

FINAL REPORT

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

organized by UNCTAD and UNSD in cooperation with WTO

25 March – 3 May 2019



TABLE OF CONTENT

SUMMARY	3
CONTEXT	3
OBJECTIVES	4
PEDAGOGICAL MATERIAL	5
DELIVERY OF THE COURSE	5
PARTICIPANTS	6
MODULES AND COURSE EVALUATION	7
Evaluation of Modules	7
Evaluation of course	8
FEEDBACK, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	9
CONCLUSION	11
LIST OF ANNEXES	11
ANNEX 1 – COMPLETE PROGRAMME OUTLINE	12
ANNEX 2: AGENDA	17
ANNEX 3: LIST OF CERTIFIED PARTICIPANTS	18
ANNEX 4: OVERALL OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE	22
ANNEX 5: GOLDEN BOOK	23

2



Summary

The distance learning course on "International Merchandise Trade Statistics" was successfully organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Trade Organization. It was delivered from 25 March – 3 May 2019, in response to several demands for technical assistance in the collection, compilation, quality assurance and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics.

Registration and participation of the course was free of charge. 783 representatives (53% women) from 112 different countries registered in the course. Out of the initially 783 registered participants, 377 completed the course. The average grade for all modules was 78/100. An electronic certificate was awarded to all participants with average grades equal or higher than 50/100. 377 participants received their electronic certificate.

The course was met with enthusiasm from the participants. Overall, 86% of participants were satisfied or very satisfied with this course. The results of the Overall Opinion Questionnaire indicate that 92% of participants felt that the course was well organized and 86% that the training method was effective.

Context

The development of a sound statistical system is key to the implementation of evidence-based policies and to the emergence of an open and unbiased dialogue between stakeholders and policy makers. Therefore, it is an essential tool of both economic performance and social cohesion.

This is even more true when trade negotiations are under way and when countries have to understand and precisely assess their offensive and defensive interests in this context. In such a situation, public authorities have to define a global strategy and to translate this approach into specific negotiating positions. Statistics are a key tool in this process. They allow the sharing of a diagnostic of the current situation between all national stakeholders and a clear understanding of the national interests.

While internationally agreed statistical definitions, concepts and methodologies regarding international merchandise trade statistics are long established they are not very well implemented around the world. Although internationally agreed statistical



definitions, concepts and methodologies now exist, their global implementation is uneven. Trade in goods are the subject of multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations all over the world. Hence the acute necessity to develop the corresponding statistics on a sound and harmonized basis.

UNCTAD is the United Nations' focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD compiles, validates and processes a wide range of data collected from national and international sources.

This course responded to several demands for technical assistance in the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics. It was developed and produced jointly by the UNCTAD TrainForTrade Programme and UNCTADStat, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Statistics Division (UNSD). It has also benefited from the close collaboration of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics.

Objectives

The objective of this e-learning course on IMTS was to provide more easily accessible and rather complete training material for those involved in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of IMTS.

The main goals were to enhance statisticians' ability to apply the most recent internationally agreed recommendations on IMTS, define best possible data sources, set up adequate collection systems and, enhance statistics compilation processes. Furthermore, the course communicated the importance of quality, metadata, timely dissemination, and links to economic analysis and national policy objectives. The training guided trainees on how to better use the internationally available guidance, especially the IMTS Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the related Compilers Manual.

Programme Outline
Module 1 – Conceptual Framework
Module 2 – Institutional Arrangements
Module 3 – Production and Compilation
Module 4 – Metadata and Quality
Module 5 – Dissemination and Analysis
Module 6 – New Areas of Work

Graphic No. 1: List of modules:



Pedagogical material

The Training package consisted of 6 modules. Each module included interactive applications and communication tools that enabled participants to learn and participate through the distance-learning platform. Every module includes PowerPoint presentations with a video, a participant's manual, a forum, tests and opinion questionnaires. Participants were invited to dedicate 6 hours per week to study the material and participate in the forums.

A detailed programme outline is available in Annex 1.

Delivery of the course

The course was delivered through the TrainForTrade distance learning platform, using TrainForTrade's methodology under the guidance and assistance from teams from UNCTAD, UNSD and WTO.

The course was conducted according to the established schedule for each module (Annex 2: Agenda). During the 6 weeks, participants had the opportunity to learn through the various multimedia tools available in the platform (manuals, videos, PowerPoint presentations) and interacted with other participants from different countries and facilitators in the discussion forums.

Before the beginning of the course, the 783 registered trainees were accepted and provided with the Platform user guide and the credentials to log-on in TrainForTrade's distance learning platform.

Trainees had the flexibility to study and participate in the forums of the different modules of the course, generating enriching discussions and allowing the exchange of information, ideas and experiences.

At the end of every week and for each module, participants were evaluated through an on-line test and invited to complete an opinion questionnaire for the module. These questionnaires were used to gather feedback from participants for the collection of data and information, which will allow UNCTAD to improve the training material and organization of the course in the future (for more information, refer to Course Evaluation).



Participants

Invitations letters were sent to member countries to participate in the distance learning course. 112 countries participated in the course.

Graphic No. 2: Registration, Participation and completion of the course



Registration and course participation were free of charge, 783 candidates (416 women) from the public and private sector; specialists in statistics, researchers, economists, etc.- were proposed and selected by UNCTAD to participate in the training course. 112 different countries representatives registered in the course. Out of the initially 783 registered participants, 354 completed the course. The average grade for all modules was 78/100. An electronic certificate was awarded to all participants with average grades equal or higher than 50/100. 354 participants received their electronic certificate (see Graphic No. 1: Certification).

The distance-learning course contributed to gender equality and empowerment of women through ICT.

Target population

The target population for the course was:

• Compilers and producers of data (International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Balance of Payments (BoP), Customs and Business statistics, etc): Customs,



Trade in goods Statisticians BoP Statisticians (from Central Banks or National Statistical Institutes); National Accountants; Business statisticians.

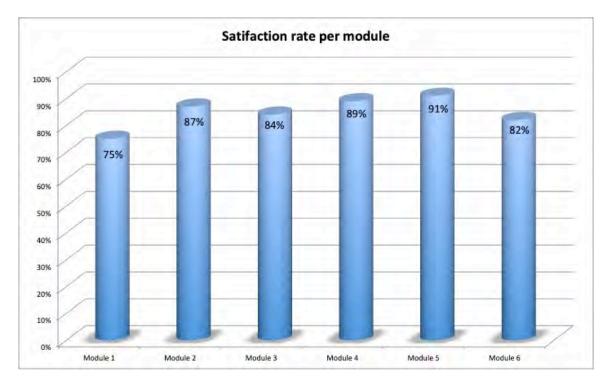
• Data users: Ministries (Planning, Trade, Economy, Finance); Other industry players (economists, etc.)

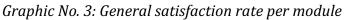
Modules and Course evaluation

The evaluation of the modules and course were designed to assess the learning process of the participants, the accuracy of the training material and the organization of the course, taking into account different aspects such as: quality of the training material, organization of the module, module subjects, etc.

Evaluation of Modules

At the end of each module, participants were invited to complete an online questionnaire. Below are the satisfaction rates per module. The average satisfaction rate for the modules is 85.3%.



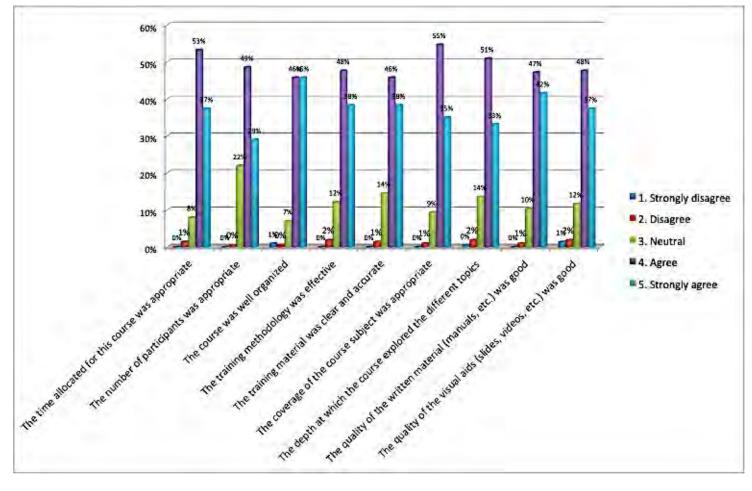


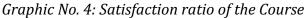


Evaluation of course

The Final opinion questionnaire assessed the course on 9 different aspects (see Graphic No. 4 "Satisfaction ratio of the course") and provided a space for comments and suggestions.

The overall satisfaction rate was 86%. 91% stated that the time allocated for this course was appropriate. 92% thought that the course was well organized. 86% felt that the training methodology was effective. 84% stated that the training material was clear and accurate. 9% mentioned that the coverage of the course subject was appropriate. 84% stated that the depth at which the course explored the different topics was appropriate.







Feedback, comments and recommendations

Participants contributed all along the course with comments, suggestions and recommendations through the evaluations tools and the forums of the different modules. Below are some quotes of satisfied participants taken from the final opinion questionnaire and the "Golden Book". For detailed feedback on the course, please refer to Annex 4 "Overall opinion questionnaire" and Annex 5 "Golden Book".

"This was a very good experience in this online course. I was able to improve my knowledge base with the manuals and presentations set in each module and was able to understand where my country stands with regards to trade classifications and concepts. I would like to thank you for accepting me into the course and would like to recommend that you continue this course for the future."

Participant – IMTS distance learning course

"The Train for Trade course on IMTS was a tremendous positive learning experience as a new statistician assisting in the compilation of IMTS. The course and course content was great. The course coordinator is extremely knowledgeable and the Evaluation/Assessment was fair. There was many interesting material and great delivery of concepts. This course helped me broaden my mind and better understand various topics and concepts in IMTS. It exceeded my expectations. I recommend this course to anyone who is in the field or related field in IMTS."

Participant – IMTS distance learning course

"(The) UNCTAD TrainForTrade Programme is an excellent programme especially for persons within the statistical offices as well as those working with institutions that contribute data and information necessary for the successful compilation of



IMTS. Taking this course has widened my knowledge on the processes of compilation and dissemination, in particular the importance of all the relevant institutions role in enabling good quality statistics that is necessary for analytical purposes therefore enabling better decision making."

Participant – IMTS distance learning course

I have experienced this training course as instructive and I have been able to gain more knowledge about trade and how customs work. I wish the organization every success in continuing to provide training courses.

Participant – IMTS distance learning course

"The objectives of the online course on IMTS were clearly defined. The discussions on the forums serve as an effective tool for collaborating with other participants. It is really good that interaction between participants were encouraged. The topics discussed were relevant and useful to our work. The *modules/videos were organized and the online interface were* user-friendly. It was really helpful learning the topics from the basic concepts up to the more technical matters. I really organizers/experts appreciate that really were accommodating and responsive to the queries asked by participants. It was really such a great opportunity to be part of this online course. Thank You."

Participant – IMTS distance learning course

"Firstly! Wow! It is so amazingly awesome experience with UNCTAD/ TrainForTrade programme. The platform is worth the training for me, as a participant of a developing Country with a growing demand on users of international merchandise trade statistics on a daily basis. The increasing demands also puts a demand on the capacity, skills and qualification of trade statisticians on how to apply the most recent internationally



agreed IMTS recommendations specified in the topics covered in this training."

Participant – IMTS distance learning course

Conclusion

The implementation of the Distance learning course on International Merchandise Trade Statistics strengthened the knowledge and skills of 377 participants who successfully completed the course and provided the opportunity to all the participants to interact and exchange information and experiences with experts and professionals from different countries and backgrounds.

The analysis of the Module evaluations and Course Evaluation revels that the methodology used to deliver the course; the ICT tools and resources provided through the distance learning platform were user-friendly; effective and efficient, in view of the added value that participants gained and the possibility of the immediate implementation and application of these in their jobs. Furthermore, contribution that participants made with comments and suggestions to improve the course will be taken into consideration in the delivery of the course in the future.

The delivery of the distance-learning course has also contributed to strength the synergies between the organizations that developed the course.

The organizer has compiled frequently asked questions on methodology from discussion form and published it at: https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/I2CG/FAQ+from+IMTS+e-learning+course+2019

List of Annexes

- Annex 1: Complete programme outline
- Annex 2: Agenda
- Annex 3: List of participants by country and certified
- Annex 5: Overall Opinion Questionnaire
- Annex 6: Golden Book



Annex 1 – Complete programme outline

COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE	INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE
	STATISTICS (IMTS) 2019
BACKGROUND	UNCTAD has been active in providing knowledge development and capacity building programs to developing countries for over four decades. Its TrainForTrade (TFT) Program has been established some 20 years ago. With its dedicated platform and team, the Program has conceptualized, created and delivered e- learning projects on various subjects related to trade and development in many individual countries or regional centers, usually within wider scope capacity building undertakings. WTO has also been active in building trade capacity since 1995, in particular by providing trade related technical assistance, capacity building and developing e-learning courses. UN Statistics Division (UNSD) manages the development and maintenance on methodology of IMTS, including Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) and related correspondence tables. Furthermore, UNSD has been providing capacity building and technical assistances to countries through compilers manual, metadata survey, workshops ¹ and country missions with aims to support implementation of latest recommendations on IMTS.
	As the United Nations' focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the related economic issues, UNCTAD compiles a wide range of data. The statistics are made public via UNCTADstat, the free online data resource encompassing more than 150 indicators and time series, with figures for individual economies and country-groups presented in a harmonized framework (http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/). The UNCTADstat features: i) Data Center allowing users to easily access, compare, reorganize and download data; ii) Country Profiles presenting a selection of most recent key economic statistics by country; iii) Inforgraphics library, a collection of key messages released to social networking sites from the published time

¹ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events



Statistics Division								
	series ; and iv) Documentation, FAQ, and other supporting information.							
	IMTS is part of topics regularly discussed by Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/taskforce/default.asp). TFITS promotes the development of international standards and respective compilation guidance, systems and classification for international trade statistics. Furthermore, it coordinates training and capacity-building initiatives, especially in developing countries, to ensure uniform application of international standards and recommendations in the area of international trade statistics. The e-learning is considered part of capacity building activities, and it is very much supported.							
OBJECTIVES	The global objective of the e-learning course is to provide more easily accessible and rather complete training material for those involved in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of International Merchandise Trade Statistics							
	The main goals are to enhance statisticians' ability to apply the most recent internationally agreed recommendations on IMTS, define best possible data sources, set up adequate (or enforce existing) collection systems, and enhance statistics compilation processes. Furthermore, the course would communicate the importance of quality, metadata, timely dissemination, and links to economic analysis and national policy objectives. The project would guide trainees on how to better use the internationally available guidance, especially the IMTS Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the related Compilers Manual.							
TARGET	Primary Target							
POPULATION	Primary target are trade data compilers from (depends on							
	countries): • National Statistical Office (NSO) • Central Bank • Ministry of Trade • Customs Administration							
	Secondary Target							
	- Trade negotiators							
	- Trade statisticians							
	- Trade analysts / Economist (reporting indicators)							



	 From Ministries of Foreign affairs, Agriculture, Transport, Energy, etc. Chamber of Commerce, Industry NGOs Academics 					
DURATION	The distance Learning course has a duration of 4 weeks					
MODULES	Module 1 – Conceptual Framework					
	Module 2 – Institutional Arrangements					
	Module 3 – Production and Compilation					
	Module 4 – Metadata and Quality					
	Module 5 – Dissemination and Analysis					
	Module 6 – New Areas of Work					



UNCTAD





Modules description

MODULE	At the end of this module, participants are able to
Module 1 – Conceptual Framework	 Demonstrate good knowledge of IMTS concepts and definitions (manual) Apply concepts of IMTS manual Learn IMTS 2010 latest recommendations on IMTS Compare IMTS-BPM6 differences and reconciliation (Goods for processing) Apply international standards for data collection, storage and exchange Define coverage Differentiate between data sources
Module 2 – Institutional Arrangements	 Establish effective cooperation with data provider Coordinate activity between NSO and Customs Evaluate missing synergies among stakeholders Apply standards collaboration frameworks Define modalities for data exchange
Module 3 – Production and Compilation	 Organise data collection in various ways (surveys, automated recording) Harmonise and codify according to national needs, international standards Perform data checking, processing and validation
Module 4 – Metadata and Quality	 Describe information on trade data that should be considered IMTS Metadata Explain the steps and procedures to monitor progress Schedule work Explain how to produce a report on quality Produce data timely Incorporate knowledge-oriented process mapping to streamline production, identify bottlenecks, encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and facilitate innovation and knowledge creation Supplement processes with diagrams, manuals, maps and/or supporting learning multi-media tools for easy knowledge transfer
Module 5 – Dissemination and Analysis	 Disseminate data (printed or online) Maintain a timely release schedule Visualize trade data Create a story for publication to check for relevance

United Nations Statistics Division	UNCTAD TRAINFOR	- Keep	UNCTADSTAT o abreast with related, current a emination trends	and emerging economic and
Module 6 – New	v Areas of Work	Busi - Trad	ing of Trade data with Central B ness Statistics (BS) and National le Indices sonal Adjustments	c



Annex 2: Agenda

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE ON "INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS"

Organized by UNCTAD, UNSD, in cooperation with WTO 25 March – 3 May 2019

Week	Module	Activities				
Week 1	1: Conceptual	Read the manual of Module 1 (34 pages) (PDF or EPUB)				
25 – 29	Framework	Watch the video M1 (43 slides) 44"				
March		Run quiz M1				
		Give your feedback on Module 1 (Opinion questionnaire)				
Week 2	2: Institutional	Read the manual of Module 2 (24 pages) (PDF or EPUB)				
1th-5	Arrangements	Watch the video M2 (19 slides) 20"				
April		Run quiz M2				
		Give your feedback on Module 2 (Opinion questionnaire)				
Week 3	3: Production and	Read the manual of Module 3 (30 pages) (PDF or EPUB)				
8-12	Compilation	Watch the video M3 (27 slides) 48"				
April		Run quiz M3				
		Give your feedback on Module 3 (Opinion questionnaire)				
Week 4	4: Metadata and	Read the manual of Module 4 (23 pages) (PDF or EPUB)				
15-19	Quality	Watch the video M4 (30 slides) 46"				
April		Run quiz M4				
		Give your feedback on Module 4 (Opinion questionnaire)				
Week 5	5: Dissemination	Read the manual of Module 5 (28 pages) (PDF or EPUB)				
22-26	and Analysis	Watch the video M5 (30 slides) 60"				
April		Run quiz M5				
		Give your feedback on Module 5 (Opinion questionnaire)				
Week 6	6: New Areas of	Read the manual of Module 6 (25 pages) (PDF or EPUB)				
29 April	Work	Watch the video M6 (29 slides) 48"				
– 3 May		Run quiz M6				
1	1	Give your feedback on Module 6 (Opinion questionnaire)				





Participants Part. (M) Part. (W) Certificates Part. country Certif. (M) Certif. (W) Italy Lebanon Bermuda Afghanistan Fiji Georgia Ghana Russian Federation United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Cayman Islands Uganda South Africa Curaçao Hungary Mexico Jamaica Timor-Leste Botswana Burundi Sri Lanka Myanmar Switzerland Gambia Brunei Darussalam Ethiopia Oman Kiribati Indonesia Seychelles Azerbaijan

Annex 3: List of participants by country and Certified









Rwanda330330Tunisia101101Burkina Faso220110Togo440110Togo606202Saint Kitts and Nevis101110Nauru211110Nauru211110Singapore844633Viet Nam633633Micronesia (Federated110110State of)1101101Belarus1011011Belarus1011011Bangladesh4402202Guatemala3122022Bolivia (Plurinational State of)734422Bulgaria31220222Samoa31220222Samoa31220222Samoa31220223Samoa31220 <th>Statistics Division</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Statistics Division						
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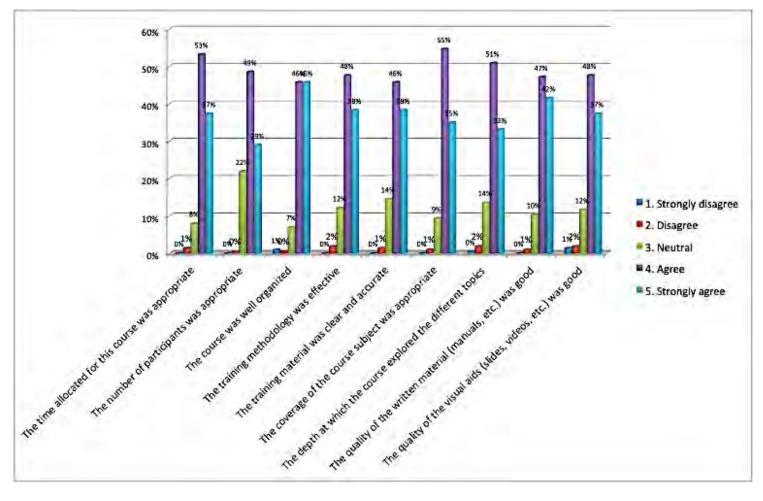


Statistics Division	<u> </u>					
Kenya	1	1	0	1	1	0
Syrian Arab Republic	3	0	3	2	0	2
Sierra Leone	1	0	1	1	0	1
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	0	0
Saint Lucia	1	0	1	1	0	1
Solomon Islands	1	1	0	0	0	0
Denmark	4	4	0	2	2	0
Estonia	7	5	2	5	3	2
Suriname	1	0	1	1	0	1
Total	783	367	416	354	159	195



Annex 4: Overall Opinion Questionnaire

Overall opinion questionnaire – IMTS





OR GRANTATION

Annex 5: Golden Book

Golden Book – IMTS

- Very well presented and clear questions plus helpful manual
- This is my first time to attend online UNCTAD training. The training was very helpful with more practical examples.
- It is a useful course for my job. I had a comprehensive understanding to the IMTS and recognized the importance of IMTS for a country. It would facilitate the quality of international merchandise trade statistics. Some module, inter alia, Module 6, are difficult to get the point and not easy to get a high score. Meantime, the course is helpful for me to improve reading and listening of English. Thank you all.
- From my own part we cannot do price survey because we have a unit that is responsible to end-back on such an activity. My question is it possible for us to use the data to link with the trade data
- I met unexpected question and evaluation, but I was very happy in learning in this class. Thanks for your sharing and teaching
- The courses are well organized and the time allocated for these courses was appropriate for me. I met a countable difficult and experience. I knew what I need and perform for trade and statistics
- The methodology of the course was very good and the subject excellent. However, the depth of the instructor's explanation was not necessarily completely associated with the level of exigency of part of the evaluations as such, however if we take the videos as a guide, therefore, it is good, however, but as a student if that It could improve a lot.
- This course was very useful to me since am new to international trade unit. this course will assist me in improving the content of IMTS releases by learning new/technical term and methods for compiling IMTS.
- Excellent course
- The data of foreign trade in goods are used as administrative data for the calculation of data on foreign trade in services. Therefore, the program is not used by me.
- My experience with the UNCTAD/TrainForTrade programme, is to clear understanding the new field inside the trade like mode of transports, linking business and trade statistics, external trade indices and seasonal adjusted data. So, as a compiler a trade statistics this will very helpful to fill-in the national account in my country because all the statistics I received from customs is useful and relevancy for the compilation of national account.
- I've enjoyed the experience and appreciate the valuable information which is shared on the platform.
- Very good



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- This training program on International Merchandise trade statistics have improved my knowledge on the IMTS 2010; and gained new knowledge specially on the areas of the Metadata, quality reports, seasonally adjusted data as well as trade indices.
- Since the training is e-learning, have faced some technical issues in loading • interactive video, however on overall the whole program was excellent in terms of knowledge received as well as structures and component included and accessing to platform and loading.
- Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward for other such opportunities • via train for trade.
- I participated in this course for the first time. For me it was very interesting and useful. If there is an opportunity to continue to participate in such programs, please inform us. Particularly interested in the issue of foreign trade in general and foreign trade in services. As well as their adjustments for the balance of payments. Thanks for the organization and the experience
- Well I learn new things from this course, though I compiles IMTS data, but some of the difficulties I come across is explain in the course, this course gives me more research and more confident in my compiling IMTS data.
- Thank you UNCTAD TrainForTrade programme and look forward for next train in • the future.
- Satisfactory
- The course material was clear and the topics very interesting. It gives an excellent introduction to IMTS compiling
- This course was very enriching given the exchange of broad knowledge on • merchandise trade between tutors and participants. Conversely, here is requesting for some additional suggestions and clarifications on the treatment of complex inward and outward processing in National accounts as well as in the merchandise trade. Looking forward to more such courses.
- The training course was great, I could know more about international trade and the efforts to improve the statistical topics.
- This was a very good experience in this online course. I was able to improve my • knowledge base with the manuals and presentations set in each module and was able to understand where my country stands with regards to trade classifications and concepts. I would like to thank you for accepting me into the course and would like to recommend that you continue this course for the future.
- Great course for distance learning •
- The course is well designed. The training material (write ups) prepared could • have been more crisp removing unnecessary repetitions in a number of places. Overall this is very good e-learning training module and beneficial for a wide range of users.







- I have learned lots of useful knowledge about IMTS and it's a good MOOC experience.
- Very good. ٠
- I think the training as a whole is very good, we learn a lot of new knowledge. •
- This training was very timely, opened up my mind and learned a lot of new things.
- I look forward to continuing my training next year.

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- I want to take part in the training next year. See you next year. •
- This year's training format is very new. I feel like I've learned a lot. See you next year.
- There are too many training exams this year. See you next year
- There are too many examples even though the lessons are great.... •
- The programme was great. It will be helpful for my job.
- Hope for new training lessons .
- Very informative and challenging!
- The Train for Trade course on IMTS was a tremendous positive learning • experience as a new statistician assisting in the compilation of IMTS. The course and course content was great. The course coordinator is extremely knowledgeable and the Evaluation/ Assessment was fair. There was many interesting material and great delivery of concepts.
- This course helped me broaden my mind and better understand various topics • and concepts in IMTS. It exceeded my expectations. I recommend this course to anyone who is in the field or related field in IMTS.
- I didn't have prior experience about this topic and I think it was difficult at the beginning because of that. it would be great to have an introductory course for next time.
- Excellent course, I learned a lot, very good logistics •
- Need more cases •
- This programme is very useful for gain more knowledge on IMTS 2010.
- UNCTAD TrainForTrade Programme is an excellent programme especially for • persons within the statistical offices as well as those working with institutions that contribute data and information necessary for the successful compilation of IMTS. Taking this course has widened my knowledge on the processes of compilation and dissemination, in particular the importance of all the relevant institutions role in enabling good quality statistics that is necessary for analytical purposes therefore enabling better decision making.
- It was interesting an useful training for me, it helps me for my job in GEOSTAT. I ٠ thing it would be more interesting if there ware more visual examples and more country experience.









- I have experienced this training course as instructive and I have been able to gain more knowledge about trade and how customs work. I wish the organization every success in continuing to provide training courses.
- Really useful but hope to have more interactive and practical issue sessions
- The course was well-presented and informative. It has enlightened me on various topics that are applicable to my day-to-day work activities.
- A very important course for further development of my skills as a Merchandise Trade Statistics compiler.
- The overall experience for this programme is clear and easy to understand even • though in the first Module the topic is simple but the test was complicated. In conclusion, this programme is very useful for first timer to lear on IMTS concepts.
- The objectives of the online course on IMTS were clearly defined. The • discussions on the forums serve as an effective tool for collaborating with other participants. It is really good that interaction between participants were encouraged. The topics discussed were relevant and useful to our work. The modules/videos were organized and the online interface were user-friendly. It was really helpful learning the topics from the basic concepts up to the more technical matters. I really appreciate that organizers/experts were really accommodating and responsive to the queries asked by participants. It was really such a great opportunity to be part of this online course. Thank You.
- I thank the team for realizing this course, and leting people from all differente • positions participate. For my part, i am a just graduated economist and this course helped me quite a lot in my future career purposes.
- The content is comprehensive. I have learnt a lot from this programme. Really appreciate your work.
- Hard times but great! ٠
- The course gave a more detailed overview regarding IMTS, mainly the strategy to • be adopted in order to enhance and promote its statistics, quality and quantity.
- Module one was the hardest module but was able to capture and acquire the • concepts and solid statistical fundamentals of IMTS. It's very informative and interesting - all the modules. Overall the course is good
- The experience with the UNCTAD/TrainForTrade programme was very • informative and interesting. The information as well as knowledge gained by this course will be of great use in the future.
- All the modules are very informative and interesting. The course will helps us to do our daily routine works with better understanding.
- Thank you very much for this course. This course is very important for our work. I'll be glad if I get involved in various courses.
- Well received module and informative









- The course was very informative and well structured for proper understanding. The time limit for the evaluation was a little challenging, but overall it was fine.
- Thank you for this wonderful course. I would like to participate in this kind of • course. Course was well organized.
- The course "2019 International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)" was very • interesting and useful for me. Thanks for organizing the course. We hope you will more offer us interesting courses about IMTS.
- This programme is very interesting. Though people are busy with their daily work • assignments, it is worth sparing some time to pursue this important training. It would be good if more trainings were organized. However, face to face trainings would be more fruitful.
- It was interesting and useful course, with its learning material. This course helped me to develop my skills and understandings at work. Thank You!
- This course was a nice experience for me in every respect. Topics covered, • subject expression etc. was guite satisfactory. It was also very useful because it was given the opportunity to share the experiences of the countries. This course will be a good guide for current and future works that is made for foreign trade statistics. Thank you very much for this course and your attention.
- In general, pretty well organized and focused. While not applicable 100% at my • business needs, I would definitely recommend it at a colleague from Customs or a Statistical Authority. Not applicable so much to policy-making officials.
- This online course surely enhanced my knowledge about IMTS, thank you for your programme.
- I work in China customs, and I see a lot of statistical data every day. This course • makes me understand the many conceptions, such as, economic territory , harmonized System and so on. i know gifts and donations and returned goods are recommended for inclusion. that's very useful for me.
- The training was very useful and we learned a lot. Thank you for the opportunity •
- This is a wonderful training program so far as International Merchandise Trade Statistics are concern. It is very educative and had covered all components of merchandise trade. There should be an advance training to earn higher certificate and should be done twice in a year for those who would have missed the opportunity of being part.
- I feel a little difficult when the course comes to module 6 ٠
- It has been a well-structured course on IMTS 2010. I could get a good overview of IMTS, the recommendations, the theory and the practice. Thank you and congratulations to the organizers.
- I think this course is really helpful for distance learning. Train For Trade program ٠ of UNCTAD is essential for e-learning. There is no Require class, no need infrastructure or campus. Just it is completed by the online platform. IMTS 2019 courses may brings knowledge about Trade Statistics for international arena. I









would have requested you that these types of program will arrange frequently for international arena to invite many participant who are interested to doing these activities.

- Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this course. It was very useful and • informative. I have learned a lot and hope to review our current strategy, and where possible, meet with the data provider to fill some data gaps. I hope that this course is offered at least once a year for new-comers working in this field of statistics. It is VERY useful.
- In general, this course is good, however, there are times when you do not have • experience in the IMTS manual and the first module tends to be difficult.
- The site is easy to use and understand. The written material is of very good guality and easy to understand. However, the videos need to be more interactive, better prepared, visually more attractive slides and a more enthusiastic narrator. All in all great training. Thank you all
- It was a very complete and interesting course that allowed me to increase my personal knowledge that serves to improve the work that was done.
- This is a valuable experience for me. After I have studied the course and passed • the tests, I feel that I have a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the IMTS concepts and definitions. The training package has been well-drafted, up-to-date and very informative. Mr Romesh Paul gives a clear elaboration of the course. You and your team did a great job. Thank you very much! I will keep the Participants Manual at hand as one of my reference materials. Thank you all.
- I appreciate very much the opportunity to participate in this virtual course, it 's • very useful for reviewing and implementing the technical recommendations of IMTS. All the course's material is carefully elaborated. Thanks to everybody of the Lectures team"
- Unique experience, it was very different to all the courses I have taken. The interaction at a distance with other colleagues from different countries, know the methodologies of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics of the other countries. My personal experience was rewarding and looking at it well ... it has been in the only class in which in so little time I covered so much material and I learned of many things that went unnoticed. Congratulations to the organizers of UNCTAD / TrainForTrade. Thank you.
- I have experienced to study online course from Train for Trade programme. I • knew the trade system "general trade system and special trade system". I have known the general trade system only. I know what is the special trade system.
- This is my first experience to take an online course on the International Merchandise Trade Statistics, this online course is very important in increasing my capacity, ability and knowledge about trade statistics, I am happy to apply it in my country. Many of the obstacles that we face through this online course are problems on the internet, browser, problems in the lack of time sharing, lack of









practice and application. The practice must be more than the theory because our work mostly practices producing an output.

- I found this course very useful, the document was carefully compiled, detailed. • The tests helped us synthesize the basic knowledge. I have gained more knowledge about import and export statistics from this course.
- Sincerely thank the organizers. •
- I work in the foreign trade of CSO. So this course is related to my work. Thank • you so much for your E-learning course.
- I kind of took it as a challenge and of course it was difficult because I never • studied the course but because I was transferred to IMTS branch from my previous job. I decided to participate in this course to understand and learn from the course.
- Thank you" •
- I has 8 years experiences in trade statistics department of my office. During the studying this programme, I got the knowledge about trade statistics and data source. It is my first time to participate in such a programme, and I felt very honored. During the study, I have had a good experience and learned a lot. Thank you!
- I am very lucky to be one of the participants in this workshop. I was able to learn • a lot from this workshop and definitely it has increased my knowledge on the concepts of international trade. I hope there will be other programs aimed at understanding international trade in the future. thank you very much.
- I deeply expressed my sincere gratitude for allowing Philippine participants to attend this very valuable training on IMTS, this enable us to augment/enhance our current knowledge on IMTS. The learnings that we had gained will be used to improve our current processes and we will impart/share this to our colleagues in our division so that that will also know all about IMTS.
- I am hoping that even though this training has already ended, may the UNCTAD-• IMTS Team will provide a facility, e.g. contact person, whenever there is any queries/issues/concerns regarding IMTS matters that may arise in the future. Thank you very much. God bless
- It was great and the content was very helpful for me, i have learned so much from this course and am very thankful. The topics covered and the lessons learned were very relevant for me and my work.
- It's a new experience for me using e-learning platform. Well, the training may • not enough to train us to be expert. However, this medium give us a platform to know directly what recommendations or practices provided in imts which related to our works now.
- "I learned a lot in this course under each module. I worked in the National Statistics office in Vanuatu for few years now and I only analyses the trades data on excel after it is extracted from Asycuda. I am not familiar with how customs









department records trades data, the customs procedure codes, harmonised system, Asycuda system or everything under the IMTS concepts and definitions 2010. This course gives me great insight into these areas.

- This course plus hands on practices will greatly benefit all compilers and • statisticians responsible for trades statistics.
- I would like to thank you all for organising this course for us to participate in. We • diverse in our educational background, level of working experience, age, nationalities ect.. but thank you for cooperating with all of us, thank you for your great patience with us, thank you for the videos well explained. Thank you for allowing us to give our opinions online each week and thank you for consideration them. I would like to ask you to allow us to still have access to the training webpage so we can access the videos and notes tomorrow and onwards, just in case we lost it all in our computers. I am looking forward to pursuing this course next year again to refresh myself if I still worked for the Statistics Office here and I am given an opportunity.
- I am very grateful for considering me as one of the participants in this e-learning course Train for Trade. The course has provided me with the opportunity to gain/enhance my knowledge in the compilation, production and dissemination of trade statistics. After the first module, I am uncertain to continue the course as I find the first evaluation hard and complicated for a beginner in the system like me. But my interest in the subject matter drives me to go on and finish the course. Well, I could say that my expectations in the course were completely fulfilled. Kudos to the organizers and facilitators, especially to the lecturer for sharing his expertise in the subject matter. The training course was very interesting and informative. It was presented in a summarize format but it carries all the essential information necessary for the compilation, production and dissemination of IMTS. It was presented, as well, in a very organized, wellplanned and coherent manner. Once again, thank you for the opportunity and for the knowledge I earned from this course.
- This programme is very effective for me. Although I know about the IMTS 2010 • manual, I didn't learn well before. Now I think, I learn a lot from this course and I got a lot of knowledge from the course manual and forum too. I know much better than before. Thank you.
- I really enjoyed the course and am looking forward for many more especially the • ones highlighted as the new areas of work.
- The training course was concise and well structured, it was useful for me as I am • new to the IMTS work-field, however it would have been too basic for my experienced colleagues.
- The term was always available to answer questions and as result it made our study very easy and enjoyable.
- Very useful ITGS course.





- The course was compact, easy to understand and simply explained.
- Great experience online from Guatemala
- Is a very good experience Never studied about this aspect before Make knowledge More understanding
- I enjoyed this training.
- I get more benefit knowledge, especially in production and compilation. at the time, I can adapt this knowledge in my work daily in trade statistics division in Department of Statistics Malaysia.
- This is my first experience with the UNCTAD/ TrainForTrade programme.
- I would like to learn further training course concerning with the trade statistics not only trade in goods but also trade in services.
- Finally, I would like to thanks for your kind assistance.
- The course helped me improve my knowledge. It also offers good experiences from other countries.
- Very useful.
- Very informative and provides an understanding of international best practices which could be adopted. Overall course experience has been great and the course material along with the interactive presentations very user friendly.
- Very useful for me as a beginner to learn details about IMTS
- I did not have any knowledge about IMTS, now I have some basic knowledge and can be improved. I suggest to conduct more in future. Thank you UNCTAD & TFT
- I found Module 6; seasonal adjustment a bit hard to understand. Sometimes it was really tuff to carry on especially when you have a lot on the table. But since I produce IMTS reports I was able to understand a lot of concepts and definition when reading along. So all in all its a good course and well-structured and have learnt a lot of things.
- I enjoyed this course immensely. First one that I have done through this programme. Although I started late due to our FYE and Revenue drive, I am glad I participated and finished it. Learned a lot.
- The UNCTAD / TrainForTrade program helped me a lot in carrying out my work. it allowed me to have new ideas and new concepts on the analysis and processing of statistical data of international trade
- I thank you very much for the courses because it helped me a lot in my work. Since this was the first online course I took, it's a challenge for me to be able to reach the end; it was a good professional experience for me.
- "This course for IMTS eLearning, I Has to learn with the UNCTAD/Train For Trade programme 6 Module such as: 1. Conceptual Framework IMTS 2010 Manuals and Recommendation for IMTS Compilation the Scope, Trade System, Harmonized System. Valuation and Quantity, so the very important for IMTS2010 Recommendation IMTS Concepts and Definition 2010 and IMTS







Compilers Manual. 2. Instructional Arrangements the IMTS2010 recommendation, legal acts regulating institutional arrangements, purpose, Characteristics of Effective, Main type, Toward improved, institutional arrangement data quality for IMTS2010. 3. Production and Compilation IMTS2010 Recommendation, to use for custom record, use of non customs record, allocation of customs procedures, data collection, Data processing and Data quality. 4. Metadata and Quality IMTS2010 Recommendation Systematic of Data quality, dimension of data quality, the quality report IMTS, quality indicators and Metadata IMTS. 5. Dissemination and Analyses IMTS2010 Recommendation of confidentiality, IMTS Data dissemination, IMTS Revision, IMTS data Analysis. 6. New Area of work IMTS2010 Recommendation the Linking Trade and Business Statistics, Trade indices quality of New Area for IMTS, Trade and business seasonal adjustment, to development of trade, Transport and Enterprise trade Data.

- The course was very interesting, and I really enjoyed it from the theoretical point of view. It will also be more meaningful to have an extra assignment whereby if you are at NSO be given an opportunity to go and gather some basics at customs (assumption they work independently).
- I really enjoyed the session even though was limited by my work schedule to visit the website and read more on the course. If we can interact with lectures in a workshop scenario, it will be a welcome development, but funds may not permit. Courses of this kind are a welcome development and my wish is to encounter them every year. They are certain areas that we have not touched like TRADE INDICES, DATA QUALITY FRAMEWORK and RECONCILIATION STUDIES i would like our unit or department to work on to improve on TRADE. Another issue is of Seasonal adjustments, which organisation needs to work on to improve on our reporting.
- The training was very useful... I wish I had the training as a part of induction when assuming the post of Statistician, IMTS
- All modules are good. Video slides is clear and easy for understand all chapters. I got much knowledge of trade statistics by studying at IMTS e learning courses. Thanks
- A totally new experience, the methodology was appropriate for most modules except for module 1 where the greatest difficulties were presented to those who were not involved in the subject of commercial statistics. In general, it has been very rewarding to be a participant in this course because beyond the topics the debates in the forums were very important to know what other countries are using.
- It was a very good opportunity to participate in this program that achieved a lot of benefit in my work and I will seek to transfer these experiences to my colleagues and develop my work in foreign trade statistics.







- It's my honor to be participated in this trade programme. By these week studies, I obtained the knowledge of IMTS which is helpful for my job. When I finished these 6 modules course, part of my views about my work changed that compiling national statistics is not an easy job which needs lots of institutions involved. And as a fresh statistician, in China Customs, I need to work harder to study statistics. Thanks all the members.
- Firstly! Wow! It is so amazingly awesome experience with UNCTAD/ TrainForTrade programme. The platform is worth the training for me, as a participant of a developing Country with a growing demand on users of international merchandise trade statistics on a daily basis. The increasing demands also puts a demand on the capacity, skills and qualification of trade statisticians on how to apply the most recent internationally agreed imts recommendations specified in the topics covered in this training.
- Hello my experience in the course was useful and gained additional experiences and knowledge and tried as much as I could to interact with you and benefit from the session and apologize for any failure to interact and which was happening for a reason above my will because of the weakness of the net thank you very much and I hope to repeat this experience with you in subsequent sessions'
- At first the course was very challenging but overall the experience was good. I was able to learn a lot of new concepts which i intend to include in my work on this job.
- This is my first time to join international E-learning. It is hard for me, but I enjoyed the whole process. Thanks for all the teachers and other members. Through this course, I learned something about International Merchandise Trade Statistics and have confident to study other international E-learning course. Thanks very much!
- I wanted to thank you for all the development of the course and the knowledge provided in each module. Some topics have been more enriching than others, given the approach I have had to each of them in my years of exercise in economic statistics. Regarding foreign trade data, the approach to customs databases is something new and is not part of my daily development. Although I have participated in meetings where several of the topics seen in the modules have been raised and discussed, very interesting in itself, the course allowed me to have a global vision and the record of which is the way to go and the need for resolution to deal with each topic.

I hope that in the future I can participate in more work practices, methodological discussions that allow me to connect with the development of resolutions (seen in the course) and be able to internally evaluate the international recommendations. I appreciate the support and knowledge provided and have been part of the course.



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- The teachers on-line are very enthusiastic and helpful, and I really appreciate their timely answers and encouraging messages. Another piece of experience with 2019 International Merchandise Trade Statistics study, from my point of view, is to gain some knowledge of international trade and statistics before getting into this course, which will improve acquirement of this training and save some time, especially for non-native English speakers.
- The experience of learning is a tough and happy course to me. I got many useful • information's from the e-learning course and it's helpful to my work. Thanks for everyone who has contributed to this course.
- Very useful course for my work. But the first test was much harder than the classes level.
- The course offers the opportunity to obtain a comprehensive knowledge, the information is important, efficient and easier to understand. Thank you
- It was really nice experience that is my first e learning course while doing my • work. Though I was busy and engaged in different activities i tried to undertake the course seriously and sincerely as the course is completely related with my job responsibilities. The course contents, materials, presentations, evaluation method, interactive session under forum was really wonderful. This will remain in my heart long. Hope to enjoy new course soon. Thank you to UNCTAD team for their all supports and cooperation. Best wishes for UNCTAD/ TrainForTrade programme.
- Thank you very much for the unctad/TrainForTrade project. Let me systematically learn the international rules of international trade statistics, which has a great inspiration for my work.
- The course has several interesting aspects, I think in my very humble opinion it • would be necessary to add a slightly broader introduction of the volume indexes, I understand that it is a broad topic and it needs to be like a separate module but it would be very useful.
- I am happy to have had the chance to broaden my knowledge in regard to • International Merchandised Trade Statistics (IMTS) and I am sure that what i have acquired will help me in my line of work.
- Overall, it was a good course. I learnt a lot and everything will be put into practice.
- This programme made clear areas of the manual that I had difficulties understanding. Though my work responsibilities did not allow for my participation in the forums it was a great experience."
- It was very good. •
- It was a good course. The programme was complete. •
- Me parecieron interesantes los módulos en general. En particular me pareció interesante la optica de la caldidad de las estadísticas y pedir devoluciones de satisfacción a los usuarios de las mismas. Gracias por los materiales y el curso,



- The course covered a lot of topics. Some of them where very broad, however the course was usefull.
- At the beggining it was kind of unclear for me, but with the time it became more clear and useful. Thank you.
- The course was very useful for me and some of the topics studied are of great relevance for the daily work. Also, I believe that this type of course allows us to expand the possibilities of continuously training for our work.
- I would like to thank you for the opportunity provided to me and for accepting me in this course. The subject matter is very interesting and informative.
 Definitely, the knowledge I will learn from this course will be priceless and it would be very helpful to me in my current responsibility.
- It was a great pleasure to be a part of this course. The experience was good and has the course has broaden my knowledge in terms of trade and all areas connected to trade. I must commend the United Nation for this initiative.
- The material presented was very helpful in assisting me to understand the IMTS Manual more clearly. It also opened my eyes to other concepts and best practices being used worldwide. It was tedious but beneficial.
- I am very grateful to the UNCTAD / Train For Trade Program for participating in this course. All the modules seemed appropriate to me and I was able to learn about the principles that must be taken into account in the preparation of International Trade Statistics. Maybe in a second part you could include practical exercises in EXCEL sheets.
- I had a very enjoyable experience with this course. The course was delivered in a very simple and interesting manner.
- I'm pleased to share that I have just completed the course. I do think it is very useful for all participants in the area of IMTS with different roles played by the participants.
- I do hope that we will have an opportunity to meet offline so we can learn more, especially to exchange our practices and experiences in this regards.
- I'd like to extend my big thanks to UNSD, UNCTAD, WTO for organizing this helpful online training. See you next time.
- It was good to have this course and learn more about IMTS manuals, which directly related to my work as statistician.
- Thank you for all the efforts. I learned a lot from this course. Only one piece of advice here: it will be better if the video content can be enriched.
- many concepts in china come from IMTS.I know much more about trade statistics with the trade programme.
- I had a good experience with this training course on IMTS. It helped me a lot with gaining a general idea and all aspects of IMTS terms. It also gave me an open mind with something new, which are really awesome, made by colleagues from



customs all over the world. Many thanks to the UNCTAD/TrainForTrade programme!

- My experience with the UNCTAD/TrainForTrade programme was very good. Its a very informative course in such a short time, I learn about International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and about internationally agreed recommendations. We covered concepts such as Conceptual Framework, Institutional Arrangements, Production and Compilation, Metadata and Quality, Dissemination and Analysis and New Areas of Work. Many thanks to IMTS team.
- Just wish the first chapter could be a little easier. It really took me too much time as I have not learned anything relating statistics or economy. And the following 5 chapters were just fine. Maybe the first one could be divided into 2 chapters.
- It was my first time to have experience with UNCTAD/TrainForTrade programme. It's quite helpful to learn IMTS, although i still need google to look for more detail explanation about some terms related to IMTS.
- This training is required for IMTS, to understand the recommendation of the UN and to inline with the international standard for IMTS.
- The curriculum is very reasonable, comprehensive knowledge, looking forward to the next participation.
- The course was very interesting and full of knowledge on some of the concepts of international trade statistics. Despite some technical hiccups due to internet difficulties, the whole experience was enriching.
- UNCTAD is very important for development countries. There is not enough training on trade statistics. This training permits our countries to develop capacities on trade statistics.
- Just in a few words: this course was very helpful and useful. I would like to extend my gratefulness to the UNCTAD/TrainForTrade programme.
- I benefited from this cycle many things, Customs data and audit data and data collection steps. Many of them. Thank you