

**8-12 September 2025**

08:30 – 16:30 (Central Africa Time – UTC+2)

Maputo, Mozambique

**Regional training workshop on trade in services statistics
in SADC region**

Strengthening SADC Member States capacity to compile and disseminate trade in services statistics

Background

The SADC Protocol of Trade in Services was approved by Head of States in August 2012 and entered into force in January 2022. It provides a framework for preferential trade agreement covering all commercial and tradable services in any services sector and aims to encourage increased intra-regional trade in services through the gradual removal of unnecessary or overburdensome regulation affecting the cross-border supply of services within the SADC region. Statistics to be collected and compiled is expected to support trade in services negotiations under the SADC, SADC-EPA, Tripartite and the WTO. In addition, trade in services statistics will be used by Member States to measure the results of negotiations, monitoring implementation of their specific commitments and their economic contribution at the national and regional levels.

On the statistical front, the SADC Protocol on Statistics, approved in August 2021, explicitly places trade statistics, in particular trade in services, as one of the key intervention areas whereby Member States commit to set up and strengthen cooperation in their National Statistical System (NSS) for coordination of trade in services data production and dissemination and implement recommendations of the UN Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services to produce annual flows of trade in services, inward foreign affiliates and outward foreign affiliates by partner country to measure progress in implementation of trade in services policies in the region. There is need to disaggregate TIS statistics by partner country attribute to monitor TIS flows within the region, Africa and the rest of the world.

Currently, Secretariat is prioritizing statistical capacity building as part of its implementation plan guided by its strategy, the RSDS 2020-30. Capacity building is





earmarked to be rolled out in an effective way to ensure there is impactful results at Member States level in development and harmonization of statistics. In June 2023, SADC Secretariat signed a Financing Agreement with the World Bank regarding enhancing institutional capacity of statistics in the region. The scope of interventions also includes trade in services (TIS) statistics given that they are used for measuring progress of regional integration for trade liberalisation.

It is within this context that Secretariat planning to undertake a regional training workshop on TIS statistics to kickstart the capacity building process in the subject matter with the technical support of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), being the leading international agency on trade in services statistical standards. UNCTAD has developed an information system called TiSSTAT (Trade-in-Services Statistics Information System) which is already used in Western Africa, to lower costs and technical barriers to high-quality services trade statistics. The Member States of UNCTAD, in the Bridgetown Covenant, the outcome document of the UNCTAD XV conference, explicitly called for support for developing economies in trade in services (para 127 ff).

The upcoming workshop seeks to enhance regional collaboration, share best practices, and explore implementing TiSSTAT in line with international standards. This initiative will address critical trade-in-services data gaps and strengthen Balance of Payments (BoP) statistics across the region. The workshop will bring together statisticians, experts, and Central Bank representatives from SADC Member States, namely Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, to share practices, challenges, and priority areas for support.

The workshop will be held in Maputo, from September 08 to 12, 2025, to explore the potential of TiSSTAT as a comprehensive tool owned by a Member State for compiling high-quality, detailed, and timely trade in services statistics. The event is jointly organized by the SADC Secretariat and UNCTAD.

Objective

This technical workshop aims to enhance the SADC Member States statistical capacity to compile trade in services statistics on a regular basis. It will strengthen participants' skills in conducting effective surveys on international trade in services covering essential prerequisites, such as institutional arrangements, business registers, and design of robust questionnaires. The main objectives are as follows:

- I. Provide training to Member States of SADC to produce TIS statistics on an annual basis;
- II. Take stock of each Member State current position in the undertaking of annual TIS statistics;
- III. Share good practices and identify challenges encountered by Member States in undertaking of annual TIS statistics such as financial, technical and institutional amongst others; and
- IV. Draft a road map for each Member State regarding national training and technical assistance for implementation for the period 2026 – 28.

Detailed sessions will address survey components, including the identification of enterprises, EBOPS categories, and breakdowns by partner and mode of supply. The workshop will also provide an in-depth introduction to TiSSTAT, the multi-user application for data collection and processing, through live demonstrations and hands-on activities such as exploring integrated questionnaires, conducting data entry, and managing survey sampling and reporting.



Methodological aspects like data validation, stratification, and extrapolation will be discussed to ensure alignment with international standards and best practices.

Expected outcomes

- I. Technical knowledge on TIS statistics and UNCTAD TiSSTAT tool
- II. Baseline information on each Member State position on TIS statistics (PPT) – template (10 min)
- III. Roadmap for national trainings in TiSSTAT in Member States (our offer -proposal)

Target participants

The workshop targets TIS statisticians from the Central Banks and National Statistical Offices working on reconciling TIS of all SADC Member States.

The training will be delivered to 2 participants from each Member State (one participant from the National Statistics Office and one participant from the Central Bank).

Scope of the work

The workshop is expected to cover theoretical and practical explanation in line with latest international guidelines on how to collect, compile and disseminate TIS statistics; in depth explanation on the TiSSTAT tool for producing harmonized TIS statistics; cater for effective practical exercises in the process; and review the country positions/practices in compilation of TIS statistics in detail.

Structure and presentation by member states

- Strategic matters and institutional arrangements between NSO, Central Bank and others in TIS statistics
- Current data sources/surveys and others used to produce TIS statistics
- Practical aspects for disaggregating TIS statistics by partner country attribute to generate intra-SADC TIS
- Reconciliation procedures for TIS in National Accounts and BOP
- Existing work done with international organisations for breakdown of TIS
- Challenges currently encountered and capacity needs for support
- Expectations from technical assistance

Venue

The assignment will be carried out in a conference venue in Maputo, Mozambique during 8 - 12 September 2025. SADC Secretariat shall cover all costs in the undertaking of the event.

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