Richard Roberts
09/08/2002 01:15 PM

To: "Gorter, Cornelis Nannes" <CGORTER@imf.org>
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Subject: Re: Draft DQAF International Merchandise Trade

Dear Cornelis,

1. This looks like a pretty comprehensive approach to data quality for merchandise trade and I support it.

2. When reading it, the presentation under each heading is very repetitive (I guess because of the highly structured presentation - perhaps the lines in light italics below each heading can be removed.

3. The extensive references to IMTS Rev.2 are very welcome. In footnote 2 page 8 you might add "Available from United Nations Publications, Sales Section, United Nations, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017 USA. Tel. 212-963-8302; fax. 212-963-3489 and United Nations Publications, Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10 (Switzerland). Tel. 22-907-2614 or 22-917-2601, Extension: Bookshop; fax. 22-917-0027.

4. Under 2.2.1 ii. bullets - replace "The statistics include/exclude the following" with "IMTS Rev.2 clarifies that the statistics should include the following" and "IMTS Rev.2 clarifies that the statistics should exclude the following".

5. Under 2.2.1 iii. - replace "is" with "may be" and after "on" add "any of the following but the general trade system is recommended". You should review the text of the fourth bullet in relation to para. 90 of the IMTS Rev.2 and reflect what is in para.90.

6. Under 2.3.1 i, first bullet - replace "1996" with "2002".

7. 2.3.1, i, second bullet, third point - replace the text with "the statistical territory of each country, as defined by the country itself, is the recommended basis upon which the trading partners of each country compile their statistics of trade by countries 6/ ".

8. 3.4.1, i. first bullet the need/value of comparing mirror statistics is not convincing. One should be careful about reaching any conclusions based on mirror statistics.

Richard Roberts