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**STATISTICS DIRECTORATE
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Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics

SUMMARY RECORD

24-26 March 2015, OECD Headquarters, Paris

This document presents the draft summary record of the 7th meeting of the Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics (WPTGS).

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MINUTES OF THE WORKING PARTY ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES STATISTICS

24TH – 26TH MARCH 2015

1. Welcome and opening remarks

1. François Mouriaux, Banque de France and Chair of the WPTGS 2015, opened the meeting and handed the floor to Martine Durand, Chief Statistician of the OECD.

2. Martine Durand welcomed the delegates, emphasising that the meeting of the Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services (WPTGS) in 2015 took place against a backdrop of uncertainties with respect to developments in international trade. She noted while there are signs that economic growth has begun to pick up in many OECD economies in the aftermath of the Crisis, trade growth remains flat raising questions about the capacity of GVCs to continue being the drivers of growth that they have been in recent decades, and whether the slowdown is structural or pro-cyclical. Ms Durand highlighted that trade statisticians – and hence the WPTGS – play a vital role in helping to answer these questions, in particular through the provision of new data and indicators that recognise the increasing interdependencies generated by global production, and highlighted the importance in this respect of linked trade and business statistics, in particular for TiVA.

3. Mrs Durand then updated the group on the recommendations of the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP), the parent committee to the WPTGS. These include more policy oriented work, a focus on global issues and a reinforced participation to the G20 discussions. The mandate of the WPTGS will therefore be reviewed by the Bureau along these lines also taking into account the OECD leading role in the context of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and the results of the WPTGS 2014 Informal Reflexion Group (IRG) discussions. She concluded her speech congratulating the delegates for their achievements so far and encouraged them to continue with their excellent work.

2. Reports from other OECD bodies

2.1 *Working Party on Industry Analysis (CIIE), Mariagrazia Squicciarini, OECD*

4. Mariagrazia Squicciarini introduced the activities of the Working Party on Industry analysis. She highlighted the importance of the new Inter Country Input Output Table and the TiVA database, and gave an overview of work with respect to Knowledge-Based Capital (KBC) and on Global Value Chains, jobs and skills.

2.2 Working Group on International Investment Statistics, Maria Borga, OECD

5. Maria Borga presented the activities of the Working Group on International Investment Statistics. She noted that most OECD countries have reported FDI statistics according to the latest definition (BMD4). WGIIS current and future activities include the harmonization of FDI and AMNE/FATS statistics, practical issues with BMD4 implementation, the use of the BMD4 new series, metadata collection, and the integration of FDI statistics into TiVA.

2.3 Working Party on National Accounts, Jennifer Ribarsky, OECD

6. Jennifer Ribarsky presented the main points discussed during the WPNA 2014 which included the Implementation of the 2008 SNA, the compilation of quarterly institutional sector accounts, panel discussions on distribution of wealth, volume and price measurement, the measurement of non-financial assets, the analysis of revisions to GDP, quality issues and global production.

3. Methodological issues in Trade in Goods and Services statistics

3.1 Results from the WPTGS stocktaking questionnaire (I): Bettina Wistrom, OECD

7. Bettina Wistrom gave an overview of the results of the stocktaking questionnaire sent out in preparation for the WPTGS 2015 meeting that aimed to provide a view of the current country activities and plans regarding new areas of work identified at the WPTGS 2014 meeting.

3.2 Results from Informal Reflection Group 1 on merchanting and goods for processing, Fabienne Fortanier and Bettina Wistrom, OECD

8. Fabienne Fortanier provided an overview of progress on Informal Reflection Group 1 (IRG1); tasked with identifying best practice and improvements in the measurement of merchanting and goods for processing/manufacturing services statistics, and implications for merchandise trade statistics and services trade statistics. The IRG developed a number of proposals, including: increased exchange of experiences with respect to the treatment of NoT/CPC codes; and the formulation of relevant survey questions and respondent instructions. The IRG emphasised a need for clarifying international standards and also recommended that further work to consider concrete cases would be useful.

3.3 Processing and merchanting – consistency check across statistical domains: Danish experiences, Casper Winther, Statistics Denmark

9. Casper Winther explained how Statistics Denmark has analysed the consistency of merchanting and goods for processing across statistical domains, including merchandise trade statistics, trade in services (BOP) statistics (using the new ITSS surveys), and business statistics. He explained that the largest inconsistencies observed are investigated on a case-by-case basis, if possible in collaboration with reporting enterprises. Looking ahead, he noted that consistency at the point of data entry, contacts with respondents and a 'large cases' unit would be helpful to integrate these checks in the regular statistical production process.

10. The Chair opened the floor for discussion on both items 3.2 and 3.10. The Canadian representative confirmed that sharing survey material would be very useful, and was interested in obtaining any additional material from Denmark regarding the instructions for respondents and in particular on how the surveys were adapted to the terminology used in enterprises.

11. The German, US and UK delegates also underlined the importance of sharing surveys and compilation instructions, and also information on additional sources that may be in use in some countries.

12. France explained that significant efforts have been made to measure merchanting and processing activities. They noted that large enterprises had difficulties responding to the survey, and that shared experiences on this front could help generate improvements, but they also noted that these difficulties could be mitigated through regular dialogue with respondents.

13. Spain described their approach for measuring processing. First, large reporters are identified in cooperation with the Spanish Custom Authorities, using Nature of Transaction codes to identify processing firms. Information on the statistical values of the goods after and before processing is also received for all these traders. A sample of firms is selected that accounts for 80% of processing trade, and these firms receive the ITSS survey with specific instructions regarding manufacturing services.

14. A similar approach is used for merchanting. This item remains in the ITS survey reflecting the difficulties involved in capturing merchanting operations that do not cross the borders of the merchant using other data sources. For Spain this is a practical approach as e merchanting is highly concentrated in a few big traders. It was recognised however that operations that combined aspects of manufacturing services and merchanting were more complicated.

15. IMF confirmed that feedback from countries on standards and terminology is very important, noting there is still some room for bringing in greater clarification, possibly through the live MSITS compiler's guide. In addition they noted plans to extend the BPM6 textbook with further specific examples, and invited countries to contribute national experiences.

16. The Irish delegate noted that their BOP survey includes a question on merchanting, but that they would like more information on the related gross purchases and sales of goods. They also noted that the survey does not include a question on manufacturing services, which are instead estimated by linking trade and SBS data and other statistics. Currently 70 companies performing manufacturing services have been identified, accounting for a substantial share of value added. One way that contract manufacturers have been identified in Ireland is to look for enterprises with low levels of intermediate service and merchandise imports but with significant merchandise exports and low profits.

17. The Danish delegate confirmed that businesses did struggle to understand the terminology used in surveys and that work was planned to refine these using more commonly understood business accounting terminology.

18. Fabienne Fortanier stressed the challenges involved in datalinking but also the benefits particularly concerning overall data quality and coherence. She also noted that the discussion gave clear directions for future work of the Informal Reflection Group.

19. The Chair highlighted the key points of confrontation of data sources, linking of data and case-studies.

3.4 *Results from Informal Reflection Group 2 on contacts with respondents to trade surveys, François Mouriaux, BdF and WPTGS Chair.*

20. François Mouriaux provided background and context for the Informal Reflection Group 2, in particular to improve responses to trade surveys without increasing respondent burden. He also noted the role that could be played by international organisations in assisting the development of best practice. Fabienne Fortanier invited countries to share their experiences.

21. The German delegate explained that responses varied by enterprise size, with SMEs in particular having difficulties in responding. He highlighted the role played by the Bundesbank in building relationships with respondents to help them understand what is needed and why and stressed that international Organisations could also help by highlighting the importance of the data.

22. The delegate from Costa Rica agreed that there are some difficulties, especially with SMEs. Their solution was to visit the enterprises and in some cases they found the companies were already reporting the data to other agencies. Therefore sometimes inter institutional agreements were set up to share the collected data, thus reducing reporter burdens.

3.5 *Adjustments to bring the cross border principle in line with the change of ownership concept in NA and BOP, Jens Walter, Deutsche Bundesbank*

23. Jens Walter explained that important methodological differences exist between trade according to the cross border principle and on the change of ownership principle, and described the adjustments made in Germany. He indicated that these adjustments were likely to vary across countries and welcomed assistance in setting up international best practice.

24. The delegate from the USA highlighted that both types of statistics (cross border and change of ownership) are useful for different purposes.

25. The Danish delegate confirmed that it is difficult to explain the differences in goods concepts to users. In Denmark, this is dealt with via an integrated publication which shows the differences and communicates them to the users. He added that goods for construction need to be considered too.

26. The UN representative explained that IMTS 2010 had been revised in 2013 and that the cross border principle rather than the change of ownership principle was retained partly because compilers responded (to a questionnaire) that it was not possible to identify the latter.

27. The IMF delegate noted that there has been quite a lot of work put into changing the concepts with the revision of the different standards and that the current (BPM6) concepts should not be changed.

28. Nadim Ahmad emphasized that in trying to better measure globalization, it is important not to drop the current methods, but to explain to users how we move from one concept to another. On the point about the CIF/FOB adjustment and using invoice values, he advised caution to avoid introducing new

inconsistencies, as transportation costs may or may not be included in the invoice values. He flagged that having information on how countries move from CIF to FOB is important in improving our understanding of asymmetries and improving our estimates of TiVA. He asked how Germany obtained their domestic transport figure.

29. Jens Walter indicated that domestic transport figures were estimates, and flagged that the conceptual inconsistencies in IMTS and in BOP may be an item for the future research agenda now that BPM6 has been implemented

30. The Chair concluded that there is a need for increased transparency with respect to the adjustments that are made to data when moving from the cross-border to the economic ownership principle, and noted that for analytical purposes, both statistics are important.

3.6 *Implementing BPM6 in New Zealand, Nicola Growden, Statistics New Zealand*

31. Nicola Growden presented New Zealand's experience in implementing BPM6, highlighting the spillovers from the project and lessons learned. The discussion subsequently focused on communication strategies. Nicola Growden explained that Statistics New Zealand had held seminars with users and produced a series of papers to explain what changes were being made, why, and their impact. The Danish delegate noted a similar communications strategy, and user satisfaction survey in Denmark.

32. The Chair summarized that the change to BPM6 was a significant experience for all of the WPTGS participants, and highlighted that further exchange of experience regarding the construction of long time series (e.g. by New Zealand) would be useful.

3.7 *Feedback from Informal Reflection Group 3 on more detailed services trade, Bettina Wistrom and Fabienne Fortanier, OECD*

33. Bettina Wistrom presented the results of the Informal Reflection Group 3 on the possibilities for providing more detailed geographical information for services trade without increasing the burden on reporters. She reminded the group of the MSITS recommendations in this area and noted that many countries already comply with these. She explained that further improvements will be country specific and depend on resources and national priorities as well as the level of current compliance. Various possibilities were discussed including more detailed annual partner data, alternative attributions of Modes of Supply and trade in services among related parties and for dealing with confidentiality (and/or quality) constraints.

34. The delegate from Australia noted, regarding confidential data, that they are bound by legislation which would be breached by providing confidential data to OECD. She also commented that Australia is very interested in experiences with affiliated/unaffiliated trade.

35. The US delegate commented that they are currently looking at providing more partners for total services, and noted to have used mirror data as an alternative source and to validate accounts. The US is happy to follow up with Australia regarding measuring affiliated/unaffiliated trade as the US presented their experience at the 2014 WPTGS. The US shares concerns related to confidentiality, although adding noise to the data (to produce synthetic anonymised datasets) could be an option to explore.

36. The representative from WTO remarked that the more detailed information is often strongly needed by trade negotiators.

37. The German delegate commented that many countries are still in the process of changing to BPM6, meaning that producing additional detail has not yet been high on the agenda. Producing however e.g. data by mode of supply using a simplified approach should not be too time consuming. He also agreed with Australia's point on confidential data.

38. The Chair commented that the work of the IRG provided an impressive roadmap for what we should work towards, and noted follow ups from this presentation. He also raised the issue of confidential data, explaining that notwithstanding confidentiality issues it would be instructive to explore possible mechanisms that satisfied legal constraints. He explained that at BIS a lot of work has been done on data-sharing in the area of the financial sector. He noted that G20 countries had also looked at how to share confidential data and mentioned a report presenting experiences of data sharing between institutions and across borders which can be shared with everyone. He suggested that countries brainstorm on these issues, including what can be requested by OECD given the OECD legal framework.

3.8 Modes of supply in the Canadian international accounts: Leveraging an administrative data source to estimate Mode 4, Denis Caron, Statistics Canada

39. Denis Caron presented Canada's experience in using administrative data to estimate mode 4 and provided an update on various projects related to measuring mode 3, including an expansion of the outward FATS /FDI survey and work based on record linkages, with the aim of providing ongoing annual estimates for both inward and outward FATS that are consistent with trade in goods and services and TEC statistics.

40. The Chair commented that this raised new questions and new challenges. He noted that using administrative data to estimate mode 4 is very interesting and that expanding FATS is profitable because it improves mode 3 which is also useful for TEC. He pointed out that if we think about priorities this work would have positive spill overs.

41. The German delegate asked whether there was a legal basis for obtaining the administrative data or some sort of agreement on cooperation

42. Denis Caron responded that there are rules on this and a specific area of Statistics Canada deals with tax data. While his team does not have free access, they can get some information. He added that there is one source that they would be interested in using but they are not able to get details of the entity that made the payment in the data and this needs to be negotiated. He also noted that another department has information on work permits and foreign services providers but it is complicated to get access to this as they have to explain why they need it and how it will be used.

43. The WTO representative noted that this is an excellent example of building synergies using administrative data. He also wondered whether this was a long term project to develop a regular program.

3.9 *Taking asset management costs out of income (BPM6 item 10.124), Kim Janssens, National Bank of Belgium*

44. Kim Janssens presented the Belgian experience with respect to asset management costs taken out of income. The work was motivated by the observation of persistent asymmetries between Belgium and Luxembourg in financial services. It was discovered that the main cause lay with asset management costs taken out of income, which were compiled using BPM5 in Belgium and BPM6 in Luxembourg. The asymmetries were tackled at the time of BPM6 implementation, and resulted in an 80% reduction of asymmetries

45. The delegate from Germany congratulated the Belgian colleagues on their success in reducing asymmetries in financial services, but wondered if new asymmetries were introduced in income flows (which was not the case).

3.10 *Measuring Trade in Services in Chile, Maria Isabel Mendez, Banco Central de Chile*

46. Maria Isabel Mendez presented the way in which trade in services statistics are currently collected and compiled by the Central Bank of Chile. She explained the framework of the collection, the main sources and compilation methods and gave details of the publication and revisions. She also noted the future challenges and gave the main results for 2012 to 2014.

47. The Chair summarised agenda item 3, noting the key outcomes including the very interesting output from the stock taking questionnaires and the Informal Reflection Groups. He also underlined two key families of challenges. On the data side, he noted the challenges related to CIF/FOB adjustments, modes of supply and bilateral data. On the side of statistical processes he highlighted the need for exercises on consistencies between datasets, on asymmetries and on questionnaire design.

4. *Linking trade and business statistics*

48. The Chair explained that the objectives of the session are to highlight countries' progress in data linking and in the analysis of trade by characteristics of trading enterprises. The Chair also announced that the OECD Secretariat aims to propose an experimental data collection to increase the analytical potential of the linked data.

4.1 *Results from the WPTGS stocktaking questionnaire: focus on linking trade and business statistics Bettina Wistrom, OECD.*

49. Bettina Wistrom summarized the results of the Working Party Questionnaire on "Linking Trade and Business statistics". Ms. Wistrom explained that further work on the linking of trade and business data is motivated by increased requests for new data and indicators by researchers and policy makers regarding the types of enterprises engaged in international activities, and the consequences of globalization. The responses to the questionnaire highlighted that many countries have achieved progress in the production of linked trade and business data over the last years. Persisting challenges for several countries are: 1) the production of data with an ownership breakdown (foreign-domestic control); 2) the linkage with Structural business statistics (only 7 countries already undertook the linkage); 3) the specific treatment of wholesale

trade and its possible reallocation to producing and consuming units; 4) the compilation of trade in service data by enterprise characteristics, still in an experimental phase in most countries.

50. UNSD welcomed the progress achieved in this area, emphasizing the importance of this work for developing countries, where the analysis of trade data is still disconnected from the analysis of the trading enterprises. UNSD is planning to conduct a global survey on linking trade and business statistics, which should cover not only technical data linking issues but also discuss best ways to solve institutional issues such as access to microdata.

4.2 Trade by Enterprise Characteristics development: Laying the groundwork for Two-way traders, STEC and Affiliated Trade, Diana Wyman, Statistics Canada

51. Diana Wyman presented an overview of the process followed by Statistics Canada to produce and improve the quality of Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) data. Ms. Wyman explained how the production of TEC in Canada had to face many challenges, some technical in nature and some conceptual. The collaboration between Canada and U.S. was instrumental to the development of TEC. The two countries agreed to share import transaction data: under the agreement, Statistics Canada receive information on Canadian exporters from import transaction records in the U.S. For export transactions outside the U.S., the linking of trade transactions with business record is done through a probabilistic matching algorithm (using information on the name of the business, address and postal code). The results of the algorithm are checked and improved through two review stages: these reviews are very time consuming processes, but are very useful because they increase knowledge of trading businesses within Statistics Canada.

52. Another salient feature of the data produced by Statistics Canada regards the treatment of enterprise groups. Ms. Wyman explained that enterprises belonging to the same groups are aggregated for data compilation. This choice allows to distinguish ‘real’ SMEs from enterprises under the SMEs’ employment threshold that belong to a larger group. The dissemination at the enterprise group level also reduces volatility of the estimates in time series. The micro-data made available to researchers, as well as the preservation of intermediate outputs of the data production process, provide great flexibility in choosing the level of analysis (enterprises or enterprise groups). The work on the identification of affiliated trade is still at early stages, and is made complicated by the absence of information on ownership in the business register.

53. After the presentation, Australia asked whether Statistics Canada encountered difficulties in explaining to respondents and users the ‘final enterprise’ (enterprise group) concept. Ms. Wyman answered that they are running a series of workshops with stakeholders and producing an extensive documentation. The delegate from France explained that they are making similar efforts to identify enterprises belonging to a group. The Secretariat highlighted the importance of keeping a dual layer for dissemination, i.e. disseminate data and metadata both at the enterprise and at the enterprise group level.

4.3 Toward the development of Japan’s TEC and TEC-plus, Satoru Hagino, ESRI, Japan

54. Mr. Hagino presented new research aimed at producing TEC data for Japan. His research tries to answer two questions: 1) do TEC-type data provide a new and different perspective on Japan’s trade? 2) What is the best approach to document firm-heterogeneity in Japan’s trade? The study uses firm-level data

from the Basic Survey. Japan's export structure is similar to other countries for what concerns the importance of firm size: large firms account for the majority of exports. However, in Japan, exports from MNEs are not as important as in other countries. A relevant value-added of the research is the ability to incorporate information on output of trading firms. Heterogeneity is made evident by the clear differences between exporting firms and non-exporting firms: the ratio of intermediate imports to output is 10% higher for exporters than non-exporters. Import ratios are also much higher for MNEs. Mr. Hagino concluded by explaining that further efforts will be made to access and treat custom data, and that more collaboration with the TiVA team at the OECD will be sought to use this information within the context of extended supply and use tables.

55. The Chair noted that the presentation is an important illustration of how it is possible to move from TEC to TiVA. The IMF asked whether the data allow distinguishing intermediate and final imports. Mr. Hagino answered that this distinction is very difficult with survey data.

4.4 *The importance of large enterprises in the Mexican manufacturing exports, Gerardo Durand, INEGI Mexico*

56. Mr. Durand presented the Mexican experience with linking of trade and business registers, which was started to respond to a request of the Minister of Economy. The development of TEC data in Mexico is complicated by the absence of a business register. INEGI thus had to use other sources such as the Economic Census and the yearly business surveys. These data are however based on establishments, while the relevant unit for trade records is the enterprise. A first substantial piece of work was thus the consolidation of establishment level data into enterprises, based on information on value added tax code and name of the firm. Outward oriented enterprises are identified as those enterprises that have any matched transaction in the trade records and that have any foreign purchase under the IMMEX program. Eighty percent of the enterprises in Mexico are outward oriented, and employ 3 millions of workers. Largest firms (250 employees or more) dominate foreign trade in Mexico, being responsible for 85% of exports. Large enterprises distinguish themselves also for their import intensity, for the composition of their partners and for the higher wages they pay to their employees.

57. Mr. Durand also explained various projects that were in progress at INEGI, such as the inclusion of other economic sectors beyond manufacturing, the analysis of the value chains linking U.S and Mexico and the establishment of a microdata lab. IMF asked whether INEGI is able to treat separately trade for processing. Mr. Alcantara said that this was possible under the Maquiladora program, but now they no longer have the information.

4.5 *Monitoring internationalization using linked trade and business statistics, Marjolijn Jaarsma, Statistics Netherlands*

58. Marjolijn Jaarsma presented the experience of Statistics Netherlands in building TEC and also in producing some innovative analysis with TEC data. The process started in 2009 and faced some difficulties in the beginning as a large number of traders could not be matched to the business register. The matching algorithm was improved over the years, even if a significant number of traders are still not identified. The majority of these unidentified traders are foreign enterprises that do not have an establishment in the Netherlands; it is questionable if trade by these enterprises should be considered Dutch trade.

59. Ms. Jaarsma presented relevant statistics on MNEs obtained through a linkage with employment data. MNEs are more likely to employ males and have a younger workforce. In MNEs there are more people with high paid jobs: however, within MNEs, there are no significant wage differences between Dutch multinational and foreign-owned multinationals. Ms. Jaarsma also summarized her own research on the data, showing that importing intermediate goods is positively related to productivity. The derivation of information on output has been challenging, as short term business statistics are not really designed to produce turnover disaggregation with a breakdown by trading status. The production of linked trade in service data is also complicated given the small sample of the survey used for trade in service statistics. Other challenges relate to the timeliness of the data and the link with TiVA.

60. The UK asked whether the male employee dominance in MNEs was not due to the importance of the oil sector in Dutch MNE exports. France stressed the importance of distinguishing national-owned multinationals and foreign-owned multinationals for analytical work. Canada commented that they have a similar issue of unmatched trade due to non-resident exporters.

4.6 *Linking Trade in Services with enterprise characteristics – the Austrian experience, Patricia Walter, Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

61. Patricia Walter presented Austria's work compiling linked trade in service data (STEC). She explained that a satisfactory matching rate for trade in services could be reached, even if not all services categories can be linked to enterprises. The database she produced has a longitudinal structure, and she has started to use it for analysis of entry-exit into trade in service exports. Ms. Walter presented interesting statistics on the breakdown of trade in services by origin industry, showing, for example, that the Research and Development industry is doing half of the exports, and that more of half these R&D exporting companies are foreign-owned. The very big companies in general make up for the most of exports.

62. Italy asked whether the cut-off sample design could bias the analysis. Ms. Walter answered that she does not think that the use of sample survey is a significant source of bias. At the request of the French Delegate, Ms. Walter clarified that all the statistics refer to enterprises, and not to enterprise groups. She concluded re-affirming that STEC are experimental statistics, and that they have high value because they fill an important information gap.

4.7 *Eurostat update of ongoing work related to (linked) trade and business statistics, Axel Behrens and Sophie Limpach, Eurostat*

63. Axel Behrens and Sophie Limpach presented the current work and early results on International trade in services survey, modes of supply, micro data linking, Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) and Service Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC).

64. The German delegate asked what the plans were for building international trade in services by modes of supply, noting that for instance Spain had already produced some figures and Germany some estimates which would have to be combined with the Eurostat estimates. He also noted that in the case of Germany, trade in services is produced by the Central Bank which has no access to the business register and is consequently not in a position to provide data at least for the next two years.

65. France, also on STEC, noted that trade in services data are often based on samples which raises the question of how to match the sample with the population, especially as the trade data are not sampled by firm size; at least it is the case for Spain, France and Italy.

66. The Mexican delegate asked if Eurostat applied a second layer of confidentiality to the confidentiality defined by the countries. Regarding confidentiality, Canada flagged their rules are set on the values and not on the accounts.

67. The Eurostat representatives responded that regarding modes of supply, they would summarize what was already available and hire a contract researcher to make a subsequent proposal. Regarding confidentiality, countries define confidentiality before data are transferred to Eurostat, no additional confidentiality is applied. If some cells are confidential then the EU aggregate is not available. Eurostat is working towards a solution to release EU aggregates without revealing confidential data.

4.8 *Linking trade and business statistics: OECD activities on TEC and proposal for future work, Fabienne Fortanier, OECD*

68. Fabienne Fortanier, reflecting on the continued progress made in many countries as well as the strong policy demand for indicators derived from linked trade and business statistics, introduced a set of four tables describing three structural business statistics variables broken down by firm characteristics. She explained that the proposed indicators are selected to have an immediate use for the OECD-WTO TiVA initiative, as they would allow to better account for firm heterogeneity in global value chains. In addition, the proposed collection is generic enough to support a large range of additional analytical needs. She requested feedback from the Working Party on the feasibility of compiling such data.

69. The delegate from the Netherlands acknowledged that it is an important step to address the policy questions as presented by the OECD and welcomed and supported the proposal.

70. France (INSEE) emphasised building those tables means a lot of work and checking. As for intermediates, he said it is difficult to identify how products are used. He suggested France will follow up with bilateral discussions.

71. Mexico underlined the challenge for the countries of developing such supplementary tables noting INEGI is responsible for these types of work – specially linking business statistics with economic census and customs data. He informed the group that the economic census would be released soon and Mexico would inform OECD about its participation after this release.

72. IMF noted the project was interesting but challenging, and emphasized difficulties in distinguishing intermediates goods from goods for final demand purposes.

73. WTO expressed support for this supplementary data collection. They explained the TiVA database release in 2013 had triggered a lot of questions, so it would be beneficial to improve the estimates using the data requested by the OECD. Another useful improvement mentioned is the collection of more detailed trade in services. Regarding the trade puzzle with gross trade flattening as referred to by Martine Durand, it would be interesting to see what is happening from a value added perspective and see what the relation is between the two?

74. The Danish representative reported to have some experience compiling such data. He also noted there are Eurostat grants available and that the OECD request is well aligned with this work. He emphasised that the methodology issues would have to be carefully addressed.

75. The Japanese delegate expressed support to the OECD initiative as long as the new data collection improves the TiVA indicators and that some deviation from the proposed framework is allowed. He offered to provide some data, in the context of a pilot study, noting the framework which was presented was consistent with TEC+. He also agreed with the challenge involved in distinguishing between final demand and intermediate consumption within enterprise surveys and noted, in the case of Japan, he had to rely on customs data for such distinctions.

76. The Chair observed some countries can already meet the OECD's new data request on a regular basis, and some are only ready for a one-off supply. He asked the OECD how it was planned to work with data from different reference years?

77. Fabienne Fortanier expressed appreciation for the support received. She flagged the morning session had been full of data linking presentations which is challenging work but already partly meet the needs of the OECD new data collection, underlining also some of the requested data is already produced in the European context. Bilateral discussions on how to progress the pilot study and see what is possible were welcome. As for the intermediate and final demand distinction, this is part of TIVA requirement which the group could address together in order to deal with the existing concerns and determine what approach is most appropriate.

4.9 UNCTAD TGServ Report on Measuring Trade in ICT Services and in ICT-enabled Service, Timothy Sturgeon , MIT for UNCTAD and Scarlett Fondeur, UNCTAD.

78. Tim Sturgeon and Scarlett Fondeur presented the report (commissioned by UNCTAD, as a contribution to the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development) which contains a proposal for indicators to measure International Trade in ICT services and in ICT-enabled services.

79. Responding to the Irish delegate who wondered where to classify Google and Yahoo in EBOPS as on the one hand they offer internet services, and their source of income is on advertising, Mr Sturgeon confirmed these types of issues were also discussed in the context of the TG, as indeed the services provide is web services, while their revenues stem from advertising.

80. Nadim Ahmad emphasized that this point actually involves two issues. On the one hand, there is the question of how to classify firms within industry definitions, on the other hand, the issue that UNCTAD is addressing which is the product dimension.

5. Measuring Trade in Value Added

5.1 TiVA: Overview of current activities and future work, Nadim Ahmad, OECD

81. Nadim Ahmad gave a progress update with respect to the work on TiVA, and highlighted the next steps explaining GVCs are increasingly the driver at the national and international level thus forcing a

joined up view of trade, national accounts and investment which leads to more integration and coherence of statistics.

5.2 A proposed methodology for developing more timely indicators for TiVA in current and constant prices. Guannan Miao and Fabienne Fortanier (OECD)

82. Fabienne Fortanier presented nowcasting methods for TiVA in current and constant prices based on National accounts deflators to what concerns variables such as value added and output and based on unit value indices for imports by industry and end use.

83. The Australian delegate asked if the OECD had considered using price indexes instead of unit value indexes. The French representative queried if more information on the expected nowcasting errors could be provided. The INSEE representative also noted that two contradictory views are usually expressed about TiVA, it is first seen as interesting but in a second stage, it is deemed as difficult to interpret. He emphasized the necessity to clarify the status of TiVA indicators, underlining those are estimates built on a series of different datasets, he also noted the need for more elaborated documentation and asked if the level of 7 sectors which was mentioned during the presentation was the level of disaggregation which was being forecasted. Italy asked how the new system of National accounts would be integrated in the system. IMF expressed appreciations for the work, noting that moving to constant prices would be an improvement as well as using constant exchange rates.

84. OECD responded to Australia that exports and import price indices derived from national sources could not be used as these were available at a too aggregate level, but that benchmarking the unit value estimates to these data would be a good option to consider. Regarding the documentation of TiVA, this point is extremely well taken as such documentation was currently being prepared. Regarding the integration of SNA 2008 in the TiVA system, there would be a break in series probably in 2010.

85. The UNSD noted that asymmetries introduce conflicts in the data and expressed interest in learning more about the modified RAS. Regarding import and export price indices, he noted countries were currently moving from unit value calculations to surveys of import and export prices. He flagged calculating unit values from tariff line data would be more solid.

5.3 Accounting for firm heterogeneity in TiVA: Breaking down the ICIO using TEC, FATS, and SBS data, Mario Piacentini and Fabienne Fortanier, OECD.

86. Mario Piacentini explained that the assumption of homogeneous industries in TiVA introduced a downward bias in measures of foreign-content of exports. He described methods to split input-output data by firm type, and discussed current data limitations.

87. Luxembourg pointed out that trade between fellow companies, where prices valuation mostly reflect transfer prices, introduces bias also in National accounts. Mexico flagged OECD is, in this analysis, taking advantage of Mexico's statistics regarding the value added of global manufacturers which is available for 86 industries. Mexico informed the group that they will review with National accounts the possibilities of providing even more tables.

88. OECD noted, regarding Luxembourg's remark, not having looked into the transfer price issue and regarding Mexico's comments, that the types of tables as provided by Mexico reflect exactly the types of information that OECD is looking for, as in this case the supply and use information is consistent with that of the national accounts.

5.4 *An assessment of the robustness of TiVA indicators to different balancing starting points, Guannan Miao and Fabienne Fortanier, OECD*

89. Guannan Miao introduced work on the robustness of TiVA indicators explaining that the presence of trade asymmetries and national data discrepancies means that when building an Inter Country Input Output table (ICIO), decisions must be taken on the correct statistical approach to combine and harmonize the conflicting data. The presenter clarified that in the current creation of the ICIO, two important steps are taken. First, the national SUT or IO data are harmonized with the most recent available information from the National Accounts. Secondly, when combining national data into an international IO, the discrepancies are currently distributed proportionally across countries and industries (using RAS). She explained the main TiVA results are robust to adjustments to national accounts, and also that when the RAS procedure is adapted in such a way that the ICIO that is created fully reflects the national statistics of one single country, while permitting other countries' trade flows to change to respond to the needs of global balancing, the focal TiVA indicators generally do not change significantly, although bilateral trade relationships do change. Improvements in the symmetry of bilateral trade statistics, and further investigations into the best way of balancing them when discrepancies continue, would therefore still improve the TiVA estimates.

5.5 *Linking TiVA and FDI, Fabienne Fortanier and Maria Borga, OECD*

90. Fabienne Fortanier, introduced first results for a selection of countries of a joint research project with the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, which addresses the question of how much of the operating surplus generated by foreign owned firms is repatriated as well as how much of a country's imported value added is actually produced by the foreign affiliates of a country's MNEs. She informed the group that in order to support this work on FDI and TiVA, the spring 2016 WPTGS and WGIIS meetings will be adjacent and that a joint meeting involving statisticians from WGIIS and WPTGS would be organised on 19 October 2015.

6. Trade data analysis

6.1 *Feedback on progress and bilateral meetings regarding the reduction of trade asymmetries, Bettina Wistrom, OECD*

91. Bettina Wistrom briefly reported on the bilateral asymmetry meetings which took place on Monday 23rd of March (right before the meeting). Having been invited to share on their experience discussing asymmetries, Canada noted having appreciated exchanging on merchandise trade and more specifically on motor vehicles with the US and Mexico. On the service side, face to face discussions had also allowed to clarify some basic concepts that are different for European countries. USA also expressed satisfaction noting that usually only very few items account for large asymmetries and emphasised the benefits of sharing thoughts face to face about methodology. Mexico highlighted they were planning to disseminate the outcome of the discussions and a next step could possibly be a trilateral reconciliation

between US, Canada and Mexico. In light of the positive feedback, OECD will continue organising such meetings.

6.2 *Constructing a complete and balanced Trade in Services Matrix by EBOPS.* Andreas Maurer , WTO, and Laura Thomson OECD

92. Andreas Maurer and Laura Thomson presented a progress report on a joint OECD-WTO project to produce complete and consistent bilateral trade in services statistics by main EBOPS category from 1995 onwards, for all 61 countries included in the OECD-WTO TiVA database. They explained that the trade in services matrix results from both a joint data collection as well as a series of estimations. The estimation methodologies for filling in missing data as well as the expected next steps were presented. The presenters highlighted that the resulting matrices should be considered as an analytical tool. So far, the results include the production of a dataset with S200 and main EBOPS categories with partner World for 188 countries since 1995, as well as a substantive increase in available data points in the bilateral matrices using estimates (from 805,685 to 1,939,267). More work remains necessary however and the last section of the paper outlines the next steps that are envisaged.

6.3 *Estimating CIF-FOB margins,* Fabienne Fortanier and Guannan Miao, OECD

93. Guannan Miao and Fabienne Fortanier explained that since imports are valued FOB in the context of supply and use tables, it is necessary to produce estimates of CIF/FOB margins by partner and product in order to ensure a consistent FOB valuation of imports before integrating the bilateral trade statistics into the TiVA ICIO table. They presented their work in progress to estimate such margins using a gravity model, for two distinct data sources: first the differences in unit values as observable in UN Comtrade (the implicit dataset), and secondly a smaller dataset of countries that report imports both CIF and FOB (the explicit dataset).

94. Italy offered to present its own methodology for CIF/FOB adjustments at the next WPTGS.

6.4 *Producing long times series in merchandise trade data in HS 2012,* Katia Sarrazin, OECD.

95. Katia Sarrazin, presented OECD's efforts to "forward convert" trade data. She explained there is an increased demand for long time series using the most recent trade classifications (the HS2012 classification) as such information is easier to link with the most recent structure of international trade as well as with other more recent classifications (e.g. industries and CPC). She described the methodology for creating the harmonised long time series in HS2012 at the 2-digit and 4-digit level, focusing on the link between HS2007 to HS2012. Two problems in particular were addressed. First, dealing adequately with one-to-many (or even many-to-many) relationships. Secondly, treating properly the confidential items in a way that prevents a loss of information when moving from one classification to the next. The dataset was made available on the WPTGS Clearspace site for delegates to comment.

6.5 *Data discrepancies in product-to-industry conversions for Converting HS to industries,* Dong Guo, UNIDO.

96. Dong Guo updated the WPTGS about the challenges involved in converting trade by HS products to their respective supplying and using industries. There is no official HS-ISIC conversion, therefore

UNIDO created one combining different sources (including UNCTAD and OECD). A possible solution could be to use TEC data on trade by products and industries.

97. The delegate for Canada confirmed that classification conversions can be difficult, based on the Canadian experience with NAICS. Also, she indicated that TEC could indeed be a solution, and welcomes all sharing of information to avoid duplication of work.

6.6 *Measuring trade in second hand goods: a focus on motor vehicles, Norihiko Yamano, OECD*

98. Norihiko Yamano highlighted the challenges involved in identifying the relative size of second hand goods in international merchandise trade statistics. Such information is important to correctly identify the value added that is embodied in international trade flows (TiVA). He presented an example for trade in motor vehicles, combining a variety of sources including UN Comtrade, national sources and Eurostat, to come to first estimates.

99. The delegate from the IMF asked if the exercise also included an analysis of financial flows, which may be relevant when countries for example acquire an aircraft via financial leasing. Norihiko Yamano agreed that it would be very useful to investigate this issue.

7. Reports from other international organisations.

7.1 *Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistic, Andreas Maurer, WTO*

100. The Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics was created by merging the two task forces on merchandise trade statistics (TF IMTS) and on Statistics on International Trade in Services (TFSITS), given the increased interconnectedness of these two flows. Andreas Maurer gave an overview of the main agenda items of the most recent meeting, including the coordination of technical assistance, the development of a common metadata survey on Trade in Services by EBOPS 2010 statistics, and the publication of the MSTIS2010 Compilation Guide. The WPTGS members were invited to visit the TFITS website and read the TFITS Newsletter for further information. The Chair also encouraged delegates to visit the website.

7.2 *Report on the IMF BOPCOM Meeting, Silvia Matei, IMF*

101. The representative from the IMF gave an overview of IMF activities in the area of Balance of Payment statistics. She reported on the most recent BOPCOM meeting, the publication of the IMF BOP Statistical Yearbook, and explained IMF strategies for converting data from BPM5 to BPM6. Ms Matei also gave an overview of IMF BPM6 outreach activities and the progress on the G20 Data Gaps Initiative.

Key items for the next working party

102. The Chair interrupted the actual agenda of the meeting to hold a “tour de table” to allow countries to share their thoughts on what the key items for discussion should be for the next WPTGS meeting.

103. The delegates first of all highlighted the usefulness of the reflection groups and that the planned exchanges of experience on e.g. survey questions would be very useful. Secondly, it was noted that that it

would be good to obtain a better understanding of how, across various countries, adjustments are made to merchandise trade statistics to arrive at BOP trade in goods statistics, in order to assess the consistency in which these adjustments are made. The topics of trade by non-resident traders was highlighted in particular, as was the work on merchanting and goods for processing. Finally, the importance of continuing the exchange of information regarding microdata linking, and to come to solutions for common challenges related to e.g. dealing with mis-matches and grossing up.

7.3 Report on UNSD activities related to measuring trade in Goods and Services, Markie Muryawan, UNSD

104. Markie Muryawan updated the WPTGS regarding the UNSD activities related to trade in Goods and Services. He highlighted amongst others the outcomes of the 46th session of the UN Statistical Commission on the item of international trade and economic globalization statistics, and the work of the UN Friends of the Chair on international trade and economic globalization. He highlighted that an Expert Group will be created to develop a handbook on integrated international economic accounts, as well as an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization.

8. Conclusions

105. The Chair presented the WPTGS Bureau's draft conclusions and their proposals for further work for the WPTGS and the OECD secretariat. He started by recalling the welcome speech given by Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician, who emphasised that the meeting of the WPTGS in 2015 took place against a backdrop of uncertainties with respect to developments in international trade. While there are signs that economic growth has begun to pick up in many OECD economies in the aftermath of the Crisis, trade growth remains flat raising questions about the capacity of GVCs to continue being the drivers of growth that they have been in recent decades, and whether the slowdown is structural or pro-cyclical. Ms Durand highlighted that trade statisticians – and hence the WPTGS – play a vital role in helping to answer these questions, in particular through the provision of new data and indicators that recognise the increasing interdependencies generated by global production, and highlighted the importance in this respect of linked trade and business statistics, in particular for TiVA.

106. Reinforcing this message, the Chair recalled the three main areas of work identified by WPTGS last year to meet these growing and emerging needs:

- a continued exchange of best practices in compiling statistics on trade in goods and services;
- support for the TiVA project, especially its various trade data needs;
- a focus on linking business and trade statistics.

107. The Chair noted that these priorities had been ever present items on WPTGS agendas in recent years; which drove their inclusion in the draft revised mandate produced by the WPTGS Bureau, that will be presented to CSSP in June for approval by the end of the year.

108. Looking back on the 2015 meeting, the Chair noted that the agenda was full of interesting and innovative topics, and presentations highlighting excellent progress in many countries, including:

- methodological issues in measuring trade in goods and services (with a focus on merchanting and goods for processing; trade in services; and the adjustments needed to align merchandise trade statistics with the economic ownership principle);
- linking trade and business statistics (with a focus on the progress made in many countries, and a proposal by the OECD for new indicators of particular use for TiVA);
- TiVA (with an update on current activities and steps towards improving estimates); and
- analytical work on trade statistics (including the development of various datasets such as a matrix in trade in services).

109. He also welcomed the considerable work undertaken between meetings, and highlighted in particular the achievements of the Informal Reflection Groups (IRGs) and the successful first round of bilateral trade asymmetry discussions.

Follow-up activities for 2015

110. Based on these discussions, the WPTGS Bureau highlighted a number of areas that could be pursued in the coming year. First of all, in light of the successful functioning of the Informal Reflection Groups, the Bureau proposed that the three existing IRGs continue their work and further proposed the creation of two new IRGs, to undertake the following activities:

- **IRG 1 on manufacturing services and merchanting:** The aim of this group is to exchange practices with respect to the compilation of manufacturing services (and goods for processing), and merchanting. After the identification of current practices and main compilation problems (results of the IRG last year), it was considered that a more detailed exchange on exact questionnaire design and instructions for respondents would be a useful next step to help overcome the challenges involved in correctly measuring these trade flows, as would the exchange of knowledge related to the treatment of CPCs and Nature of Transaction (NoT) Codes. In addition, it was highlighted that for complex production arrangements, the use of mirror data for e.g. verification purposes could be explored. Finally, the group will be encouraged to share experiences of ‘difficult cases’ and of conceptual questions (such as when change is substantive enough to change the nature of the product) for joint deliberation and for submission to the Task Force on International Trade Statistics so that they may also provide guidance.
- **IRG 2 on contacts with respondents to trade surveys:** The aim of this group is to explore ways to improve the quality and consistency of responses to trade surveys in particular by large multinational enterprises. As highlighted by Martine Durand in her introduction, this topic is not only very relevant for the quality of trade statistics, but also has important ties with other OECD work (e.g. on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)). This IRG will, together with the Secretariat, explore options to advance on this work, e.g. via exploring contacts with various parts of the OECD that are responsible for e.g. BEPS, the OECD MNE Guidelines and the OECD Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC).

- **IRG 3 on more detailed trade in services statistics:** The aim of this group is to exchange practices and look into ways in which more detailed trade in services statistics can be made available (e.g. by partner country AND service category; by Mode of Supply, and affiliated/non-affiliated trade), without substantively increasing respondent burden. After the successful identification of current practices and main barriers (results of the IRG last year), the work of the IRG will now gravitate towards exchanging detailed practices, especially concerning questions and instructions for measuring partner country detail. The group will work on better estimating Modes of Supply, using the simplified method (or an adaption thereof). The most important barrier towards publishing more detailed information, namely legal confidentiality constraints, will be separately addressed in IRG 5 (see below). In addition and as part of this broader activity, the Secretariat will provide insights into the estimations that are currently made for individual countries (joint with WTO), as part of the TiVA database.
- **IRG 4 on linking trade and business statistics (NEW!).** As evident from the answers from the WPTGS 2015 Stocktaking Questionnaire, and country presentations at current and past WPTGS meetings, countries are increasingly relying on linked microdata to produce new, policy relevant indicators. This group will exchange best practices on e.g. the production of TEC and STEC, but also investigate the feasibility of producing one or more of the tables presented by the OECD (necessary to account for heterogeneity in TiVA). The aim will be to identify common challenges related to linking (e.g. record linkages versus propensity matching), but also with respect to grossing up the data, especially when several sources with different periodicities, frameworks and methodologies are jointly matched. The group will also contribute to thinking about the topics and format of the Workshop being organised on linked trade and business statistics in parallel with the next WPTGS meeting.
- **IRG 5 on improving legal frameworks (NEW!).** Many of the innovative trade statistics and indicators that are currently being developed (such as TEC, STEC, linked trade and business statistics, detailed trade in services statistics), require access to, or exchange of, detailed data across different institutions. This can be either nationally (e.g. exchange of micro data, and access to registers, including tax data) or internationally (e.g. the possible submission of confidential non-micro data for specific analytical purposes). Legal frameworks and institutional arrangements do not always allow for this. This IRG will collect and exchange information on existing national frameworks and institutions in the area of trade statistics, and to collect relevant examples in possible adjacent fields. The aim is to provide positive and concrete examples for countries where the inter-institutional exchange of data may still problematic, in order to support possible changes in these countries in order to allow them to participate more fully in the statistical work related to measuring international trade and globalisation.

111. To support the work of the reflection groups, the OECD secretariat will again make a more detailed proposal for each of the groups (open for comments from IRG participants) to outline the activities for the coming year. Also, for each IRG there will be a folder on the WPTGS ClearSpace website to facilitate the exchange of information (this space is only accessible to WPTGS participants). The Chair and Bureau emphasise that everyone can sign up for any (or all) of the groups. To facilitate momentum, participants are asked to indicate their interest before the end May 2015 (email to Fabienne.Fortanier@oecd.org) or as soon as possible afterwards.

112. In addition to the work of the IRGs, the WPTGS has also received very positive feedback from the bilateral meetings on reducing trade asymmetries which were organized by the OECD secretariat on the day before the main meeting. Participants highlighted that the bilateral discussions (i.e. the OECD secretariat was not in the room) were not only very useful to uncover (methodological) causes for asymmetries, but also provided a very good opportunity to bilaterally exchange processes of data collection, processing and dissemination. These bilateral discussions will therefore be continued, and the WPTGS Chair and Bureau encourage all delegates to ‘try it at least one time’ to see if their experiences may be as positive as those of the countries who are presently engaged. Participants to the asymmetry meetings are also encouraged to share the outcomes of their meetings with the OECD, for example on the causes of asymmetries. In this way, even if official data are not changed after a bilateral meeting, the Secretariat will have a better understanding of the nature of asymmetries that will inform the TiVA balancing process.

113. The WPTGS Bureau provided strong support for the OECD Secretariat to continue its current statistical and analytical work, including e.g. on the updates of the asymmetry reports; the publication and documentation of TiVA; and the production of analytical datasets (such as with WTO on the Trade in Services matrix).

The WPTGS Bureau ask CSSP:

- for their continued support of work to better inform the globalisation and trade agenda
- to encourage national participation in the IRGs and in the bilateral trade asymmetries workshops
- to note and comment on the revised draft mandate of the WPTGS.

Upcoming meetings

114. The Bureau concluded that the 2015 meeting has already led to concrete ideas with respect to the topics and organisation for the next meetings:

- First, on **19 October 2015**, a joint WPTGS-WGIIS workshop on linking TiVA and FDI will be organized. More information on the program will be sent shortly to all participants and delegates of both Working Parties.
- The main WPTGS 2016 meeting will take place from **21-23 March 2016**. This meeting will be organised back-to-back with the WGIIS, with a half day joint session on 23 March.
- The main meeting will be followed by a Workshop on Linking Trade and Business Statistics on **24 March 2016**.
- The asymmetry meetings will be organized on **24 and 25 March 2016**, facilitating the attendance to the data linking Workshop for those who are interested.

115. The agenda of the 2016 meeting will feature the reports of the five Informal Reflection Groups, and country presentations on the topics of these groups. The agenda will also allow time for the exchange

of country experiences regarding the adjustments of merchandise trade statistics (cross-border principle) to the economic ownership principle that is central to the BOP and National Accounts. Questions on this topic will also be included in the stocktaking questionnaire in preparation to the meeting, which will also include a detailed set of questions on trade in services statistics as presented by IRG 3. Finally, the Bureau invites all WPTGS members to continue to contribute presentations on any trade-related topic they consider relevant for international discussion and feedback.

9. Bureau member election and closing of the meeting

116. The secretariat listed the current WPTGS Bureau members, and noted that Diana Wyman from Canada had volunteered to take up the vacant position. The application was unanimously approved by the Working Group and the candidate was thus elected as Bureau Member.

117. The Chair thanked all the presenters, participants, translators and the Secretariat for the contributions, and closed the meeting.

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