Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) Dissemination

Gaborone, Botswana

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Presentation Overview

- Background

- Data Sources

- Overview of SITS Tables

- Gaps in Data on Trade in Services

- Way Forward

Background

- Presentation focuses on dissemination of SITS within the context of the Statistical Yearbook being compiled on annual basis by the SADC Secretariat

- SYB serves as a vehicle for the dissemination of data on a wide range of indicators, including Trade in Services

- Development of SYB started 2 years ago

  - 1st edition is available on the SADC website

  - 2nd edition will be finalised within the 1st quarter of 2014

Overview of SITS tables

- SITS tables in the Yearbook include:
  - Values of Exports and Imports of services
  - Values of Exports and Imports of Transportation services
  - Values of Exports and Imports of Travel Services
  - Values of Exports and Imports of Other Services

Data Sources

- Data in the yearbook was obtained from 3 main sources:
  - SADC Member States
  - Secretariat of the Committee of Central Bank Governors
  - International Sources such as the IMF, the World Bank, etc

Process followed

- Secretariat populates the tables using available data, mainly from Member States

- Populated tables are sent to Member States for their review of data and they make revisions to the figures as appropriate

- Populated tables are sent back to the Secretariat

- A validation workshop is held to review the figures together with representatives from the National Statistical Offices

Any Data Gaps

- Taking into account reasons why SADC needs SITS, it can be argued that the data currently available at the Secretariat is not adequate:
  - Data not disaggregated by key sectors identified by SADC
  - Data not disaggregated by modes of supply
  - Data not disaggregated by major trading partners

Way Forward

- Need for mechanisms to ensure that more detailed data on trade in services is available at the SADC Secretariat.

- Need to decide on the following:
  - Template outlining minimum set of data elements to be collected
  - How often data needs to be submitted to the Secretariat
  - Guidance on how revisions will be managed
  - How the data will be disseminated

Thank you