Interagency consultation on international trade statistics

Implementation of IMTS 2010:

How can organizations help countries to cope with the new challenges?

Introduction by Matthias Reister
Chief, International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section
Trade Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division
E-mail: reister@un.org
1. IMTS 2010 contains general and concrete recommendations for compilers

- Provides important clarifications of some key concepts
- Covers the entire statistical production process:
  - Focus (new chapter) on required institutional arrangements
  - Focus (new chapter) on data sources
  - Focus (new chapter) on data quality and metadata
- Offers concrete compilation advice:
  - establish working arrangements,
  - Get customs procedure codes, etc.
- Makes foreign trade statistics more useful
  - New data items (mode of transport, imports fob, second partner country), promotes separate recording of goods for processing, intra-firm trade
  - Promotes linking trade and business statistics
How can organizations help countries to cope with the new challenges?

2. IMTS Compilers Manual (2011) will provide further explanations and best practices

- Institutional arrangements, use of data sources, best practices in quality assurance and reporting
- Best practices in calculation of trade indices
- Reconciliation studies, confidentiality, presentation of new data items etc.

← In close cooperation with EG-IMTS and TF-IMTS
3. Technical assistance to countries

• IMTS 2010 covers entire statistical process and UNSD is developing a checklist / quality framework based on it (to be aligned with existing checklists and frameworks)

• About two regional training workshops per year
  – Focus on countries most in need
  – Cooperation with other international and regional organizations

• Providing reference materials and further advice and assistance as required (and feasible)
How can organizations help countries to cope with the new challenges?

Thank you very much for your attention