

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

**Agenda item 19:  
Upgrade of UN Comtrade  
(monthly trade data)**



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

## Upgrade of UN Comtrade 2011-2014

1. Inclusion of new data variables recommended in IMTS 2010
  1. Mode of transport
  2. Country of consignment as second partner country
  3. FOB-type value for imports
  4. Customs procedure Codes / Identifier for special transactions (intra-firm trade, goods for processing etc.)
2. Adding monthly trade data
3. Significant enhancement of metadata
  1. New Trade Statistics Knowledgebase has been established: Metadata reference pages for 187 countries have been added
  2. Further steps

## UN Comtrade: Monthly trade data Background

- The impact of the financial crises on global trade highlighted the need for short term analysis of specific trade flows.
- Many countries already release detailed monthly trade data, but these data are not readily available at the global level and in the same standardized way as the annual data.
- To meet this user demand UNSD requested countries in April 2010 to (i) make available detailed trade data for each of the first three months of 2010 for testing purposes and (ii) supply such detailed trade data on a regular basis beginning with data for January 2011.
- 

## UN Comtrade: Monthly trade data Current status (Dec. 2011)

- A total of 88 countries responded positively to this initiative .
- UNSD established a pilot processing and dissemination system and now processes a selected list of countries on a regular basis.
- Dissemination of the monthly trade data with the same quality and functionality as expected from the UN Comtrade system is expected to become available to the general public by 2013-2014.

## UN Comtrade: Monthly trade data

### Key elements of processing

- Postbox approach: countries provide data in standardized format for automated upload and are responsible for their data
- Automated data upload, simplified processing procedures, limited dataset and limited quality control
- Goal to provide data for a limited set of countries: currently data is updated for 41 countries (or areas) on regular basis (this includes 27 EU countries and major trading countries)
- Use of pilot system until UN Comtrade update replaces this current system

## UN Comtrade: Monthly trade data

### Key elements of dissemination

- Start of dissemination via a beta version (planned for Feb 2012)
- Disclaimer on limitations
- Browsing for all, bulk download for few

Thank you for your attention!