2.6 International trade and balance of payments (UN Statistics Division)

International Merchandise Trade

Priority objectives

• Major upgrade of the UN Comtrade database, including the integration of monthly data.

• Developing an overarching framework for international trade statistics and economic globalization.

• Linking trade and business statistics, integrating trade in goods and services and improving institutional arrangements at national level

Ongoing work

• Capacity development activities for the improvement of compilation practices and implementation of the new international recommendations (IMTS 2010).

• Maintenance of UN COMTRADE to provide high quality data and efficient public, governmental and international agency access.

• Production of analytical outputs, such as the Trade Statistics Yearbook.

• Coordination of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (in co-operation with EUROSTAT, OECD, UNCTAD, FAO, WTO, WCO, the UN Regional Commissions and other international and regional organizations).

International Trade in services

Priority objectives

• Development of the Compilers Guide for the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010.

• Further development of the UN database on international trade in services (UN ServiceTrade).

• Developing an overarching framework for international trade statistics and economic globalization

Ongoing and new activities

• Conducting meetings of EG-CSITS for the development of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010.

• Contribute to the drafting of the compilation guide for IRTS 2008.

• Capacity development activities for the improvement of compilation practices and implementation of the new international recommendations (MSITS 2010).

• Continuation of data collection activities on a worldwide basis in cooperation with other involved international organizations.

• Supporting the work of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, including publishing the Newsletter of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and maintaining its website.