

Report of the meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS)
27-28th March 2014, OECD, Paris

Agenda item: 1		Welcome and opening	
Presentation:			
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The OECD Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. 2. A tour de table was held to facilitate the introduction of the new participant (Hidetoshi Takeda, Bank of Japan) to the rest of the TF members. 	
Agenda item: 2		Adoption of the agenda	
Presentation:			
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 report of the last TF meeting in Paris, 16th to 18th of October 2013	
Presentation:			
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The report was approved without changes. 	
Agenda item: 4		Report of the Friends of Chair and SC2014	Presenter: UNSD
Presentation:			
		The UNSD representative presented the discussions of the latest UN Statistical Commission meeting and the work of the Friends of the Chair Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization.	
Conclusions:			
		The TF takes note of the report.	
Agenda item: 5		Merging the TFIMTS and the TFSITS	Presenters OECD, WTO
Presentation:			
		OECD presented on behalf of OECD, WTO and UNSD a proposal to merge the TFIMTS and the TFSITS into a single TFITS (Inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics).	

Conclusions:			
The TFIMTS and TFSITS agreed to propose the merging of the TF and agreed on a joint TOR, which equaled the proposed draft TOR with the change in item 1 regarding the reference to tourism statistics. It was agreed that WTO and OECD would prepare a letter to the CCSA to request their advice on the procedure of asking approval for this merger from UNSC through its Bureau. The TF will be kept informed about progress.			
Action items		Person	Deadline
✓ OECD & WTO to prepare a letter to the CCSA		WTO	22 Oct 2014
Agenda item: 6 Statistical capacity-building		Presenter	WTO
Presentation:			
WTO gave an update on coordination of trade in services statistics capacity building and technical assistance, including an overview of the past, recent and foreseen national and regional activities conducted by task force members, a list of consultants and experts available for capacity building and technical assistance, and a list of financing agencies.			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
✓ WTO to incorporate comments from the TF		WTO	Next TF
Agenda item: 7 Progress report Partnership Task Group on Measuring Trade in ICT Services and ICT-enabled Services (TGServ)		Presenter	UNCTAD
Presentation:			
An update of the work of the TGServ on Measuring Trade in ICT Services and ICT-enabled Services was presented.			
Conclusions:			
The TF took note of the work of the TGServ on Measuring Trade in ICT Services and ICT-enabled Services, and looks forward to the revised version of the TGServ report.			
Agenda item: 8 Progress report on R&D Internationalisation		Presenter	OECD
Presentation:			
An update on the work on the revision of the OECD Frascati Manual was presented.			
Conclusions:			
The TF took note of the report.			

Agenda item: 9	Common conversion algorithm from EBOPS 2002-EBOPS 2010: progress made	Presenter	WTO
Presentation:			
WTO presented the report on the progress with respect to a common conversion algorithm from EBOPS 2002 to EBOPS 2010.			
Conclusions:			
The TF will continue to work on producing a shared conversion table from EBOPS 2002 to EBOPS 2010 and vice versa.			
Agenda item: 10	Methodological soundness questionnaire, follow up	Presenter	Eurostat/OECD; WTO
Presentation:			
Eurostat and OECD present their work on the joint collection of metadata in the area of trade in services, focusing on the changes made by countries in the metadata compared to previous years.			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
✓ The current draft metadata questionnaire should be revised to fit the IMF web-based structure		OECD	Next TF
Agenda item: 11	Review of the chapters of the compiler's Guide		
Presentation:			
The UNSD representative introduced the item, explaining that before its presentation to the UNSC, the Compilers Guide had been reviewed by UN staff and more specifically the chapters 5 and 14. Remained to be done was to :			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give more compilation guidance on the most difficult issues, • Harmonies the structure of the chapters and streamline the country examples, • Clarify what will be available in the Guide and what will be available on the website. 			

Conclusions:		
<p>The Chair summarized the discussion saying the revised Chapters should be loaded on the EDG as soon as they are ready so the whole Expert Group could comment on them. The IOs in charge of the different chapters should follow the proposed structure. Any missing text should be flagged and provided by members of the Expert Group. Each Organisation should also prepare a schedule to release the different chapters to the EDG. The Expert group should then be informed when they are ready and would have two weeks to comment. Regarding the “recommended practices”, the cost and benefice of the different approaches should be highlighted drawing on the work already done for chapter 11. It was clear that there was a lot of work ahead of the group and that the members of the Expert Group would need to be consulted until end of July when this process would end. UNSD would provide central coordination to ensure that the restructuring is done in a consistent manner.</p>		
Agenda item: 11.1	<p>BOP division of the Bundesbank and the University of Mainz Project about trade in services by modes of supply.</p>	<p>Bundesbank</p>
Presentation:		
<p>The Bundesbank representative described a project involving University students and aiming at better capturing trade in services by mode in the case of Germany.</p>		
Agenda item: 12	<p>Revision of concordance annexes to the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services</p>	
Presentation:		
<p>EBOPS 2010-CPC rev.2</p> <p>The UNSD representative explained the Expert Group on classifications was now already looking into the CPC rev 2.1 and was not sure of the implications for the EBOPS-CPC correspondence which is prepared by the TF.</p> <p>The Chair concluded this item would be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>EBOPS 2010-ICFA rev1</p> <p>OECD reported some correspondence had been added to the draft for FISIM, using the same IMF source as for the EBOPS 2010-CPC rev2 correspondence. Also some work had been done on the complementary groupings but again, this work on the EBOPS-ICFA cannot progress until the EBOPS2010-CPC2.0 correspondence is finalized.</p>		

EBOPS 2010-W120

On this front also the finalization of the EBOPS 2010-CPC rev.2 correspondence is a precondition to any further work on this correspondence.

BEC

The UNSD presented the status of the work related to the Broad Economic Category classification which has received more attention given the interest for Global Value Chains. The revision 5 of the classification is under preparation and includes an extension of the classification to services, a distinction between customized and generic intermediate services. A draft has been provided to the technical group and some more general questions will go for a global consultation.

Agenda item: 13 Promoting trade statistics and organising TF work.

WTO, UNSD.

Presentation:

UNSD noted the idea would be to merge the existing TF websites maintained by UNSD, given the merging of the TF. The UN website was presented and in particular some data visualization tools.

Conclusions:

The Chair noted all Organizations should suggest content for the website.

Agenda item: 14 Any other business

UNSD

Presentation:

The UN flagged Big Data was now part of the official work program of the United Nations Statistical Commission. He gave a list of upcoming events and informed the group that on the following week there would be a Eurostat meeting on Big Data in Rome that he would attend.

The UNSD also reminded the group that an event with WCO on merchandise trade was planned in 2015. The impact of digitalization on Customs information would be one of the topic to be discussed but the agenda still had to be decided.

Agenda item: 15 Date and location of the next meeting

Presentation:

The Chair explained the next meeting would be the first official joint meeting of the TF. AS a consequence, WTO had proposed to hold the meeting in Geneva to facilitate WTO chairing. October would be the target date. The exact dates would be communicated after the TF meeting.

The meeting was closed; the WTO thanked the Chair for the effective chairing.