) Efficient ways of automated data transfer between countries and international organizations

IMTS 2010 Implementation at UNSD

Upgrade and enhancement of UN Comtrade (International Trade Statistics Database) - 2017

(i) Inclusion of new data variables recommended in IMTS 2010

- Mode of transport
- Country of consignment as second partner country
- FOB-type value for imports
- Customs procedure Codes / Identifier for special transactions (intra-firm trade, goods for processing etc.)

(ii) Adding monthly trade data (+ services trade data)

(iii) Significant enhancement of metadata

(iv) Creation of global trade data structure (SDMX-IMTS)

(v) Data visualization (cooperation with other stakeholders)

Thank you

Please send your comments to
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