UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
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item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

The Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 4 (SITC, Rev. 4) and HS2007

Report by UNSD

1. The UN Statistical Commission (SC), at its thirty-fifth session (2-5 March 2004), agreed with the conclusion of the inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics that the fourth revision of SITC was needed in view of accumulated changes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). Accordingly, the Statistics Division began the revision exercise in mid-2004 and finalized the publication (Series M No. 34/Rev. 4) in the summer of 2006.

2. In the revision process, the scope remained the same as of SITC, Rev. 3, in that it covers all goods classifiable in HS except for monetary gold, gold coin and current coin. All SITC, Rev. 4 basic headings (except for 911.0 and 931.0) are defined in terms of HS07 subheadings. SITC, Rev. 4 retains the overall structure of SITC, Rev. 3 and consists of the same number of sections, divisions and groups. Changes are at the level of basic headings and some subgroups. In all, 235 basic headings of SITC, Rev.3 were no longer used in SITC, Rev. 4 and 85 new basic headings were introduced.

3. The publication provides codes and description of each of the 2970 SITC, Rev. 4 basic headings and corresponding HS07 subheading(s) codes. In addition, there are three appendices: Appendix I (correspondence table correlating subheadings of HS07 to the basic headings of SITC, Rev. 4), Appendix II (correspondence table correlating basic headings of SITC, Rev. 4 to basic headings of SITC, Rev. 3) and Appendix III (correspondence table correlating basic headings of SITC, Rev. 3 to basic headings of SITC, Rev. 4).

4. Many countries and national and international organizations continue to use SITC for various purposes, such as study of long-term trends in international merchandise trade

and aggregation of traded commodities into classes more suitable for economic analysis while the HS (officially released on January 2007) is recommended by the SC for the compilation dissemination of International Trade Statistics. SITC, Rev. 4 is available in the UN Statistics Division website. The English version of the publication (Series M No. 34/Rev. 4) is also available in hard copy since January 2007. Finally, it was submitted for translation into the remaining five official UN languages on 26 September 2006 which means that the Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish version should become available in the course of 2007.