

Special Session of the Task Force on SITS 28 – 30 March, 2012, New York

Summary of the meeting

The Special Session of the Task Force meeting from 28 to 30 March 2012 was organized to discuss in-depth the annotated outline of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010. Input to this outline came from an earlier version which was presented at the Task Force meeting in November 2011 and from the first virtual meeting of the UN Expert Group on the compilation of SITS which was held between 12 and 25 March.

Some of the points made during the discussion were:

- ✚ Modes of supply should be presented as the overarching frame for SITS containing both statistics of resident-nonresident transactions in services and foreign affiliates statistics;
- ✚ Focus of the Compilers Guide should be on the main issues – minor issues could be moved to an annex or to the website;
- ✚ Include common pitfalls as well as good practices;
- ✚ Technical aspects should also be treated when discussing data collection;
- ✚ Business registers should be discussed in the part on data collection;
- ✚ SITS should be put in perspective in a separate Introduction, and a Preface should also be added;
- ✚ Classifications were treated sufficiently clear in the Manual and can be moved to an annex;
- ✚ Database management and IT issues should be treated in a separate chapter;
- ✚ The Compilation Guide for BPM6 will be referenced where appropriate and the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 will focus more on issues not treated in the compilation guide for BPM6.
- ✚ Data quality assurance should be treated in a separate chapter;
- ✚ Metadata should be treated separately from data dissemination and have a separate chapter;

Outcome of the meeting

It was agreed at the meeting that the Compilers Guide would have a Preface, an Introduction and five main Parts, namely

Part I	General Frameworks
Part II	Data Collection
Part III	Data Compilation
Part IV	Data Dissemination
Part V	Cross-cutting issues

Some specifics on Parts I, II and III were:

Part I - General Frameworks

- Order of chapters on Legal framework and Institutional framework

Part II - Data collection

- Discuss the difficulties to obtain data on imports
- Discuss the issues of mirror statistics
- Provide model questionnaires
- Provide country experience
- Discuss direct and indirect data reporting

Part III - Data compilation

- It should provide general description of the practices and also include country practices
- The content should be readily 'applicable' for compilers

Process to develop the Compilers Guide

1. Report of the Special Session and updated outline will be to the Task Force on SITS
2. Report of the first virtual meeting and updated outline will be sent to the UN Expert Group on the compilation of SITS
3. World-wide consultation on the annotated outline is scheduled for the end of April
4. First chapters to be ready for review in the second virtual meeting of the Expert Group in October 2012
5. Task Force meeting to discuss progress in October 2012
6. Second set of chapters to be reviewed in the third virtual meeting of the Expert Group in February 2013
7. Face-to-Face UN Expert Group meeting in Geneva in June 2013 to discuss the full first draft of the Compilers Guide