

**Report of the
Second Virtual Meeting on the Worldwide Consultation and
First Draft Chapters of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010**

United Nations, New York

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Second Virtual Meeting on the Worldwide Consultation and First Draft Chapters of the MSITS 2010 Compilers Guide

Introduction

1. At its March 2011 meeting, the Task Force on SITS decided to produce a guide for compilers covering the full scope of the MSITS 2010, which would be developed in parallel and in consultation with the compilation guidance for the balance of payments services statistics. The compilers guide should help countries in developing a high quality and effective data collection, processing and dissemination system which complies with the recommendations of MSITS 2010. It should be useful for both developed and developing countries and should reflect practices for all regions in the world.
2. An Expert Group on compilation of SITS was created by December 2011 to support the development of the compilers guide. It electronically discussed the annotated outline of the compilers guide during its first meeting in March 2012, including the main components of statistical infrastructure, data collection, data processing, quality assurance, and data dissemination. The outcome led to an updated annotated outline with the following structure.

Part I General Frameworks (Conceptual, Legal and Institutional Frameworks)

Part II Data Collection: Overview of data sources

- (a) Registers and survey frames
- (b) Enterprise and establishment surveys
- (c) Surveys of persons and households
- (d) International Transaction Reporting System
- (e) Administrative records
- (f) Other Data Sources

Part III Data Compilation:

- (a) Integration of data from different sources
- (b) Compilation of resident/non-resident trade in services statistics
- (c) Compilation of FATS and the international supply of services
- (d) Compilation of other indicators for modes of supply
- (e) Estimation and modeling of missing data, forecasting or back-casting

Part IV Data Dissemination

Part V Cross-Cutting issues

- (a) Quality management
- (b) Metadata
- (c) Use of Information and Communication Technology

3. The revised annotated outline was thereafter circulated for worldwide consultation in July 2012 and some first draft chapters were prepared as well. The responses received from the worldwide consultation did not call for a substantial restructuring of the guide, but did elicit a lot of good suggestions.

These suggestions were discussed by the Expert Group at its 2nd virtual meeting in the first 2 weeks of October 2012. Besides discussing the outcome of the worldwide consultation, the experts during the 2nd meeting also commented on draft chapters regarding (1) Institutional arrangements (Chapter 3), (2) ITRS (Chapter 8) and (3) the compilation of FATS (Chapter 15).

Summary of discussions of the Second meeting of the Expert Group

4. In total, 85 posts were submitted to the discussion forum during the second virtual meeting. The distribution of posts by topic is given in the table below. The data collection and data compilation generated most discussion.

Discussion Forum Topic	Number of Posts
Overview and Part I: General Frameworks	17
Part II: Data Collection	20
Part III: Data Compilation	25
Part IV: Data Dissemination	13
Part V: Cross-Cutting Issues and Annexes	10
Total	85

Summary of discussions of the Special Session of the Task Force SITS

5. The Task Force made decisions regarding the issues and questions that were raised in the second virtual meeting. The Task Force also agreed upon a general distribution of work on the various chapters of the guide and decided that the four international organizations will coordinate the drafting and editing process of selected chapters and countries will contribute the text. The Task Force also made further comments and suggestions on the draft chapters submitted, including (1) Institutional arrangements (Chapter 3), (2) ITRS (Chapter 8) and (3) the compilation of FATS (Chapter 15).