



APPENDIX I: ISTIA MANDATE

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES TRADE INFORMATION AGENCY (**ISTIA**), CASE POSTALE 3547, CH-1211 GENEVA 3

APPENDIX I

Mandate - Services Trade Statistics Capacity Building

The mandate of the Association **ISTIA** principally concerns the provision of *services trade statistics capacity building* and other activities related thereto. *Services trade statistics capacity building*, in relation to the **ISTIA** mandate has two principal components, the definition of which concerns the recipients to whom the *services trade statistics capacity building* is directed. These two components are defined herewith as *statistical-production-related* and *statistical-user-related*.

1. Mandate - Services Trade Capacity Building - Statistical-Production-Related

- A. Definition: *Services trade statistics capacity building* concerns examining the means of data collection, measuring the differential between the current state and the desired state of statistical coverage, and the application of tools to enhance trade in services statistics as collected and published by national governments. *Services statistics capacity building* differs from course provision and training, although coursework and training will be an integral component of **ISTIA** work. Rather, it comprises a medium to long term programme of competence-building designed to meet specific needs, to address defined issues, to apply various targets of improvement and to use benchmarks of achievement with a long-term strategy for organizational change in an institution.
- B. Background In Relation To Mandate: Statistical capacity building work which is non-services trade-related has long been provided to national governments of developing countries, LDCs and economies in transition by specialized teams of experts, most usually from intergovernmental technical agencies, or national statistical offices and ministries of developed countries undertaking capacity building projects. Within the **ISTIA** context, the lessons learned from statistical capacity building work in other statistical areas will be applied within the context of services trade data.
- C. Tools: Tools employed in *services trade statistics capacity building* will vary vis-à-vis the circumstances, needs and objectives of recipient institutions, as well as by financial means of support for delivery. Tools could include, *inter alia*, provision of specialized courses by experts, visits abroad, provision of specialized consultancy services, assistance in the implementation of special surveys, as well as assistance with enhancement of infrastructure facilities and other institutional capacity building which would support the framework of services trade statistics capacity building.
- D. Recipients: Recipients of **ISTIA** statistical capacity building could include, *inter alia*, officials of National Statistical Agencies, Ministries of Trade and Industry, Ministries of Economy, Ministries of Investment, Ministries of Finance and Central Banks.



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2. Mandate - Services Trade Capacity Building - Statistical-User-Related

- A. DEFINITION: Services trade statistics capacity building for users focuses on the needs of individuals working with services trade policy and with services trade commerce, such that they are better able to implement evidence-based policymaking. For all statistical users, **ISTIA** seeks to provide training that clarifies the linkages between services trade policy and services trade information and services trade statistics. Among users, ISTIA will place a high focus on the needs of government officials working in services trade negotiations and developing national economic policy. Many such individuals have made official and unofficial requests for assistance in this area, seeking training that would allow them to understand and use quantitative information in the context of their policymaking tasks. In this light, **ISTIA** seeks to provide such assistance concurrently to the enhancement of national accounts and other statistical information related to trade in services. Alternatively, **ISTIA** provision of services trade capacity building to private sector actors, particularly the private sector in developing economies and least developed countries (LDCs), could assist such actors in the ability to make more informed business decision. **ISTIA** seeks to undertake cooperation with parties in the academic realm.
- B. Tools: Tools which could be used in support of the mandate could include *inter alia*, courses, workshops, guest lecturer visits, creation of new materials such as books and multimedia materials, including online courses and networking tools.
- C. Recipients: Recipients could include, *inter alia*, national officials of governments of developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and economies in transition from Ministries of Trade and Industry, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Economy, Ministries of Investment, Ministries of Planning and other agencies. Non-government recipients could include Members of the private sector, *inter alia* commercial businesses, university personnel and institutions of higher study.

3. Mandate – Other Activities

Other activities falling within the **ISTIA** mandate include, *inter alia*, cooperation and information sharing with inter-governmental agencies and specialized agencies at the national and sub-federal levels, and cooperation with various groups of expert persons.