Report of the meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS)

16th-18th October 2013, OECD, Paris.

Agenda item: 1	Welcome and Opening		
Presentation:			

1. The OECD Chair opened the meeting, informing the group that, reflecting the increasing overlap between goods and services trade, the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS) and the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (TFIMTS), was holding its first combined meeting. It was noted that the trade in services compiler's guide as well as trade in services metadata would be the main topics of the meeting.
2. A tour of the table was organised to introduce new participants (Fabienne Fortanier, the new head of trade statistics section at OECD; Luis de la Fuente Layos & Digna Amil (Eurostat); Ed De Jong (World Customs Organisations); Sanja Blazevic Chaine, Claudia Trentini (UNCTAD)). The BEA representative could not attend the meeting due to the US Government shutdown. It was also noted that Mrs. Almut Steger, whose invaluable contribution to trade in services statistics was stressed, was participating at the meeting for the last time as she would retire in November.
3. WTO would chair agenda items 5 to 7 (more related to merchandise trade) and OECD the other agenda items (more related to service trade).

Agenda item: 2	Adoption of the agenda		
Presentation:			

4. The agenda was adopted, the final agenda is attached as annex 1, the list of participants is attached as annex 2.

Agenda item: 3	Approval of the reports of the last TF meetings in Rome March 2013		
Presentation:			

5. The reports were approved

Agenda item: 4	Discussion of the BEC classification	**Presenter:**	UNSD
Presentation:			

UNSD introduced the revised structure of the BEC classification.

Conclusions:			

6. While the new structure was welcomed, especially the inclusion of services, it was highlighted that to distinguish generic and customized intermediate products would be difficult though analytically useful (also for final consumption). However, the meeting questioned to what extent such a separation would be feasible for implementation (i.e. conceptually is one thing, but how to go about it from a practical viewpoint?) .

7. The same applies to the identification of used/second hand goods, how to define these (in particular in relation to HS: national codes beyond 6-digit in HS 2017....or 2022?), how to set up rules for implementation?

Agenda item: 5	Preparation of trade meeting at WCO	Presenter:	UNSD

Presentation:	

The possibility of a merchandise trade related meeting at WCO was discussed

Conclusions:	

8. The meeting was informed that for conflicting reasons the 2014 event with WCO would not be feasible. Instead, it will be put on the 2015 WCO Council agenda.
9. UNSD will draft a letter to WCO, possibly signed by the Chief Statisticians of the organizing committee.
10. The organizing committee (current composition UNSD, WTO, WCO, possibly FAO (was not there and WTO will contact them) will discuss a programme. The committee is of course open to other TF participants who want to join as was the case with OECD.
11. The meeting expressed the view that a one-day event would suffice, with opening statements of WCO, UNSD, etc.
12. Organizational questions will be discussed within the smaller group and settled through e-mail exchanges/phone conferences.

Agenda item: 6	Volume indices and supplementary quantity units	Presenter:	OECD; ITC

Presentation:	

13. The OECD reported on its study to assess outliers and missing quantities (standard quantity units, use of mirror stats and/or intl. commodity prices, homogeneity, heterogeneity and multi-modality). The study analyses unit values at 6-digit HS levels. Results are not disseminated. The OECD is however happy to share its experiences...some wishes expressed during the meeting centered around the availability of net weights and the question on correspondences was raised as to the different units (12). It was emphasized that the quality of the product is always an issue for the calculation of proper unit value indices. If there are any suggestions on standard units, these should be forwarded to WCO in the context of the HS2017 revision.
14. The ITC reported on its approach based on monthly data reported at the tariff line level, seasonally adjusted to detect outliers.

15. WTO/UNCTAD reported that they have fully aligned their quarterly volume indices (estimation methodology, at total trade level) and that with the 3rd quarter 2013 they would jointly disseminate these data on their websites.

Agenda item: 7	Confidential data treatment	Presenter:	OECD; UNSD

Presentation:

16. Confidentiality was discussed in relation to two aspects: gaps between HS 2 and HS 6-digit levels after conversion of data, reported by OECD. This is an issue for the joint data processing system of OECD/UNSD. The UNSD reported that it would not anymore convert the data which might resolve the issue, however, that might be problematic for trade data by industry classes.

17. The second aspect of confidentiality centered on micro-data…access to it for example for research,...consistency of it with legal requirements, guaranteeing transparency without compromising confidentiality. Eurostat reported on its regulation in progress (on micro-data for researchers), its forthcoming system for recording intra-trade based on micro data, using a hub where countries report to and Eurostat derives intra-trade, etc. (in relation to ESSNet, in testing phase). A general tenor of the meeting was the need for defining actually what micro data (big data?) mean, i.e. to define the granularity. Critical is production of these data which costs money. Access regulation may require specific software... The question of national access versus international sharing was also mentioned.

Agenda item: 8	Report on coordination of technical assistance – need for a common strategy. (WTO)	Presenter:	WTO

Presentation:

18. WTO acting as a focal point on technical assistance provided an updated list of ongoing technical assistance and available experts. The aim of the report and the activity lists is to avoid overlap and improve transparency. A still growing demand for technical assistance was flagged. The importance of better coordinating activities at country and regional level was underlined. The UNCTAD-WTO project for e-learning on trade in services was reported on.

Discussion:

19. UNSD noted that the report was very welcome; flagging also that the MSITS 2010 Compiler's Guide would support technical assistance. The importance of involving as many parties as possible was underlined. E-learning was supported. UNSD flagged its interest to be involved in trade in services activities for developing countries, noting however the importance of a decentralized process (i.e. capital role of UN regional agencies.

20. The EU representative informed the group that Eurostat's technical assistance is focused on candidate and accession countries as part of the general co-operation policy of the European Commission. Moreover, in the present context of budget cuts, co-operation actions in statistical field for other targeted groups of countries are limited.

21. UNCTAD informed the group that developing countries are the focus of UNCTAD's technical assistance and explained, to what regards e-learning and funding, that UNCTAD's e-learning Train For Trade (TFT) platform and learning methodology is used to develop the project (in consultation with WTO). This project will be launched end 2013 as part of the overall TFT II programme for Angola. UNCTAD was able to secure funds for a Portuguese (condition for the Angola project), French and English versions of the e-learning courses. More funding was however still needed for the French and English versions.

22. ITC flagged its interest in data from developing countries, and especially Africa. More generally, he said users have a specific interest in TIS data for Africa and noted that given this strong interest, there could be opportunities to get funding to improve the availability of African data.

23. WTO confirmed that the TF should look for extra budgetary funds. Regional events should be included in the TF technical assistance list well in advance, even if the details are uncertain. Focused seminars, with country presentations on specific topics, e.g., manufacturing services, should also be organized.

24. IMF flagged that IMF is also involved in TIS technical assistance but at a more general level. The IMF delegate confirmed the need for technical assistance in Africa.

25. UNWTO stressed the need for better co-ordination. He informed the group that UNWTO can't organize large scale training but is most willing to co-operate. He noted his institution is relying on third party funding so exchange of experiences with the groups is welcomed. He stressed having envisaged E-learning but had found this was too expensive.

26. Germany is conducting regular technical assistance activities (two/three seminars each year but not solely on Balance of Payments). Two seminars were planned with Serbia and Indonesia.

27. The TF then discussed best practice to raise funds for technical assistance, WTO noted that in complement to an OECD survey, it had asked its members about their bilateral activities but the response rate had not been encouraging. UNIDO flagged the need for countries to themselves find fundings, possibly in cooperation with other countries. IMF noted that it could be useful to approach African countries at regional level. She stressed language is also a funding issue. OECD noted that Paris 21 is not providing funding for specific statistical topics but for building statistical infrastructure. WTO suggested the TF should prepare a list of organisations that could possibly provide funds for technical assistance which the Task Force approved.

Conclusions:

28. **The Task Force noted that in supplement to awareness raising seminars, technical assistance seminars more focused on specific services items should be organized. The question of funding both for the e-learning and technical assistance were raised. An inventory of potential financing bodies should be prepared (WTO should serve as focal point). The updated List of technical activities is to be posted on the WTO website: http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/ongoing_e.htm**

Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
✓ To prepare an inventory of potential financing bodies.		WTO, All TF members	March 2014

Agenda item: 9	Status of the BOP-DSD (IMF)	Presenter:	IMF

Presentation:	

29. The IMF representative informed the group that the Balance of Payments Data Structure Definition (i.e. BOP DSD) had been approved by the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics. The maintenance agreements prepared by the BOP and NA Steering Groups were introduced to the group.

Discussion:	

30. Eurostat highlighted the main benefit of the BOP DSD for the member countries is that it allows them to deliver their data requests with one unique tool to different international organizations. Italy and Germany congratulated the International Organizations (IO) for the achievement and requested some explanations on the difference between regular and fast track maintenance procedures. As members of the Technical Group, Eurostat and OECD confirmed that fast track meant additional codes in a code list were possible but no change to the structure of the DSD.

31. To WTO asking if International Organizations were planning to disseminate trade in services using the DSD codification, OECD confirmed. IMF and Eurostat would consider the timeline for implementation.

Conclusions:	

32. **The TF took note of the IMF report on the finalisation of the BOP DSD as well as of the communication strategy and planned maintenance agreements that still have to be finalized by the BOP and NA Steering Groups.**

Agenda item: 10	Methodological soundness questionnaire (OECD, WTO)	Presenter:	OECD

Presentation:

33. The OECD presented the joint OECD-WTO proposal for a streamlined metadata questionnaire on EBOPS 2010 data. The MSQ would aim at collecting SITS metadata in order to identify and compare how national offices have implemented EBOPS 2010, and to provide the possibility to benchmark and spread good practices. The questionnaire will only be disseminated after 2015/2016 when countries have implemented BPM6, and ideally should be web based and use existing information and forms that are already used by IMF in their Metadata Web Form and other International Organizations.

Discussion:

34. UNSD expressed support for the initiative noting collection of metadata is an important part of UNSD work. He explained UNSD has a metadata sheet sent along with the questionnaire and informed the group that many responses had been collected. Metadata cannot be shown in the on-line UNSD database at the moment. He expressed preference for a "semi-open" questionnaire and introduced the UNSD questionnaire to the group.

35. Eurostat welcomed the initiative, wishing to continue the cooperation with OECD and also to develop the questionnaire. He mentioned Edamis, the EU platform for exchange of data and metadata transmission, and flagged the need to wait for the implementation of the new standards before sending the questionnaires.

36. Japan noted it was a very good initiative and supports the electronic format. She explained questionnaire can be very difficult for non-English speakers and recommended to follow IMF terminology to help the understanding and otherwise clearly define supplementary questions.

37. Germany and Italy emphasized the need to take into account countries' reporting burden and also recommended to wait for the BPM6 implementation and to combine international organizations metadata requests.

38. UNCTAD supports the project and expressed willingness to participate. She also emphasized the need to wait for the implementation.

39. IMF supported the initiative, flagging the necessity to streamline metadata requests and share information.

40. WTO noted these points were well taken and indicated that the objective of the agenda point was mainly to get the discussion started.

Conclusions:

41. **The TF supported the OECD and WTO suggestion that the Task Force should work on a streamlined metadata questionnaire for Trade in Services Statistics that could be used by all agencies and be sent to countries once the BPM6 standards have been implemented. The questionnaire should be web based and avoid duplicating IMF metadata collection but re-use existing information.**

Action items		Person responsible	Deadline

✓ TF to elaborate on the draft joint metadata questionnaire	All members of the TF	Next meeting of the TF

Agenda item: 11	Bilateral trade in services matrix for TIVA needs (OECD,WTO)	**Presenter:**	OECD

Presentation:	

42. OECD introduced the joint work performed with WTO for producing a world matrix of bilateral services trade flows. It was noted that a next step would be to invite countries to resolve the bilateral asymmetries in their services trade flows.

Discussion:	

43. To IMF asking what the most useful feedback of the TIVA work was, OECD and WTO replied that countries do not always recognize their own trade flows and have expressed interest in seeing the underlying data.

Conclusions:	

44. **The Task Force took note of the joint work from OECD and WTO on producing a bilateral trade in services matrix. This is to be developed for analytical purposes, as well as for the trade in value added initiative. The next step will be to encourage countries reconciling bilateral trade in services flows with their key partners.**

Agenda item: 12	Status of the data collections (UNSD, OECD, Eurostat, UNCTAD-WTO-ITC, IMF)	**Presenters:**	UNSD, OECD, Eurostat,

Presentation:	

45. UNSD, after mentioning some upcoming events in Africa on Global Value Chains, in Mexico on Business registers and links to trade and a forum with Statistics Canada on the measurement of international Trade, reported on the Status of the UNSD trade in services database. He explained there were no additional countries providing partner country information. There were some plans to convert data received in BPM6 format to BPM5. The help of WTO-UNCTAD would be sought on that matter (methodology based on the IMF BPM5 to BPM6 conversion).

46. OECD reported on its two parallel trade in services databases maintained in EBOPS 2002 and EBOPS 2010 format, noting breaks in series had been introduced in the data series to complement the metadata which are directly linked to the data. The plans for data dissemination (mapping the OECD 6 dimensions database to the 16 dimensions of the BOP DSD) were presented.

47. Eurostat described the trade in services data collection noting that the detailed data up to 2012

would be published on the 6th of December. Some plans for back casting BPM6 data using BPM5 data based on the IMF algorithms previously shared with the TF were presented. WTO suggested to recirculate the WTO paper on the conversion from BPM6 to BPM5

48. UNCTAD introduced the UNCTAD-WTO-ITC trade in services dataset which is jointly produced and published simultaneously. The dataset uses OECD, EU, IMF, and UNSD data published as well as national statistics as deemed relevant. In addition. WTO and UNCTAD publish regional and world estimates starting from 1980 for main categories, and from 2000 for detailed BPM5. The data will be published in BPM6 format from 2015. Furthermore, WTO and UNCTAD collect and publish jointly produced quarterly TIS statistics for some 140 individual economies, while WTO also produces monthly total services trade figures for about 30 countries. WTO underlined that this "Geneva cooperation" was very beneficial both for the organisations involved and for the member countries

49. IMF reported on the status of the BPM6 Compiler's Guide - which draft is available on line since July -; on its database and presented its web-based metadata tool which is used since July 2012. 31 countries have now moved to BPM6. Countries are using the tool to update their metadata or 'certify' that the metadata are still applicable to current period. It was noted that the metadata were not yet accessible to the public. Mapping the metadata to on-line data points is left for the future. Metadata provision to the IMF is mandatory as far as they are members of the IMF. Bank of Italy suggested modifying the web-based questionnaire to allow "multiple answers" for the reporting of data sources used for each item, as in many cases a combination of sources is in place and would be very interesting to know which particular mix is chosen. WTO asked if the paper on Best practices for communicating the adoption of BPM6 which was going to be presented to the BOPCOM could be shared with the Task Force, the IMF agreed. OECD noted its interest getting access to this metadata tool and pointed out this seemed like a good starting point for streamlining IOs metadata as discussed on agenda item 10. It was also enquired if more detail on services could be added to this IMF web questionnaire. The IMF responded it was unlikely since services are disseminated as part of the balance of payments.

50. Regarding the access to the metadata repository, IMF suggested TF members to make an official request in a coordinated fashion. As all organisations expressed interest to access the metadata, it was agreed WTO would coordinate the request of all organisations.

Conclusions:	
51. The Task Force takes note of the Status of the IO databases. The issue of the conversion will remain on the agenda of the Task Force until most countries move to BPM6 in 2015. The TF also took note of the IMF web tool. WTO would coordinate the official request of all international organizations interested in getting access to the metadata repository. The Task Force considered that the IMF reporting form should be the starting point for IOs streamlined metadata collection.	

Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Coordinating IO request for access to IMF metadata		WTO	ASAP

✓ Recirculate WTO paper on conversion	WTO	ASAP

Agenda item: 13	Review of the draft chapters of the compiler's guide	**Presenter:**	UNSD
Presentation:			

52. The UNSD representative took the lead to guide the group through the comments of the editor.

General remarks:

53. The editor has done a very good job to streamline the content and make it more coherent (also cut of repetition). More country experiences are needed (mainly in the electronic edition).
54. Make sure that the exact name of the referred materials is used.
55. We are still in a position to make changes (structure and texts) after it is presented to the Statistical Commission. Changes to the electronic version can be made on-line at any time. The structure of the online version, as a complement to the print version, needs still to be discussed and clarified.
56. While the draft is advanced, more guidance on how to resolve issues should be taken into consideration in all chapters. The use of country examples in the print vis-à-vis the online version needs to be clarified to avoid repetition. Also, should country experiences be structured according to certain criteria? Would it be useful to arrange them in a standard format? One possibility could be to summarize them and have on-line more details available.
57. References to existing frameworks including the respective links should be made in order to avoid repetition of texts in the Compilers Guide.
58. Consistency should be guaranteed with the compilers guide currently drafted on tourism statistics.
59. The question for designing model questions or surveys as opposed to country examples was raised.
60. Glossary needs to be added

Introduction

61. Will need to be reviewed once the draft of the guide is further advanced.
62. The link between trade in services statistics and supply of services should be emphasized.

Chapter 1

63. Need further streamline of the text (e.g., moving FATS discussion to Chapter 15).
64. Cut conceptual issues. Make more reference to existing materials (e.g., MSITS 2010 for GATS and legal texts). For example, para. 5 onwards is a repetition of the MSITS, could be just referenced.
65. More elaboration of the difference between the GATS concepts and the SNA/BOP concept of residence (see e.g., para 1.54, 1.72 - 1.76).
66. The proposed text for GATS and mode 4 is too complex and should be simplified to the minimum required for understanding of what is required from compilers. Only appropriate references to GATS should be made and the text of sections A and D streamlined (in particular remove unnecessary legal references).
67. Para 1.42, Partner attribution part II and III requires further elaboration.
    Suggested moves:
68. Para 3.23 – 3.25 shall be moved to Chapter 1. A box on TIVA as well as that of TEC and STEC will be

prepared by OECD.

69. 3.25 can be shortened as it refers mainly to EU regulations. Replace "FATS compilation guide" by "FATS recommendations manual".
70. Paragraph 1.23 to 1.26--definition should come before principles. 1.17, 1.18.

Chapter 2

71. Make a better balance between SITS and FATS.
72. Make more reference to BoP statistics and legal frameworks, and link to SITS.
    Suggested moves:
73. Change the order of part B and C.
74. Section E: need for examples of FATS and legal frameworks.

Chapter 3

75. Some further streamlining of the chapter is needed, including country examples.
76. Diagram to visualize the centralized and decentralized statistical systems is needed.
    Suggested moves:
77. Para 3.23 – 3.25 shall be moved to Chapter 1.
    Suggested changes:
78. Additional discussion/amending and endorsement of paragraphs 3.13, 3.14 and 3.15. Make para 3.3 on institutional arrangements more precise.
79. Para 3.47 needs to be clarified.

Chapter 4

80. The Editor suggests that the chapter is removed.
81. The text as it currently stands is not an introduction to part II and needs to be redrafted (whether as a separate chapter or as a few paragraphs introducing part II).
82. TF suggests that the introductory text should introduce all data sources (short definitions/descriptions of data sources).
83. The text is to be re-drafted including explanation on data collection versus data compilation (the SDMX definition could be used as a starting point).
84. Need to add text from the perspective of making partner country details (the issue was discussed at the TF while discussing Chapter 14).

Chapter 5

85. The chapter is to be reviewed and streamlined focusing on the relation of business register to international trade, in particular services. A review of whether the Business register part might be overemphasized should be held during the virtual meeting.
86. More emphasis on the maintenance of business registers.
87. More references to make to existing materials on establishing and maintaining business registers.
    Suggested moves:

88. Para 5.30 should be incorporated in other chapters.
   Suggested changes:
89. 5.19 on establishing Structural Business surveys is not needed, as one would not establish a business register specifically for trade in services (FATS). Review paragraph 5.25 to make sure it contains all the important messages we want to convey.

Chapter 6.

90. There were suggestions that some text is to be moved/deleted.
91. Country examples or forms are to be moved back to the text.
92. Model questions or the list of items to be included in a model questionnaire to be added.
93. More reference to data collection methods are to be added.
94. Sub-section 5 (on R&D surveys) still needed.
95. UNWTO could provide country experiences on surveys on tourism industries (supply side).
96. Link to the work of Task Force on Global Production is needed as relevant.
   Suggested moves:
97. 6.85, 6.86 to be moved to data compilation
98. 6.97-6.99 to be moved to data compilation.
99. 6.174 move the Austrian country example to here from Chapter 13.
100. 6.158 and box 6 should be moved to Chapter 14, but need to include material on the important point to know when it comes to data collection.
101. 6.196 onwards: something needs to be added on mode 4-intra-corporate transferees.
102. 6.249-6.260 to move to Chapter.5.
103. Computer and IT-enabled and Education services examples of India needs to be moved to end of chapter (examples of joint SITS/FDI-FATS collection).
104. Australian experience on legal services to be moved to Chapter 10.
   Suggested changes:
105. Subsection 4 in Section A has to be drafted.
106. A brief description of the design of trade in services surveys is needed (para 6.34).
107. Diagrams in sub-section 3 (Manufacturing services surveys) can be made more readable (e.g., by moving some text out of diagrams into the sub-section).
   Suggested deletions:
108. 6.83 first sentence
109. 6.86 last sentence
110. 6.94, reference to New Zealand needed?

Chapter 7.

111. The current text needs to be reviewed and streamlined. The EU example shall be rather generalized. Spell out the exact scope of the chapter.
112. Chapter needs a good example of travel/tourism module for use in household surveys.
113. A general description of how to use LFS for SITS purposes is needed (para 7.40), i.e. besides the perspective of mode 4 numbers.
114. Need to explain how household surveys could be used in context of mode 4 (in particular self-employed).

Suggested deletions

115. 7.12 (on face to face interviews) delete sentence about most common procedures

Suggested moves:

116. Para 16.42-16.48 on labour force surveys should be moved to chapter 7 and elaborated jointly by WTO-OECD (Eurostat?).

Chapter 8.

117. The EU – France example shall be reworded (remove unnecessary background info).
118. Review the country example of France and South Africa (as they have contradictory message).
119. More reference to BPM6 to be made.
120. Ask UN Expert Group virtual meeting participants to comment on usefulness of the pros-cons table in this chapter,
121. Japanese example on thresholds should be referred to in chapter 17.
122. Link 8.71 to comparison of data sources.

Suggested changes:

123. Add one advantage of ITRS after para 8.7 – new entrants can easily be covered if they have significant transactions.
124. Avoid references such as "world-class cost-effective reporting system…", that gives judgment which we do not want to support, do we?

Chapter 9.

125. Keep the E/D cards but be careful with the language (as the 'principal data source'). In addition streamline the text as administrative sources are complement to other data sources.

Suggested moves:

126. Text relating to data collection (but moved to Chapter 16) shall be moved back to Chapter 9.

Suggested changes:

127. Review statements in para 9.8.
128. Para 9.11 holds an obvious statement that might need to be deleted.
129. Elaborate para 9.34 on the use of work permits.
130. Section D on tax records needs an introductory text, also para. 9.38 on the use of tax records for SBR (to be be moved to chapter 5.)
131. Redraft para 9.26 to match the migrant definitions (i.e., missing short-term migrants).
132. 9.33 needs to be reformulated as to the relation to mode 4. If data source not good for mode 4, to what extent is that not an issue for tourism (i.e. mode 4 is part of visitor population covered by tourism).

Chapter 10.

133. Some editing is needed (double check the Estonia's country experience, wording of the subtitles).
134. An improved introductory section A is needed.
135. Not sufficient coverage at the moment -- Ask countries of the virtual meeting whether they have some experience with the use of other data sources.
136. Some text should make reference to the experience of Australia on legal services by modes which is

available in para 14.192 to 14.198 or the text should be moved here (see chapter 14), i.e. use these other sources for input in BOP. R&D surveys could also be mentioned.

Suggested moves:

137. Netherland's country experience is in the box – to be moved to the end of the chapter.
138. 10.6 to be moved to country experiences.
139. 10.31, 10.32 US experience on merchanting to be moved between 10.14 and 10.15
140. The ARIMA text is to be extended and to be moved to Chapter 17

Suggested changes:

Para 10.7 wording (recommending Big data as a longer term strategic goal) is a bit too strong since we have no experience of this.

Chapter 11.

141. Maintain the structure of the chapter that follows the non-resident-resident- FATS logic, i.e. section A Introduction, Section B non-resident-resident (of which B.1 manufacturing, B.2 transport, B.3 travel, B.4 government, B.5 Other services (other than manufacturing, transport, travel, government), Section C FATS, Section D Mode 2 and 4 number of persons. Section E country experiences.
142. The summary table – agreed to keep the +/- rating (but explain) and raise the issue to the EG virtual forum. Review of the accuracy of the content of the table (like survey on HH and persons – timeliness, government services – survey of agencies but not enterprise surveys).
143. Make an online summary of country practices and summary table in the virtual edition (using all sources, like IMF metadata, MSQ (in 2015)) COMESA list should be in this summary table. Include table for FATS.
144. Raise the issue of moving country experiences to the virtual edition to the EG virtual forum (or part of it). Some country examples may have a place here if we make some modifications in terms of presentation ((highlighting more why choices were made)).
145. Add concluding paragraphs in each section on what this Guide advises to do.

Suggested moves:

146. Tables 16.1 and 16.2 to move here.
147. Section E, order of other services and government service could be re-arranged.

Chapter 12.

148. Similarly to chapter 4 it is useful to have an introduction – the text is to be revised after Part III is settled.

Chapter 13.

149. There is a need to add a paragraph on compilation from a system perspective – i.e. why we need data integration (OECD is to work on it) to be placed either Chapter 13 or 12.
150. Some editing is needed (like microdata is overwhelming).
151. Need to emphasize that it has to be a compromise, that the integration needs to be manageable. Has to come in the context of compilation
152. The definitions are to be placed in a glossary.

Suggested moves:

153. Austria country example on integrated tourism and travel to move to Chapter 6 and 14.

Chapter 14.

154. Make reference to other guides, particularly MSITS 2010 and BPM6 (streamline definitions or just make reference or in some cases elaborate more than in the guides). More references need to be made to the BPM6 CG.
155. No need to repeat definitions of EBOPS 2010 items. The guide should only include clarifications (e.g. on IP products or other business services based on EBOPS-CPC2 correspondence table, treatment of construction in relation to TA (refer to BPM6CG), work of TF on global production) as well as focus on the specificities of MSITS 2010 (i.e. freight transport on a transaction basis).
156. Spell the name of the manuals/guides correctly.
157. Add more country examples (e.g. education, FISIM)
158. The chapter is big (long) – the way of presentation is to be re-evaluated (maybe some structural changes).
159. Simplifying the text for the modes of supply simplified allocation.
160. Add text on the compilation issues to make details for the partner country breakdown, and on the complementary items. On partner country treatment some reference could also be made to the BPM6 compiler's guide where some text is also available
161. It was suggested to raise at the virtual meeting if intellectual property transactions (i.e. charges for the use of IP n.i.e., computer software, audiovisual products, outcomes of R&D) should be treated in one block (all types of licenses should a priori be drawn also from the same source).
162. The EU recommendations of the TF on Goods for processing eliminated by the Editor should be reintroduced especially if the treatment of partner country data is covered.
163. Country examples could be attributed more closely with respective chapters.
    Suggested moves:
164. 14.199 (which is too short) and 14.200 (the example of Singapore on R&D) to move to 6.167.
165. 14.57 should be moved before 14.56.
166. 14.192-14.198 move to chapter 10.
167. 14.204-208 to move to travel.
168. 14.219-14.234 – shorten the text (New Zealand experience shall be split and moved).
    Suggested changes:
169. Review table 14.1 (wrongly numbered 16.1)
170. 14.106-107: refer to Italian example in chapter 6.
171. 14.110 had 3 numerical examples that were removed by the Editor – suggested to place them back.
172. 14.174 need more input.
173. 14.123 reference is not correct (58. and 59. are the correct reference).
174. 14.123 the formula is copied but the order was changed – suggested to keep the original order from the reference.
175. 14.156 on FISIM need more input (country experience).
176. 14.174, 14.203: ask virtual meeting for input
177. 14.177-14.184 the Austrian country experience is too long – streamline.
178. 14.272 – 14.283 the text on the country experience of Spain is already used in Chapter 6 – to be erased from here and make a reference to the text in Chapter 6.
179. Ask Australia for experience on compiling data for education services (in context of complementary groupings).

Chapter 15.

180. The text shall be streamlined (eliminate repeating the definitions – make references and place them in the glossary).
181. The text shall be reviewed on the integrated approach to FATS-FDI.
182. Streamline the text on SPEs (remove description of the sectoral classification, and place them in the glossary).
183. No input on the possibility/experience in the compilation of the number of mode 4 persons as part of FATS/FDI surveys is provided as yet, but it is important (e.g., for Chapter 16).
    Suggested changes:
184. Add text on hours worked on the employment variable for para 15.23 (OECD is to provide the text to the UNSD).
185. Output: refer to EU recommendations on production value.
186. EU recommendations and SNA 2008 shall be used as a reference on value added (i.e. needs to be elaborated).

Chapter 16.

187. Text is to be reviewed and possibly streamlined (OECD/WTO/Eurostat to work on it).
188. Text related to data collection shall be moved to Chapter 6.
189. Section titles to be reworked.
190. A good country example is needed on how data on the number of persons for mode 4 are compiled.
191. Suggested moves:
192. Tables 16.1 and 16.2 should be moved to Chapter 11.
193. Move suggestions on LFS to chapter 7.
    Suggested changes:
194. 16.68 make a reference to Chapter 4.

Chapter 17.

195. Add introductory text to the beginning.
196. Rearrange text (include other types of model estimates, e.g. travel, move model estimates on mode 4 further down).
197. Add text on relation between forecasting and timeliness.
198. Need to refer to thresholds and necessity to make estimations.
    Suggested moves:
199. Refer to relevant chapters from where text is to be moved.
    Suggested changes:
200. Para 17.12—put a reference in 17 or 13 to make the bridge between the two issues.

Chapter 18.

201. Some review of the text needed, list of metadata items can start with BOP-DSD.
202. Country examples on FATS metadata may be needed.
203. The text on the BOP DSD to what regards trade in services para 18.27 to 18.31 should be elaborated

following OECD Presentations

204. The explanatory table on services not allocated should be reintroduced after para. 18.42.

205. 18-25 could also refer to SDDS+.

Chapter 19.

206. An introduction to be added to Section D.

207. Ask the opinion of the EG virtual forum whether some text is needed on quality self assessment.

208. Consolidate table.
Suggested changes:

209. Timeliness of SITS quality reports should be discussed and agreed upon (para 19.46).

210. Restructure table 19.1 to take into account the dimension of all IOs DQAF and avoid empty cells.

211. Paragraph 19.61 on OECD quality framework needs to be reviewed.

212. UK example was submitted but it is not included (check with the Editor).

213. Spain provided text on automatic checking (modes of supply) was submitted but not included (check with the Editor).

214. Bilateral data exchange: mention confidentiality issues.
Suggested moves:

215. Para 19.80, delete or move.

Chapter 20.

216. Para 20.13 on working with the media needs review.

217. Section D on combined presentation of international merchandise and services trade statistics should be elaborated and include country experiences. Germany is to submit text on the integrated presentation of merchandise and service trade statistics.
Suggested changes:

218. Part III dealing with the compilation and should be only mentioned here. Review summary recommendations on the dissemination of SITS variables and their periodicity (para. 20.15) and timeliness (para 20.20).

219. Review the dissemination paragraphs 20.8 and 20.14 (not as much focus on SDMX). In para. 20.14 review second sentence. Experience of Australia and Russia on revision policy was submitted but not included (check with the Editor).

Chapter 21.

220. Some further refining is needed, focusing on microdata access (OECD), accessibility, visualization of data (to be prepared jointly by OECD, WTO and ITC), data warehousing (OECD).
Suggested changes:

221. Contact Statistics Austria who just introduced a statistics app.

Timeline – way forward

222. Outcome of the TF discussion on the current draft is to be revised by Eurostat – OECD, UNSD and WTO by 31 October – including text that will be moved by the coordinators of the given chapter as suggested by the TF – no rewriting is expected before the virtual forum.

223. Virtual meeting of the UN Expert Group is scheduled between 1 and 30 November.

224. Outcome of the UN Expert Group meeting is to be summarized after the conclusion of the virtual meeting by UNSD and will be sent to Eurostat, OECD and WTO .

225. UNSD will work on elaborating the suggestions of the Task Force and also the UN Expert Group virtual meeting by early January. After completion UNSD will provide to the coordinators the consolidated text for review -- please do mark your calendar as we are planning to finalize the text by end of January.

226. Draft MSITS 2010 CG is to be submitted as a background document to the Statistical Commission in March 2014.

Agenda item: 14	Knowledge base	Presenter:	UNSD

Presentation:	

227. UNSD reported on the MSITS Compiler's Guide Knowledge base.

Conclusions:	

228. The Task Force noted that the UNSD Knowledge base will move from a topical to a thematic presentation

Agenda item: 15	Revision of concordance annexes	**Presenter:** **WTO**

Presentation:	

229. WTO reported on the status of the correspondence, which had been revised following the presentation of the correspondence to the experts on the compilation of trade in services statistics end of June 2013 and discussions with IMF, OECD and UNSD. The correspondence table had been submitted to the United Nations Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (EG-ISC) for initial feedback, and will be formally reviewed by the UN Technical Sub-Group on the CPC.

Discussion:	

230. UNSD noted the correspondence table was recently referred to at the UNSD regional seminar Jakarta because this work is appreciated and needed by countries.

231. WTO confirmed EBOPS-CPC is in great demand, and highlighted some improvements on the correspondence in particular to what relate to Intellectual property products and complementary groupings. Feedback from the UN Technical Sub-Group on the CPC is expected soon. He flagged the need to post the correspondence on the TF website ASAP. He raised the question if the CPC-EBOPS is also needed. He informed the group that the W120-EBOPS correspondence will be finalized soon too and flagged the need to also finalize the EBOPS-ICFA correspondence.

Conclusions:	

233. The TF took note the EBOPS 2010-CPC rev.2 correspondence has been submitted to the UN expert group on classifications for comments. The categories relating to intellectually property and Complementary groupings had been clarified. The Task Force would await comments from the UN expert group on classifications then other correspondences can also be finalized – EBOPS-ICFA; W120-EBOPS.			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
✓ To publish revised concordance table for EBOPS 2010 –CPC 2 on TF website		UNSD	ASAP

Agenda item: 16 Promoting trade statistics and organizing TF work.	**Presenter: WTO; UNSD**	
Presentation:		

234. WTO informed the group that the *TFIMTS website* regroups correspondences, and interagency common dataset, including all data reported by countries plus data reconciled between agencies, plus metadata. This reconciled dataset will remain but will no longer be updated.

235. **TF notes the TFIMTS website contains an interagency common dataset that will no longer be updated**

236. The UNSD explained that the *TFSITS website* is maintained and updated as needed, however noting that if the technical co-ordination information should be presented, some change in the presentation might be necessary. More generally, some changes will be brought to the webpage. WTO noted that as WTO has already created a webpage with technical information, the UNSD just needed to link to that.

237. **TF notes that the Task Force website will have a new look and there will be a link to the WTO technical assistance list.**

238. UNSD noted the Newsletter should be ready by the end of the year and that the Statistical commission report with a focus on the compiler's guide would be its focus. The TF was invited to send more material before Christmas.

Discussion:	

239. UNCTAD volunteered to draft some text on the "Geneva cooperation" for the Newsletter

240. ITC asked how the website was publicized, UNSD noted it was posted on the TF website and that IO could link to it. Some suggestions to increase the visibility of the newsletter were made.

241. WTO would provide some text on its integrated trade intelligence portal (I-TIP Service) which provides information about GATS commitments, regional agreement, laws in place in countries, services statistics and was released in July.

242. OECD suggested OECD and WTO should contribute with some text on the trade in services bilateral matrix.

243. WTO would also provide some text (with UNESCO) on the extension of EBOPS to cover the needs of creative industries.

Conclusions:	

244. The Task Force noted the UN Statistical Commission report will be presented in the newsletter, with the compilers guide as main topic. TF is invited to suggest any supplementary relevant material by the end of December. Technical assistance, UNCTAD-WTO-ITC cooperation, the OECD-WTO services trade TIVA matrix, industry classification and WTO's integrated trade intelligence portal would be described in the newsletter. It is suggested the newsletter is published on UN website and linked to by other organization.

Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
✓ To provide text to the newsletter		WTO, OECD, UNCTAD, UNSD	End of December

Agenda item: 17	Report to the Statistical Commission (UNSD)	Presenter:	UNSD

Presentation:	

245. UNSD introduced the report noting that the deadline for producing the report - which should not be too long- was the 19th of November.

246. OECD as secretariat of the Task Force was asked to draft parts 4 and 5 of the report. It was suggested also that the minutes of the Task Force meeting should be attached to the report.

Conclusions:	

247. The Task Force took note of the report which should be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission. It should be finalized by the 19th of November. Task Force members are invited to comment on the paper. The drafts of parts 4 and 5 of the report will prepared by OECD and shared with the TF for comments within two weeks.

Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Prepare part 4 & 5 of the reports and share with the TF		OECD	End of October

Agenda item:	Any Other Business	Presenter:	OECD

Presentation:

248. On behalf of UNSD, OECD informed the group that the IAOS is looking for special session topics at the International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress in Brazil in 2015. UNSD envisages suggesting a Special Topic Session on Trade Micro-Data.
249. In relation to the Statistical Commission meeting in March 2014, UNSD proposes to organize a side-event on Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Trade and Tourism, where the available compilation guidance for IMTS, BOP, SITS and Tourism Statistics, could be presented as well as an overview of the capacity development activities for 2014.

Conclusions:

250. The Task Force takes notes of the UN proposal for a special topic session on trade microdata. OECD flagged its willingness to contribute.
251. The TF agreed with the proposal for a side meeting on compilation guidance and technical assistance at the next UNSC.

Agenda item:	Date and Location of the next Task Force meeting

Presentation:

252. The Chair noted that there was a proposal from OECD to hold the next meeting back to back with the next Working Party on Trade in goods and Services which would take place from the 24th to the 26th of March 2014.
253. The possibility of merging the Merchandise and Services Task Forces was discussed. UNSD commented that a process was needed to change the governance structure and merge the two Task Forces. To start the process the TF will need to work out a proposal. The TF agreed this was a sensible way forward.

Conclusions:

254. The Task Force agreed to hold its next meeting at the OECD on the 27th-28th of March at OECD. It was suggested to merge the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and the Task Force on Statistics of Merchandise Trade Statistics.