UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
Rome, 17-19 April 2007

item 4(a) of the provisional agenda

Supplement to the Compilers' Manual for International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Report by UNSD

1. *IMTS: Supplement to Compilers Manual* (the Supplement) is included in the UNSD publication programme for the 2006-2007 biennium. The provisional draft will be placed on the EDG by the end of August 2007 for an electronic discussion. The final draft of the Supplement, which will incorporate the comments of the Task Force members, will be submitted for printing in November 2007.

2. Last year UNSD prepared a draft table of content and invited the TF members to provide UNSD with their comments/proposals/additional commitments. Progress made since then includes (a) the worldwide submission of the National Compilation and Dissemination Practices (NCDP) questionnaire in July 2006, (b) the analysis of the first 111 received replies from countries and (c) the first drafts of chapters of the topical part of the Supplement. The revised table of contents is given in Annex 1.

3. The NCDP Questionnaire was sent out in July and August of 2006 to 206 national IMTS compiling agencies (of which 30 from OECD countries). Questionnaires were pre-filled as much as possible on a country by country basis with information received in the past or retrieved from the country's Internet site. In addition, they were made available in five languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic) to facilitate the task for the national compilers. By February 2007, 111 responses were received. A complete overview of answers by question is given in Annex 2[1]. Some questions have been highlighted in this overview, since they seem to be especially relevant with respect to the issue list for the

[1] See document: TF07_item_4a_UNSD_Complete overview of responses.pdf

revision of the IMTS, Rev.2. To facilitate interpretation of Annex 2 an example of a filled questionnaire is given as Annex 3[2].

4. Part 2 of the Supplement contains a number of substantive issues. Thus far UNSD has received only a first draft of chapter 4 prepared by Eurostat on the INTRASTAT system.

5. The finalization of the publication is organized as follows:

   i) Initial drafts of all chapters of both part 1 and 2 will be posted on the EDG by 31 August 2007.
   ii) TF members are invited to send comments before 30 September 2007.
   iii) UNSD will edit and finalize the Supplement by 31 October 2007 and send it for printing in early November 2007.

   Whereas UNSD will be responsible for editing and redrafting, the authors of the original version will be asked to sign off on the final version.

6. The TF members are specifically asked at this TF meeting to comment on (a) the revised table of contents and (b) the schedule of the drafting process.

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[2] See document TF07_item_4a_UNSD_NCDP_Australia.pdf

Annex 1
IMTS: Supplement to Compilers Manual
Revised table of contents

Part I National compilation and dissemination practices in international merchandise trade statistics

Introduction
Summary overview
Chapter 1: Institutional arrangements
Chapter 2: Sources of data
Chapter 3: Coverage and Time of recording
Chapter 4: Customs procedures
Chapter 5: Trade system
Chapter 6: Commodity classifications and Quantity measurement
Chapter 7: Valuation and currency conversion
Chapter 8: Partner country
Chapter 9: Data Quality Control
Chapter 10: Mode of transport
Chapter 11: Reporting and dissemination
Chapter 12: Recommended inclusions
Chapter 13: Recommended exclusions

Part II Selected data compilation and reporting issues

Introduction
Summary overview
Chapter 1: Revised Kyoto Convention and its implications (UNSD)
Chapter 2: Boundary between IMTS and BOP statistics
Sub a) Bridge from IMTS to BOP (UNSD)
Sub b) Goods for processing (WTO, UNSD)
Sub c) Re-exports (Eurostat)
Sub d) Residents versus non-residents and change of ownership (WTO)
Sub e) Experiences in compilation of FOB imports (WTO)
Sub f) Travel (WTO)
Sub g) Government Services NEI (UNSD)
Chapter 3: IMTS and Structural Business Statistics (OECD)
Chapter 4: INTRASTAT: achievements and current challenges (Eurostat)
Chapter 5: Other issues
Sub a) Origin of used goods, including antiques (UNSD)
Sub b) Goods under financial or operational lease (UNSD)
Chapter 6: Reducing reporting burden of countries (OECD, UNSD)