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## Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics

### UNSC 2010 OUTCOME ON IMTS AND MSITS

4-6 October 2010, OECD Headquarters, Paris

*Item 4 d) of the agenda.*

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UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION  
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

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## UNSC 2010 OUTCOME ON IMTS AND MSITS

### *Item 4(d) on the Provisional Agenda*

#### **Note by UNSD**

1. At its 41<sup>st</sup> session from 23 to 26 February 2010 in New York, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the “International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions 2010” (IMTS2010) and endorsed the suggested implementation programme, including the preparation of the revised *International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilers Manual* and continued technical assistance activities.
2. Specifically, the Statistical Commission recognized the importance of the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade) as the global database and information platform on international merchandise trade, and requested the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to enhance its features and metadata. UNSD has since February started work on the plans to upgrade the UN Comtrade database.
3. The Statistical Commission also adopted the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* (MSITS2010), endorsed the implementation programme and encouraged all relevant international agencies and the United Nations regional commissions, especially members of the Task Force, to contribute to the implementation of MSITS2010.
4. The Decisions 41/103 and 41/104 on IMTS and SITS have been reproduced in the annex.

## ANNEX

41<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION, 23-26 FEBRUARY 2010**Decision 41/103**  
**International merchandise trade statistics**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed great appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division in the organization of the efficient revision process, including the conduct of the worldwide consultation, and commended the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, and countries for their contributions;
- (b) Adopted “International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions 2010” (IMTS2010) and endorsed the implementation programme as set out in paragraphs 25 to 31 of the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics, including the preparation of the revised *International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilers Manual* and continued technical assistance activities;
- (c) Requested the Expert Group and the Task Force to continue their work, focus on the implementation of IMTS2010 and give due consideration to national circumstances, the harmonization of national and regional compilation practices and the conduct of related comparison studies;
- (d) Requested that greater attention be given to the strengthening of institutional arrangements in countries to ensure that proper national coordination mechanisms exist for the compilation of high-quality international merchandise trade statistics; also requested that cooperation with compilers of statistics on international trade in services, the balance of payments and national accounts be ensured;
- (e) Recognized the importance of the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database as the global database and information platform on international merchandise trade, and requested the United Nations Statistics Division to enhance its features and metadata;
- (f) Advised that, in the future research agenda, due consideration be given to emerging trade policy needs and globalization issues; and, in this context, advised that linkage with business statistics and measuring merchandise trade in terms of added value be further explored.

**Decision 41/104**  
**Statistics of international trade in services**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed appreciation for the intensive work carried by the members of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services in revising the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*;
- (b) Adopted the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* (MSITS2010);
- (c) Endorsed the implementation programme and urged the Task Force to take note of the following:
  - (i) The importance of the compilation guidance;
  - (ii) The significance of trade in services in globalization and links to other frameworks;
  - (iii) The emphasis on linking the *Manual* to the revised *Balance of Payments Manual*, the revised *System of National Accounts* and the linkage to commodity trade;
- (d) Urged the Task Force to give particular importance to the following areas:
  - (i) Foreign Affiliates Statistics, in particular outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics;
  - (ii) Tourism statistics and the measurement of the contributions of tourism to national and regional economies;
  - (iii) Valuation and pricing;
  - (iv) Research and development;
- (e) Urged the Task Force to set a time frame for the implementation plan so that member countries could plan their implementation processes accordingly;
- (f) Urged that the national implementation programme be carried out as a coordinated effort of national statistical offices, central banks and other relevant Government agencies;
- (g) Encouraged all relevant international agencies and the United Nations regional commissions, especially members of the Task Force, to contribute to the implementation of MSITS2010, and recognized the efforts of the International Monetary Fund in capacity-building with regard to balance-of-payments statistics;
- (h) Recognized that training is particularly important in trade in services statistics because of its methodological complexity.