

# Towards the new Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2026)

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## **BOPCOM 25/24**

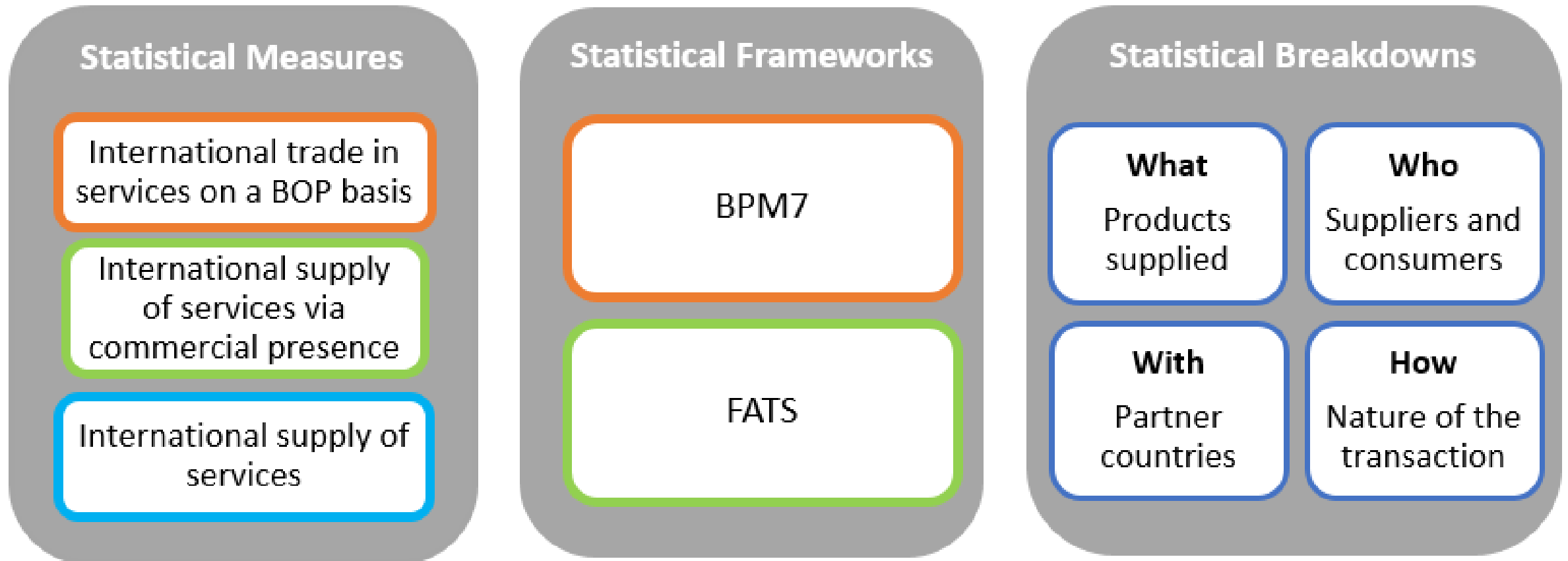
Forty-Fifth Meeting of the IMF Committee on  
Balance of Payments Statistics  
October 28–30, 2025

# 5 things you should know about the new MSITS

1. The scope of MSITS does not change and alignment with BPM7 is ensured. But we need to get used to new terminology (measures, frameworks, breakdowns)
2. There is a lot of new content
  - statistical breakdowns
  - volume measures
  - data quality and dissemination
3. Guidance on measuring the international supply of services by mode has been updated
4. The phased approach has been phased out
5. The global consultation is happening now!

## 1. New terminology

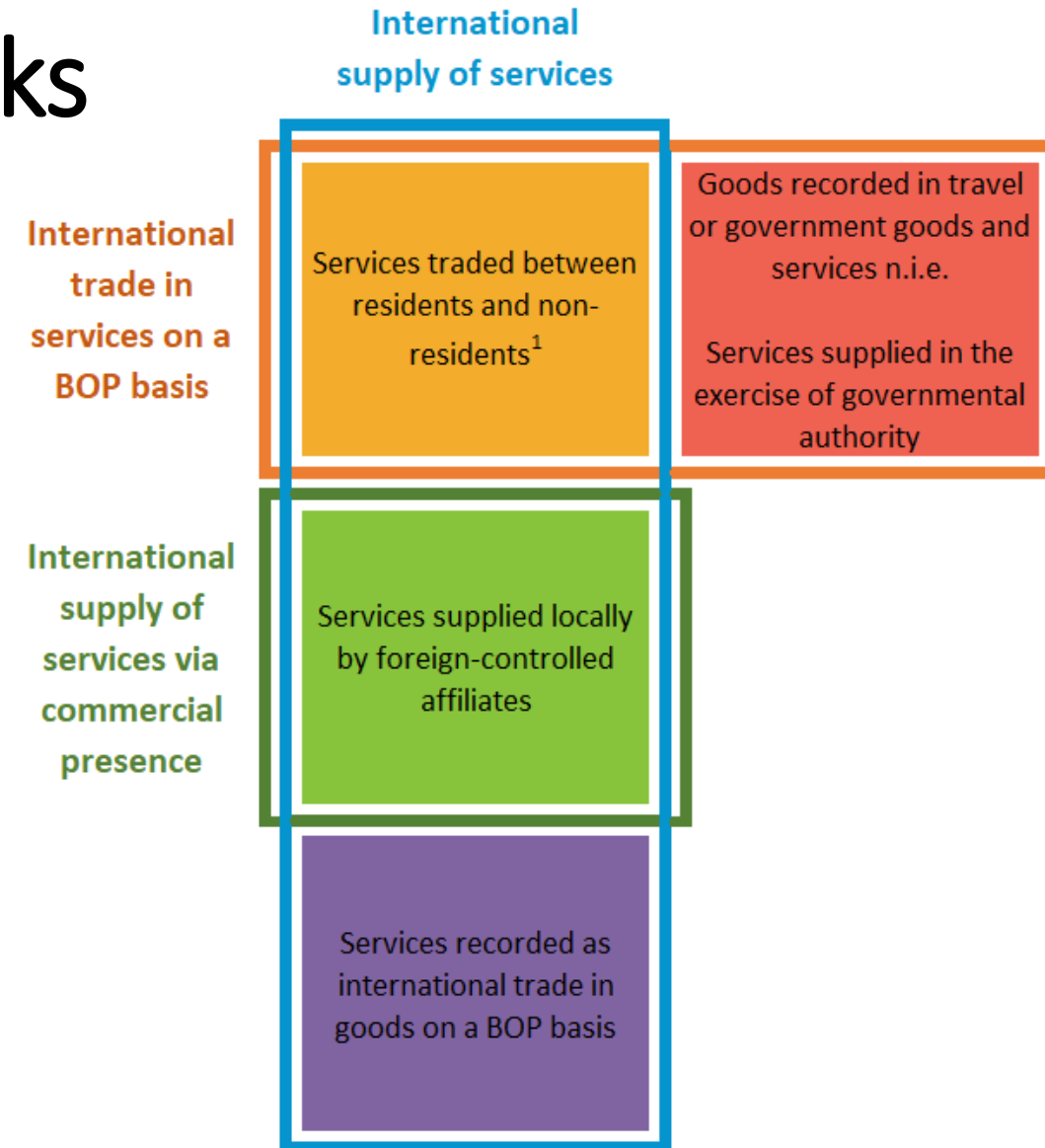
# The MSITS 2026 conceptual framework



# 1. New terminology

## Of measures and frameworks

- *Statistical **frameworks*** are agreed sets of **concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules** to derive *measures* of economic (or other) phenomena
- *Statistical **measures*** should be understood as reflecting **what can be measured within the boundaries of defined statistical frameworks**
  - MSITS 2026 covers three (partly overlapping) statistical measures (see diagram)
- The relationship between statistical frameworks and statistical measures is not always 1:1
  - A single measure can draw on multiple frameworks and require specific adjustments to better capture the phenomenon it seeks to quantify (this is notably the case for the *international supply of services*)



## 1. New terminology

# Statistical breakdowns

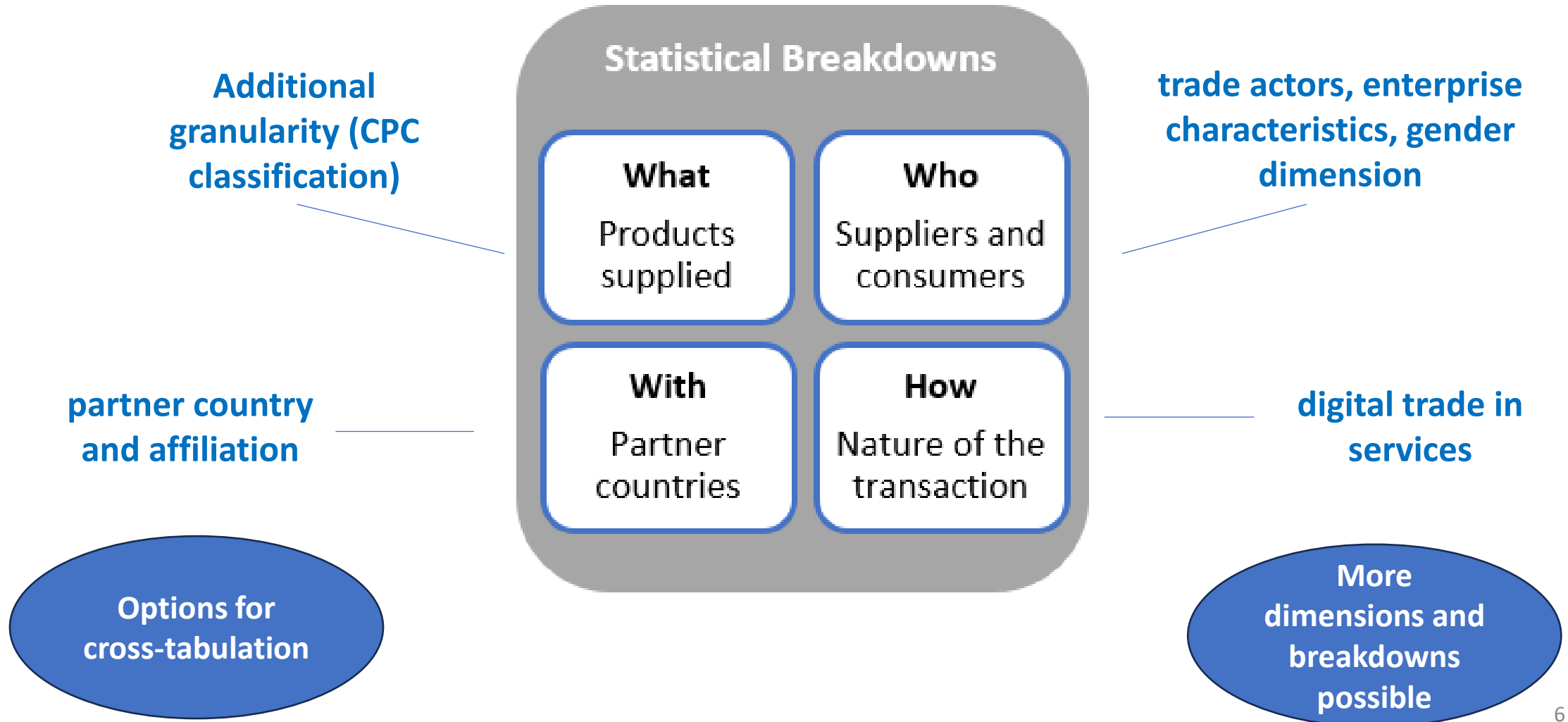
- The MSITS 2026 conceptual framework enables the **breakdown of the statistical measures across multiple dimensions**
  - what, with, who and how
- Statistical breakdowns provide a ‘**blueprint**’ for developing more detailed trade in services statistics serving multiple and diverse policy needs, but always **consistent with the relevant measures and statistical frameworks**



- The distinction between measures, frameworks and breakdowns is a **key novelty of the new MSITS**, possibly applicable to other domains
- E.g. TEC can be seen as a breakdown of trade in goods on a BOP basis (BPM7 framework) or of merchandise trade on a cross-border basis (IMTS framework)
  - Same for digital trade, and more

## 2. New content

# New Chapter 6 - statistical breakdowns



## 2. New content

# New Chapters - volume measures & data quality

### Chapter 7

- Covers **volume indices** for international trade in services on a balance of payments basis and for the supply of services via commercial presence
- Builds on established deflation techniques
- Provides guidance on selecting best existing deflators – in cooperation with national accountants

### Chapter 8

- Presents the basic **data quality principles** and **dissemination best practices**
- In line with IMTS and other international manuals
- Specifies the MSITS recommended and encouraged **outputs** (more on this later)

### 3. Updated guidance on the international supply of services by mode

## The updated Chapter 5

- Focuses on the measurement of the **value** of the service supply
  - details on Mode 4 and related movements relocated to an Annex
- Clearly explains the **adjustments needed to BOP and FATS data** to derive the international supply of services statistical measure
- Builds on the 'Eurostat-WTO' allocation model of trade in services on a BOP basis by mode => shows % **ranges**
- Includes more guidance on **refining** the allocation shares and **adapting** them to the national context
- Provides guidance on **aggregation of BOP and FATS data** and on the dissemination of the supply measures



### 3. Updated guidance on the international supply of services by mode

## Extract of the new Table 5.2

EBOPS code	EBOPS category	Trade in services on a balance of payments basis			
		Percentage allocated by Mode (indicative ranges)			
		1	2	3	4
1	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others		≈100		X
2	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	X	90-100		0-10
11.1.1	Provision of customised and non-customised research and development services	90-100			0-10
13	Nonfinancial intermediation services	100			

Indicative ranges, to be adapted (they must sum to 100)

For some services, international trade is only possible via mode 1

X indicates that supply via this mode is possible (but generally negligible)

#### 4. From phased to modular approach in the implementation

## Recommendations, encouragements, outputs

- **Recommendations** = standards with which compilers are expected to comply
- **Encouragements** = desirable practice
- MSITS outputs:
  - **Standard outputs**  
=> respond to key information needs for users => recommended
  - **Supplementary outputs**  
=> part of the MSITS integrated framework, but lower priority => encouraged  
=> mostly developed around the 'who' and 'how' dimensions  
=> not ranked: to be implemented/expanded according to national priorities

## 4. From phased to modular approach in the implementation

# Standard outputs (extract)

Recommended for  
implementation in the short term



Recommended for implementation in  
the longer-term



Dimension	Priority recommended breakdowns	Further recommended breakdowns
<b>Measure: International trade in services on a BOP basis</b>		
What	All BPM7 standard components (38 items) and corresponding EBOPS standard components	Full EBOPS CPC services, as applicable
With	Main partner economies	All partner economies
<b>Measure: International supply of services via commercial presence</b>		
What	Main industry according to ISIC rev. 5 (services only)	Full EBOPS CPC services, as applicable
With	Main partner economies	All partner economies

#### 4. From phased to modular approach in the implementation

## Supplementary outputs (extract)

- International trade in services on a BOP basis
  - By affiliation
  - By actors
  - By enterprise characteristics (including ownership by gender)
  - By nature of the transaction (digital trade)
  - ...
- International supply of services
  - By mode of supply and actor
  - By mode of supply and enterprise characteristics
  - ...

**Supplementary outputs  
can be developed  
based on national  
priorities and following  
a modular approach**

## 5. Global consultation

# Feedback needed!

- Global consultation launched, see <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/x/MoB9Fg>
- Communication sent by UNSD (+ OECD and Eurostat)
- Open until **28 November**
- Next steps:
  - December 2025 - January 2026: incorporate feedback from global consultation and finalise text (chief editors and chapter leads)
  - March 2026: endorsement expected by UN Statistical Commission

## Annex

# What about IMTS 2026?

- Update of International merchandise trade concepts and definitions (IMTS 2026) carried out in parallel as MSITS
- Global consultation from 18 August to 30 September, 103 responses received
- Next steps:
  - October 2025 - January 2026: incorporate feedback from global consultation and finalise text (chief editors and chapter leads)
  - March 2026: endorsement expected by UN Statistical Commission

See here the [current IMTS 2026 draft](#)

## Annex

# More new things in MSITS (list is not exhaustive)

- EBOPS 2026
  - Reflects changes in BPM7
  - Additional categories added in computer and information services, financial services, and non-financial intermediation services
  - Distinction between use of IP in production > 1 year vs < 1 year (for NA purposes – imports only)
- Recommendation to use enterprise as statistical unit for FATS (alignment with Eurostat)
- Clarification on the the use of output vs sales in the measure of supply of services via commercial presence
- ICFA classification (ISIC categories for foreign affiliates) dropped, as more prominence given to CPC-based product breakdowns

## Annex

# Outline of the new MSITS - chapters

1. Introduction
2. Conceptual framework for measuring international trade in services
3. International trade in services on a balance of payments basis
4. FATS and the international supply of services through commercial presence
5. The international supply of services by Mode
6. International trade in services: statistical breakdowns across different dimensions (new)
7. Volume measures and additional indicators on the international supply of services (new)
8. Data quality and dissemination (new)



Annex

# Outline of the new MSITS - annexes

Annex 1: Statistical systems and classifications related to trade in services

Annex 2: EBOPS 2026 classification

Annex 3: EBOPS-CPC correspondence table (new)

Annex 4: Understanding Mode 4 (new)

Annex 5: Mapping of FATS sales/output to EBOPS categories (new)

Annex 6: Relationships between MSITS 2026 and IRTS 2008

Annex 7: Assuring the quality of international trade in services statistics (new)

Annex 8: Extract from the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

# Credits

The MSITS 2026 and IMTS 2026 will be the result of the collaborative efforts of the [Task Team on International Trade Statistics](#), created under the UN [Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics](#). The Task Team includes many national experts and International Organisations and is coordinated by UNSD.

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