

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
STATISTICS DIVISION (UNSD)
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, DC2-1670, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TELEPHONE NO: 1 (212) 963-4130; FAX NO: 1 (212) 963-9851
Internet location: unstats.un.org/unsd

STAT 442/3(1)

24 March 2011

Dear Colleagues,

**Consultation on Updating the Compilers Manual
for International Merchandise Trade Statistics**

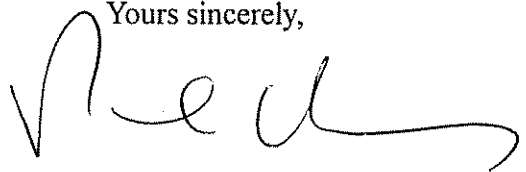
The United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-first session (23-26 February 2010) adopted "International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions 2010" (IMTS2010)¹ and endorsed the proposed implementation programme, including the revision of the corresponding Compilers Manual (IMTS Compilers Manual).

The Expert Group on IMTS supports the UN Statistics Division in this process. It has developed the chapter outline for the Manual during 2010 and recently agreed² on the contents of the individual chapters as reflected in the attached draft annotated outline (Annex II). The Expert Group will work on the draft chapters in the course of this year.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you at this point in the revision process to review the draft annotated outline and to send us your comments and suggestions in order to ensure that the IMTS Compilers Manual addresses the issues and needs of compilers of merchandise trade statistics in your country. This is the appropriate opportunity to give your input to the revised compilation manual.

I would appreciate it very much if you could provide your comments and suggestions by returning the attached response form (Annex I) to comtrade@un.org by 22 April 2011. For any questions regarding the drafting process as well as the contents of the Manual please contact Mr. Ronald Jansen, Chief of Trade Statistics Branch (e-mail: jansen1@un.org).

Yours sincerely,



Paul Cheung
Director
Statistics Division/DESA

¹ Available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>.

² The report of the meeting is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>.