

## Proposal for SDMX-IMTS amendments (V.1.0 to V.1.1) based on Pilot Projects

**Created: Jun 2018**

**Updated: Dec 2018**

### Background

1. An inter-agency working group consisting of Eurostat, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 2013 with the purpose of specifying uniform structures, concept definitions and code lists for the transmission of IMTS data and metadata in accordance with SDMX.
2. The working group, chaired by UNSD, developed a first version of the Data Structure Definition (DSD) of SDMX standards for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in 2016 in consultation with member countries.<sup>1</sup>
3. The working group agreed that the first version should be tested through Pilot Projects in countries with an aim to amend and improve the standards for countries' use. Mexico and Morocco expressed interest in participating in the Pilot Project.
4. UNSD conducted separate technical assistance missions to Mexico (18-20 Sept 2017) and Morocco (16-18 Oct 2017) with the aim of implementing SDMX-IMTS version 1.0 in both countries, identifying implementation challenges and address them, and preparing recommendations for amendment in the next version of the DSD based on the experience.

### Method of implementation

5. "Mapping Assistant" was used to map dimensions and their code lists in the national dataset with those of the DSD.<sup>2</sup> The discrepancies in dimensions and code lists were discussed and temporary solutions were agreed upon. Finally, national test datasets were transformed according to SDMX standards. See later section for more details.

### Proposed amendments

6. **ALIGNMENT WITH LATEST CODE LISTS.** SDMX-IMTS DSD contains several code lists which are fully or partially derived from existing code lists maintained by SDMX Secretariat or other agencies. Therefore, taking advantage of this update, all corresponding code lists are synched with the latest versions. See annex for details.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://comtrade.un.org/sdmx/>

<sup>2</sup> See: [https://sdmx.org/?page\\_id=4620](https://sdmx.org/?page_id=4620)

7. **COMMODITY\_CUSTOM\_BREAKDOWN**, code lists of which (CL\_COMMODITY\_CUSTOM\_BREAKDOWN) contains 6-digits codes from “000000” to “999999” - i.e., one million codes in total – was found to be technically impossible to implement because of its size. In Mexico, a truncated 4-digits code list was implemented. Later, UNSD proposed to break this dimension into 3 dimensions each with a code list with only one hundred codes from “00” to “99”. See below:

Current		Previously Proposed (June 2018)	
Id	Remark	Id	Remark
COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN	6-digits codes: "000000" to "999999"	COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BKDWN_CH_1	2-digit codes: "00" to "99"
		COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BKDWN_CH_2	
		COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BKDWN_CH_3	

However, after further clarification with SDMX experts in EG meeting in October 2018 in Paris, it was decided to keep the single dimension with a pattern and not code list. By having this, there is no need to have every single possibility of tariff line commodity codes; therefore, it is more manageable.

8. In **REF\_AREA**, below error was detected:

Id	Current	Proposed
REF_AREA	CN --> Cameroon	CN --> China
	CM --> China	CM --> Cameroon

9. In **UNIT\_MEASURE**, below errors were detected and suggestion for inclusion of new codes made:

Id	Current	Proposed
UNIT_MEASURE	BRL --> Brazilian Real	BRL --> Brazilian Real
	BRL --> Barrel	BRR --> Barrel
	Not available	Hive
	Not available	Kilogram of gold content (KGC)

\*gram net which is usually used as unit of measure for gold content

10. Below suggestion was made in relation to moving codes from **CUSTOMS\_PROC** to **TRADE\_FLOW**, and further extending the code list of the latter:

Id	Suggestion
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<p>CUSTOMS_PROC</p>	<p>Possible divergence of “Statistical Procedures” with reporting of WCO Revised Kyoto Convention and.</p> <p>The suggestion is to keep WCO RKC in CL_CUSTOMS_PROC, and move “Statistical Procedures” to CL_TRADE_FLOW</p>
<p>TRADE_FLOW</p>	<p>To further breakdown flows into:</p> <p><i>Export of goods after inward processing</i>  <i>Export of goods for outward processing</i>  <i>Export on intra-firm trade</i>  <i>Import of goods for inward processing</i>  <i>Import of goods after outward processing</i>  <i>Import on intra-firm trade</i></p> <p>Also, further split goods in "inward processing" into "with change of ownership" and "without change of ownership"</p>

11. There’s no \_X (Not Specified) in **CL\_ACTIVITY**. This code was added.
12. Source agencies may not want **TRANSPORT\_MODE\_BORDER** and **CUSTOMS\_PROC** published. Therefore, two dimensions that allow making them confidential should be added (e.g. **TRANSPORT\_MODE\_BORDER\_CONF**, and **CUSTOMS\_PROC\_CONF**). In order not to increase the number of dimensions too much, for now we only added **TRANSPORT\_MODE\_BORDER\_CONF** due to request from country; and we would not add other additional confidentiality dimensions, until there are enough justifiable use cases.
13. For **ACTIVITY**, regional standards such as NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) could be added to **CL\_ACTIVITY**. Even though, it is possible to add additional standards on economic classification, however, for comparability we will keep ISIC classifications, until there are enough justifiable use cases.
14. It was noted that **CL\_COMMODITY** will have to be updated to include HS2017.
15. For implementation, **MEASURE** was defined as “measuredimension” instead of “dimension” in order to support the crossing of information between **TIME\_PERIOD**

and MEASURE. Instead of CL\_MEASURE, MEASURE now had a “conceptScheme” named CS\_MEASURE with the same codes as CL\_MEASURE.

16. In addition to the above, pilot countries and UNSD discussed and decided on an attachment level scheme for all concepts which was not previously defined. The scheme is as below:

<b>Id</b>	<b>Attachment level</b>
FREQ	Series
TIME_PERIOD	Series
REF_AREA	Series
TRADE_FLOW	Series
COMMODITY_1	Series
COMMODITY_1_CONF	Series
COMMODITY_2	Series
COMMODITY_2_CONF	Series
COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_1	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_1_CONF	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_2	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_2_CONF	Series
TRANSPORT_MODE_BORDER	Series
CUSTOMS_PROC	Series
ACTIVITY	Series
TRANSFORMATION	Series
MEASURE	Observation
OBS_VALUE	Observation
UNIT_MULT	Observation
UNIT_MEASURE	Observation
COMMENT	Observation
TRADE_SYSTEM	Dataset
COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN_CODE	Series
COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN_DESC	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_1_TYPE	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_2_TYPE	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_1_ANNOTATION	Series
COUNTERPART_AREA_2_ANNOTATION	Series
OBS_STATUS	Observation

17. Finally, it was decided to develop DSD for each commodity classification. The main reason is that it is unlikely a country reports data in multiple classifications. Further, it would reduce the size of DSD so that available tools can be utilized.

## Annex I. Update to existing Code Lists

CODE_LIST	Note	Detail
CL_OBS_STATU S	updated to v2.1 <a href="https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/SDMX/CL_OBS_STATUS/2.1">https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/SDMX/CL_OBS_STATUS/2.1</a>	
CL_UNIT_MUL T	updated to v1.1 <a href="https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/SDMX/CL_UNIT_MULT/1.1">https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/SDMX/CL_UNIT_MULT/1.1</a>	
CL_TRANSFOR MATION	update to match <a href="https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/ESTAT/CL_TRANSFORMATION/1.2">https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/ESTAT/CL_TRANSFORMATION/1.2</a>	
CL_AREA	update to match IMF 1.8 <a href="https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/IMF/CL_AREA/1.8">https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/IMF/CL_AREA/1.8</a>	
CL_AREA		
	added IMTS area/regions	
CL_UNIT_COM MODITY		
	added HS17 codes (H5)	
CL_UNIT_MEA SURE		
	update NPR to Nepalese Rupee	
	update LTR to LT	
	update KGM to KG	
	update MTK to MQ	
	update GRM to GR	
	Update description to match IMF descriptions	
		PTE
		X1
		X6
		VEF
		XDC
		RUB
		THB
		_T
		GR
	added PR for Pairs	
	added HVE for Hive	
	added TGN for Thousand gram net for gold content	
	The following codes were added to follow IMF standard CL_UNIT v1.9 <a href="https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/IMF/CL_UNIT/1.9">https://registry.sdmx.org/FusionRegistry/ws/rest/Codelist/IMF/CL_UNIT/1.9</a>	
		_Z

		CD
		CE
		E0
		E1
		E2
		E3
		E4
		E5
		E6
		E7
		E8
		EUR_R_ACTIVIT Y
		EUR_R_B1G
		EUR_R_B1GQ
		EUR_R_B1GQ_L
		EUR_R_B1GQ_L A
		EUR_R_B2
		EUR_R_B4
		EUR_R_B5
		EUR_R_F5
		EUR_R_I6
		EUR_R_I7
		EUR_R_I8
		EUR_R_POP
		EUR_R_SAL_H W
		EUR_R_SAL_PS
		EUR_R_U2
		FT_R_ACTIVITY
		H1
		H10
		H11
		H2
		H3
		H36
		H37
		H4
		H5
		H6
		H7
		H8
		H9

		HW_R_ACTIVIT Y
		JB_R_ACTIVITY
		KL
		OZ
		PE_R_B2
		PE_R_B4
		PE_R_B4_POP
		PE_R_B5
		PE_R_B5_EMP_ HW
		PE_R_B5_EMP_ PS
		PE_R_B5_POP
		PE_R_I6
		PE_R_I7
		PE_R_I7_EMP_ HW
		PE_R_I7_EMP_ PS
		PE_R_I8
		PE_R_I8_EMP_ HW
		PE_R_I8_EMP_ PS
		PE_R_POP
		PE_R_SAL_HW
		PE_R_SAL_PS
		PE_R_U2
		PS_R_ACTIVITY
		PU_R_B1G
		PU_R_B1G_S11
		PU_R_B1G_S12
		PU_R_B1GQ
		PU_R_B2G_S11
		PU_R_B2G_S12
		PU_R_B6G_S1 M
		PU_R_B6N_S1 M
		PU_R_F_S1M
		PU_R_OTE
		PU_R_P31_S1M _D
		PU_R_P41_D
		PU_R_P51G

		PU_R_POP
		PU_R_POP_PU_60
		SSP
		TMT
		TN
		USD_R_CA
		USD_R_GS
		USD_R_POP
		XDC_R_B1G
		XDC_R_B1G_CY
		XDC_R_B1G_S1 1
		XDC_R_B1G_S1 2
		XDC_R_B1GQ
		XDC_R_B1GQ_C Y
		XDC_R_B1GQ_L
		XDC_R_B1GQ_L A
		XDC_R_B1N
		XDC_R_B1N_CY
		XDC_R_B2G_S1 1
		XDC_R_B2G_S1 2
		XDC_R_B6G_CY
		XDC_R_B6G_PO P
		XDC_R_B6G_S1 M
		XDC_R_B6GA_C Y
		XDC_R_B6GA_P OP
		XDC_R_B6N_S1 M
		XDC_R_EMP
		XDC_R_EMP_H W
		XDC_R_EMP_PS
		XDC_R_F
		XDC_R_F_S1M
		XDC_R_F5
		XDC_R_F5_L



	XDC_R_F51_L
	XDC_R_FD
	XDC_R_FI
	XDC_R_GD
	XDC_R_GF10
	XDC_R_I7
	XDC_R_I8
	XDC_R_OTE
	XDC_R_P31_S1 M_D
	XDC_R_P41_D
	XDC_R_P51G
	XDC_R_POP
	XDC_R_SAL_H W
	XDC_R_SAL_PS
	XDN
	XXCF
	XXCFA
	XXCFE
	XXEXA
	XXEXE
	XXPP