

# **Follow up activities**

**on the conclusions of the inter-agency  
consultation meeting during  
40th session of the Commission**

**Vladimir Markhonko  
Chief of Trade Statistics Branch  
United Nations Statistics Division**

## The meeting:

- (a) Agreed that the preparation of the revised recommendations for both international merchandise trade statistics and statistics on international trade in services in accordance with the existing schedules should be considered as a matter of high priority;

**All participating organizations contributed to the timely preparation of *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, 2010 (IMTS2010)* and *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010)*. Both TFIMTS and TFSITS were active in the coordination of the related activities.**

## The meeting:

(b) Welcomed the UNSD plans to prepare and submit to the 41st session of the Commission an implementation plan for the revised recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics which includes the preparation of the revised *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual*;

An outline of the IMTS2010 implementation programme is included in the SG report to the 41st session of the Commission. The preparation of the revised *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual* is planned in cooperation with EG-IMTS and TFIMTS. The provisional draft is expected by the end of 2011.

# The meeting:

**(c) Agreed that an implementation plan for the revised Manual on International Trade in Services should be developed by the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and presented to the Commission;**

**An outline of the MSITS2010 implementation programme is included in the TFSITS report to the 41st session of the Commission. The next TF meeting is expected to discuss details of the implementation programme for MSITS2010.**

# The meeting:

(d) Concluded that many of the important issues of the IMTS revision are directly linked to the international agreements on customs related matters and welcomed, in this context, the offer by the World Customs Organization to actively support the revision process;

**The WCO supported the IMTS revision process by providing necessary clarifications. The WCO active involvement in the preparation of the *IMTS 2010: Compilers Manual* and the compilation guidance on MSITS will be very much appreciated**

## The meeting:

- (e) Concluded that a number of issues require special attention during the revision process and indicated that, for example, (i) the development and implementation of trade data quality assurance programmes in countries should be promoted, (ii) the asymmetries in partner data should be more fully and systematically examined and explained including in metadata (it was acknowledged that such asymmetries are to a certain degree inherent due to the existing recommendations for the compilation of partner data), (iii) guidance on data compilation with respect to customs free zones should be more detailed as customs records about trade flows in/out these zones are often available;

**IMTS2010 contains a set of recommendations relevant to the issues identified above; more details will be contained in *IMTS2010: Compilers Manual*. Inputs from all participating agencies are welcome.**

# The meeting:

(g) Pointed out that the analytical needs cannot wait until fully integrated systems for economic statistics are developed and implemented and that the use of estimates/modeling should be explored and possibly recommended; in this context agencies were invited to cooperate more closely in the harmonization of the estimation procedures to minimize discrepancies in the disseminated data;

**Being discussed by the Task Forces. More efforts in documenting good practices are required.**

# The meeting:

(h) Discussed briefly the dissemination of international trade statistics and indicators by the international organizations in cooperation with third parties, agreed that this is an important issue and that further work on the identification of good practices in this area will be useful; in general, there is some gap between the user needs and availability of the trade related information such as tariffs etc.;

**Being discussed by the Task Forces. Should be on the agenda of both Task Forces for 2010-2011.**



# The meeting:

(f) Agreed that the current work on linking business statistics and trade statistics is a good example of the integration of economics statistics compilations and analysis and took note that this issue is also of interest for customs when they are exploring ways to identify illegitimate trade;

**IMTS2010 contains an explicit recommendation on linking business statistics and trade statistics; details will be provided in *IMTS2010: Compilers Manual***

# The meeting:

**(i) Welcomed the opportunity to hold regular consultations on international trade statistics at the time of the Commission's sessions and suggested that the reports of such meetings be posted on the UNSD website.**

**UNSD posted the report of the previous meeting on its website**

**[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/sc/trade\\_09.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/sc/trade_09.htm)**

**UNSD organized the inter-agency consultation during the 41st session of the Commission**

# Purpose of this meeting

## Discuss activities in support of MTS2010 and MSITS2010

- Identify main elements of the implementation programmes of IMTS2010 and MSITS2010
- Indicate forward looking activities (research agenda, databases, knowledge base).
- Input to both Task Forces

**Thank you for your kind  
attention!**