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Technical Assistance

Report by UNSD

1. UNSD has been and is very active in the area of technical assistance. Since 2004, it conducted workshops in Addis Ababa (2004), Abuja (2005), Douala (2006) and Bangkok (2006). This year workshops will be conducted in Lima (2007), Amman (2007) and Addis Ababa (2007). Furthermore, UNSD assisted in workshops organized by FAO in Khartoum (2005) and in Suva, Fiji (2007). Annex 1 gives an overview of the UNSD workshops with theme and participating countries.

ESCWA Development Account Project K

2. As mentioned in its project document "ESCWA first launched the idea for this project at the 2002 meeting of the Inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (TFIMTS) in Rome. TFIMTS reacted positively towards the proposal of ESCWA to improve the availability and quality of trade statistics in the Western Asia region. Draft project documents were subsequently presented by ESCWA to the TFIMTS at its meetings in Geneva (May 2003) and Addis Abba (March 2004). The comments received from TFIMTS helped in the creation of this submission, which seeks to assist member countries in building their capacity to compile, process, and disseminate good quality international merchandise trade statistics."

3. The project was approved in April 2006 and implementation started in June 2006. Since the objectives of this project are exactly in line with the technical assistance UNSD has been providing to other regions in the last years, UNSD offered to assist. The project will be completed in 2009 and it is the intention that the final "lessons-learned" workshop could be held back to back with a TF-IMTS meeting around April or May 2009 in Beirut.

Annex 1
UNSD Technical Assistance on IMTS

Event	Place	Year	Theme	Participating countries
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Addis Ababa	2004	IMTS Data Collection and Processing; institutional arrangements between Customs and NSO	Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Nigeria, Gambia, Sudan, Yemen
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Abuja	2005	IMTS Data Collection and Processing; institutional arrangements between Customs and NSO	ECOWAS member states plus Mauritania
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Douala	2006	IMTS Data Collection and Processing; institutional arrangements between Customs and NSO	CEMAC member countries plus Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Rwanda, Burundi and the Comoros
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Bangkok	2006	IMTS current issues and the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire	Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, China-Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Lima	2007	IMTS current issues, the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire and trade indices and indicators	Latin America and the Caribbean
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Amman	2007	IMTS data collection and processing; institutional arrangements between Customs and NSO; IMTS current issues, the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire and trade indices and indicators	ESCWA member countries plus Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia
UNSD Regional Workshop on Compilation of IMTS	Addis Ababa	2007	IMTS current issues, the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire and trade indices and indicators	COMESA countries plus Israel and Turkey