

**Report of the First Virtual Meeting of the Expert Group on the  
Annotated Outline of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010**

**United Nations, New York**

**2012**

# First Virtual Meeting on the Annotated Outline of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010

## 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.
3. In total, 129 posts were submitted to the discussion forum during the first virtual meeting. The distribution of posts by topic is given in the table below. The scope and structure of the Compilers Guide and data collection topics generated the most discussion.

Discussion Forum Topic	Number of Posts
Scope and Structure of the Compilers Guide	33
Statistical Infrastructure	17
Data Collection	32
Data Compilation	24
Quality Assurance and Metadata	8
Data Dissemination and Trade Indicators	11
External Trade Indices and Seasonally Adjusted Data	4

4. The outcome of the first virtual meeting 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

5. This annotated outline will be circulated for worldwide consultation in July-August 2012.