

Meeting on compilation issues of IMTS 2010
6 – 9 December 2011, Mexico City, Mexico

Agenda item 8:
Status of the updating process of IMTS
Compilers manual and next steps



Presentation by Matthias Reister
Chief, International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section
Trade Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division
E-mail: reister@un.org

1. Decisions by the Statistical Commission
2. Updating process
3. Next steps
4. Tasks of this meeting

1. Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)



The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed high appreciation of the efforts undertaken by UNSD in the organization of the efficient revision process including the conduct of the worldwide consultation and commended the Expert Group and Task Force on international merchandise trade statistics and countries for their contributions;
- (b) **Adopted *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010)* and endorsed the implementation programme [...], including the preparation of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual and continued technical assistance activities;**

1. Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)



(continued)

- (c) Requested the Expert Group and Task Force to continue their work, focus on the implementation of IMTS 2010 and give a due consideration to national circumstances, harmonization of national and regional compilation practices and the conduct of related comparison studies;
- (d) **Requested that more attention is given to strengthening institutional arrangements in countries** to ensure that proper national coordination mechanisms exist for the compilation of high quality international merchandise trade statistics; also, cooperation with compilers of statistics on international trade in services, balance of payments and national accounts should be ensured;

1. Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)



(continued)

- (e) Recognized the importance of UN Comtrade as the global database and information platform on international merchandise trade and requested UNSD to enhance its features and metadata;
- (f) Advised that in the future research agenda a due consideration is given to the emerging trade policy needs and the globalization issues; in this context, linkage with business statistics and measuring merchandise trade in terms of value added should be further explored.

2. Updating Process- Contribution of EG-IMTS and countries

1. **06-09/2010 Discussion and agreement on the draft outline with members of the EG-IMTS**
2. **01-02/2011 First virtual meeting of EG-IMTS: Agreement on the annotated draft outline**
3. **03-05/2011 Worldwide consultation with countries on the annotated draft outline**
4. **06-07/2011 Second virtual meeting of EG-IMTS : Discussion of chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, 19 and 22**
5. **09-11/2011 Third virtual meeting of EG-IMTS : Discussion of chapters 4, 11, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 27 and 28**
6. **21. Nov 2011: First full draft made available to participants of this meeting and the EG-IMTS**

3. Next steps

1. **6-9 Dec 2011 Meeting on compilation issues of IMTS 2010 will discuss first full draft of updated IMTS Compilers Manual**
2. **12/2011-01/2012 Fourth virtual meeting of EG-IMTS: Adoption of report of meeting on compilation issues and endorsement of updated IMTS Compilers Manual subject to the amendments and clarifications as indicated in the report**
3. **28Feb-2Mar 2012: Submission of the updated IMTS Compilers Manual (updated, second draft) to the Statistical Commission as background documents for information.**
4. **03-07/2012 Finalization of the manuscript by UNSD**

Tasks of this meeting

1. **To review all draft chapters (chapter by chapter, section by section) and provide guidance and input for their improvement (focusing on substantive issues)**
2. **Especially, to provide country examples and fill gaps**

Considerations

1. **Given the overall updating process, no radical changes to the chapter outline and contents are expected unless there is a good justification (and it is practical)**
2. **Agenda allocates about 30 minutes per chapter, there is no time for country presentations or to discuss any country practice in detail - please submit your detailed example in writing**
3. **More time might be spend on some than other chapters, in particular some chapters will be discussed for the first time**

Considerations (continued)

5. **Chapters should stand by themselves: maybe some repetition of materials but no extensive overlaps**
6. **Space limit of 200 pages for text exclusive annexes (to keep Compilers Manual accessible and manageable); some elements to be moved to website; significant editing expected.**

Thank you for your attention!