AGREEMENT ON THE GOVERNANCE OF
SDMX ARTEFACTS FOR

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS)

21 APRIL 2016

Maintenance Agreements

This agreement follows the principles stated in the guidelines of the Governance of Commonly Used SDMX Metadata Artefacts[1].

In addition:

1. The SDMX Sponsor committee agrees that a single ownership group (OG) comprising of Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Trade Centre (ITC), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be responsible for maintaining IMTS DSDs. The OG will consult other major stakeholders as appropriate. For SDMX-IMTS, the ownership group and the technical group are synonymous as the same organizations worked on governance and technical aspects

---

[1] See: https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/Governance_of_commonly_used_SDMX_metadata_artefacts_v1.2.pdf

2. Change requests: SDMX Sponsor committee recognises that the respective MA will only apply changes which are agreed upon by the OG. Agreements are to be based on consensus. Three types of changes are foreseen: structural changes, annual maintenance changes and fast-track maintenance changes:
    a. Structural changes would be triggered by changes in methodological guidelines or from a comprehensive review of the content of official data flows. This would involve a full review of the entire set of DSDs, including possible restructuring or replacing of concepts and code lists and will only be done through extensive consultations.
    b. Annual maintenance changes could be proposed by anybody, and would serve the purpose of allowing for new data exchange needs by any party. All such change requests will be analysed and assessed with due care. In particular, the OG will ensure consultation among all its members and major stakeholders.
    c. Fast-track maintenance changes can be proposed by any of the organisations represented in the OG. Only changes not breaking backwards compatibility can be issued as fast-track. Fast-track changes follow the same change management process as normal changes but are applied with immediate effect if approved and do not need to wait until the next annual maintenance cycle. Fast-track change requests are subject to review in the following annual maintenance cycle.
3. Versioning follows the SDMX versioning guidelines[2].
4. If change requests to cross-domain artefacts are filed to one of the MAs, all other MAs will be informed, and the request will be forwarded to the SDMX SWG as a general change request. In the case that the change is approved by the OG but rejected by the SDMX SWG for general use, the artefact might be moved from "cross-domain" to "cross-domain based, shared" in order to accommodate changes which are of interest to IMTS but not for general use. The same principle will apply to artefacts shared with other domains (see code lists types below).
5. The OG will apply the same governance for changes to this document as for the technical artefacts.

---

[2] https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_on_versioning_v1_0.pdf

Governance structure

Name	Ownership	Maintenance	Major Stakeholders	Update(s)
IMTS	SDMX-IMTS Working Group (Eurostat, UNSD, OECD) Informing ITC, IMF and UNCTAD	UNSD	Task Force – International Trade Statistics	Annual and fast-track

All DSDs are to be published in the SDMX Global Registry.

Contact Addresses for change requests

UNSD: comtrade@un.org

Code Lists

Code List types

SDMX Cross-Domain Code Lists (CDCLs)

SDMX cross-domain code lists are those that have been officially adopted so far by the SDMX Secretariat based on proposals from the Statistical Working Group (SWG).

Code lists based on SDMX Cross-Domain Code Lists or National Accounts (NA), Balance of Payments (BOP) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) SDMX (MES-E)

Some code lists were based on SDMX Cross-Domain Code Lists or SDMX for Macro-Economics Statistics (SDMX-MES) but extended and/or modified to meet IMTS statistics needs.

A change request for the common/shared parts of these code lists will be forwarded to the respective OG. Decisions regarding changes to the IMTS specific parts will be undertaken by the IMTS OG.

IMTS owned code lists (IMTS)

Some code lists were developed exclusively for use in IMTS statistics.

Code Lists

Code list ID	Concept(s)	Source/Maintenance	Type
CL_FREQ	Frequency	SDMX.CL_FREQ(2.0)	CDCL
CL_AREA	Reference area	BoP DSD v1.0_20130930 + IMTS	MES-E
CL_TRADE_FLOW	Trade flow	IMTS	IMTS
CL_COMMODITY	Commodity code	IMTS	IMTS
CL_COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN	Custom commodity breakdown ID	IMTS	IMTS
CL_TRANSPORT_MODE	Mode of transport at the border	IMTS	IMTS
CL_CUSTOMS_PROC	Customs or statistical procedure	IMTS	IMTS
CL_ACTIVITY	Economic activity	IMTS	IMTS
CL_TRANSFORMATION	Transformation	System of National Accounts DSD v1.4	MES-E
CL_OBS_TYPE	Observation type	IMTS	IMTS
CL_UNIT_MULT	Unit multiplier	SDMX.CL_UNIT_MULT(1.0)	CDCL
CL_UNIT	Unit of measure	BoP DSD v1.0_20130930 + IMTS	MES-E
CL_TRADE_SYSTEM	Trade System	IMTS	IMTS
CL_PARTNER_TYPE	Type of primary partner area	IMTS	IMTS

Code list ID	Concept(s)	Source/Maintenance	Type
CL_OBS_STATUS	Observation Status	SDMX.CL_OBS_STATUS(2.0)	CDCL

Maintenance Timelines

Regular Annual Maintenance Cycle

When	Who[3]	What	Deliverable
April	Anybody	Deadline for change requests	Change request with artefact to be changed and data flows affected
May - June	MA	Consolidation of change requests	Issue log with change classification and impact on data flows
June	OG	**OG Meeting** Evaluation on last year's cycle; discussion on issue logs provided by MA; approval of joint issue log	OG report on last year's cycle, approved issue log for consultation
June	MA	Incorporate change proposals into reporting frameworks	Updated draft DSD matrix
June - November	OG	Consultation with respective constituencies on changes and implementation planning[4]	Constituency report, implementation plan
December	MA	Incorporate constituency comments into reporting frameworks	Updated draft DSD matrix
December	OG	**OG Meeting** Discussion on constituency reports and implementation plans; approval of revised DSD matrixes	OG report, updated DSD matrix
December	MA	Implement changes	Updated DSD matrix and SDMX artefacts
December - February Y+1	Anybody concerned	Testing	Test reports
March Y+1	MA	Consolidate test results and implement bug fixes	Consolidated test report, updated DSD matrix
March Y+1	OG	**OG Meeting** Final approval of revised DSDs	

---

[3] MA = maintenance agency; OG = IMTS ownership group

[4] Respective constituencies can decide on their own planning. In many cases data flows within one constituency will not affect data flows of other constituencies. This allows for implementation planning by data flow

When	Who[3]	What	Deliverable
April Y+1	MA	Publish new versions	Updated SDMX artefacts
May Y+1	International organisations concerned	Implementation of data reception and international data sharing systems	
From May Y+1	National organisations concerned	Implementation of affected system as lined out in constituency implementation plan	

Fast Track Maintenance Cycle

Until	Who	What
End of every months	Members of the OG	Deadline for change requests
At the latest M+1	MA	Consolidation of change requests within domain and draft DSD matrix
At the latest M+2	OG	Written consultation of constituencies concerned and OG approval
	MA, OG	Updated DSD matrix and draft DSDs
	Constituencies concerned	Testing
At the latest end M+3	MA	Publish new DSDs