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**National Accounts and Economic Statistics - International Trade Statistics**

**FOURTH REVISION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION**

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Room 6**

*This report has been prepared by UNSD for information and discussion under Item 6 b) of the Draft Agenda: Classification issues affecting Trade Statistics*

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## FOURTH REVISION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION

1. As requested by the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Task Force at its Geneva meeting in May 2003, the United Nations Statistics Division informed the United Nations Statistical Commission that, in the TF view, the fourth revision of the SITC is needed and should be ready for use by 1 January 2007. The Commission decided to agree with the conclusion of the TF.
2. To ensure implementation of this decision, UNSD will do the following:
  - (i) Prepare an outline of SITC, Rev. 4 and circulate it to the TF members and selected countries for comments [May 2004];
  - (ii) Arrange for an electronic discussion to assist drafting process (can we create a special category "Preparation of SITC, Revision 4" on the EDG?) [May 2004];
  - (iii) Prepare a draft SITC, Rev. 4 and send it to the TF members and selected countries for comments [April 2005];
  - (iv) Create an Expert Group to review the draft [April 2005];
  - (v) Sent the draft to EG members for review/contributions, make the draft available to members of Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications for possible comments [April 2005];
  - (vi) Conduct the SITC, Rev.4 Expert group meeting (all TF members are invited to participate) to consider the draft [June 2005];
  - (vii) Incorporate recommendations of the EG and submit the draft SITC, Rev.4 to 37th session of the Commission for consideration [by the end of September 2005];
  - (viii) Incorporate recommendations of the Commission and submit SITC, Rev.4 for printing [May 2006]; disseminate electronic copies of the edited text of SITC, Rev.4 to countries as soon as it becomes available;
  - (ix) Prepare (and disseminate to countries [November 2006]) the correlation tables between the following classifications:
    - a. SITC, Rev.4 and HS2007;
    - b. SITC, Rev.4 and SITC, Rev.3;
    - c. SITC, Rev.4 and HS2002.
5. All interested national statistical offices are invited to contribute to the revision process in any way they find appropriate, including provision of concrete proposals to delete/include headings and/or change headings coverage.