

STAT 224(128)

20 March 2024

Dear colleague,

**The second round of Global Consultation on
the Revision of Trade Statistical Manuals (IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010)**

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the second round of global consultation on the draft proposed recommendations and changes regarding the revision of manuals on international merchandise trade statistics and international trade in services statistics. With the approval of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) Bureau, this global consultation focuses on clarifying issues relating to concepts and definitions of several topics destined to be included in the manuals. Also included is a national practices assessment on integrating business and trade statistics for inclusion in the Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics (HIBTS): an extension of a Guidance Note on linking trade and business statistics.

The United Nations Task Team on International Trade Statistics (TT-ITS) of UNCEBTS has extensively researched the identified issues, completed the list of Guidance Notes in 2021, and submitted the list as a background document to the UN Statistical Commission in 2022. Then, the members of the Task Team started to draft the Notes describing the issues and proposing potential resolutions. Following the decision of the UN Statistical Commission in 2023, urging for a wide and inclusive consultation with countries and organizations, TT-ITS undertook a first round of global consultation in 2023.

This second round of global consultation is the continuation of the first one but aimed at soliciting opinions and feedback on research topics not covered during the 1st round of global consultation, including topics on extending the scope of IMTS to include goods crossing the border illegally, an amended scope of informal cross border trade (compared to the proposal in the first global consultation), global production arrangements, including FGPs (Factoryless Goods Producers) and nature of transaction and customs procedure codes, trade system, SDMX for trade statistics, national practices assessment on integrating business and trade statistics and national practices assessment on the valuation of long-term contracts.

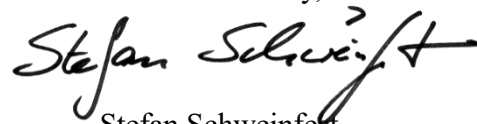
In this regard, the TT-ITS and UNSD would be grateful if your office could review and provide your comments on the attached proposed updates/clarifications, preferably using the online survey form (<https://input.un.org/EFM/se/3995D1A439F0F52F>) or alternatively return the attached completed questionnaire) by **Friday, 26 April 2024 (extended deadline)**. The corresponding Guidance Notes on these specific research topics can be accessed at <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/x/XoAGD> for your reference.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, proposed updates/clarifications and resolutions would be considered for the update of the manuals. The drafting of manuals has started this year, to be followed by a rigorous validation process in 2025, approvals by the TT-ITS and UNCEBTS, global consultation and the UN Statistical Commission approval in 2026.

If you have any questions or need any assistance regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Vysaul Nyirongo (nyirongov@un.org).

Your feedback will provide valuable input for the revision of the trade statistics manuals, and I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest

Director

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