

Towards MSITS 2026:

The revision of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services

The 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Arab Statistics Initiative (ARABSTAT)
13 November 2024

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Do we need a MSITS?



- MSITS was published in 2010 – need for coherence with BPM7 and SNA 2025
- Guidance available on Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) and Trade in Services by Mode of Supply (MoS) – Eurostat
- **How can we make sure MSITS is still relevant?**

Guiding principles for MSITS revision

INTEGRATION

Provide a holistic view on trade in services encompassing different statistical frameworks (BOP and FATS) and different dimensions

STREAMLINE

Focus on services

remove parts not strictly related to the international supply of services

MULTIDIMENSIONALITY

How trade takes place

Who trades

What is traded (more **granularity**)

With whom

Concise: *'looks at concepts with a compiler's eye'*

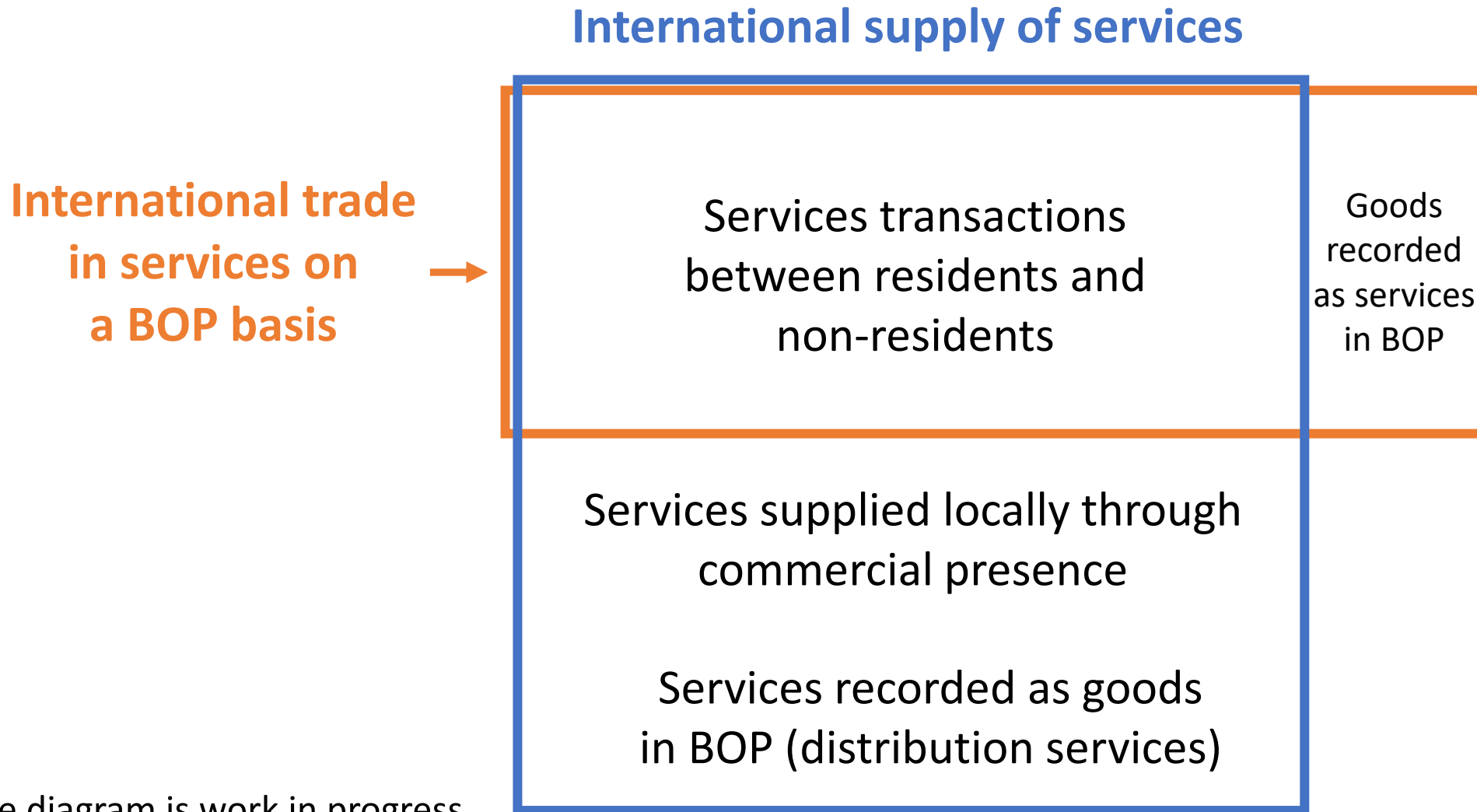
Modern: Increased use of **visuals**

Accessible: to the wider public through clear and simple English language

Outline of the new MSITS (1/4)

- 1. Introduction** The rationale for the revision, the structure of the new manual, and a summary of main recommendations
- 2. A conceptual framework for measuring international services (substantial revamping)**
 - Sets the stage by presenting basic concepts, definitions and recording principles for goods and services in international trade (common with IMTS)
 - Presents a new conceptual framework that establishes the scope of MSITS (frameworks/measures/breakdowns)
 - Reduces or relocates much of the background information

The **scope** of MSITS 2026



Note: the diagram is work in progress and a simplified version is shown here.

Outline of the new MSITS (2/4)

3. Services transactions between residents and non-residents (update)

- Same scope as the BPM7 chapter on services
- Structure streamlined (and aligned between chapters 3 and 4)
- Will be based on the new EBOPS 2026 (in the Annex)

4. FATS and the international supply of services through commercial presence (update)

- Basic FATS/AMNE concepts kept (in line with SNA 2025)
- Shortening of current text to focus on service supply via commercial presence
- Recommendations on ICFA dropped

Outline of the new MSITS (3/4)

5. Towards a holistic view of trade in services (new chapter)

- While chapters 3 and 4 deal with the two core statistical **frameworks**, this chapter will develop the **measures** and **breakdowns** covered by the conceptual framework:

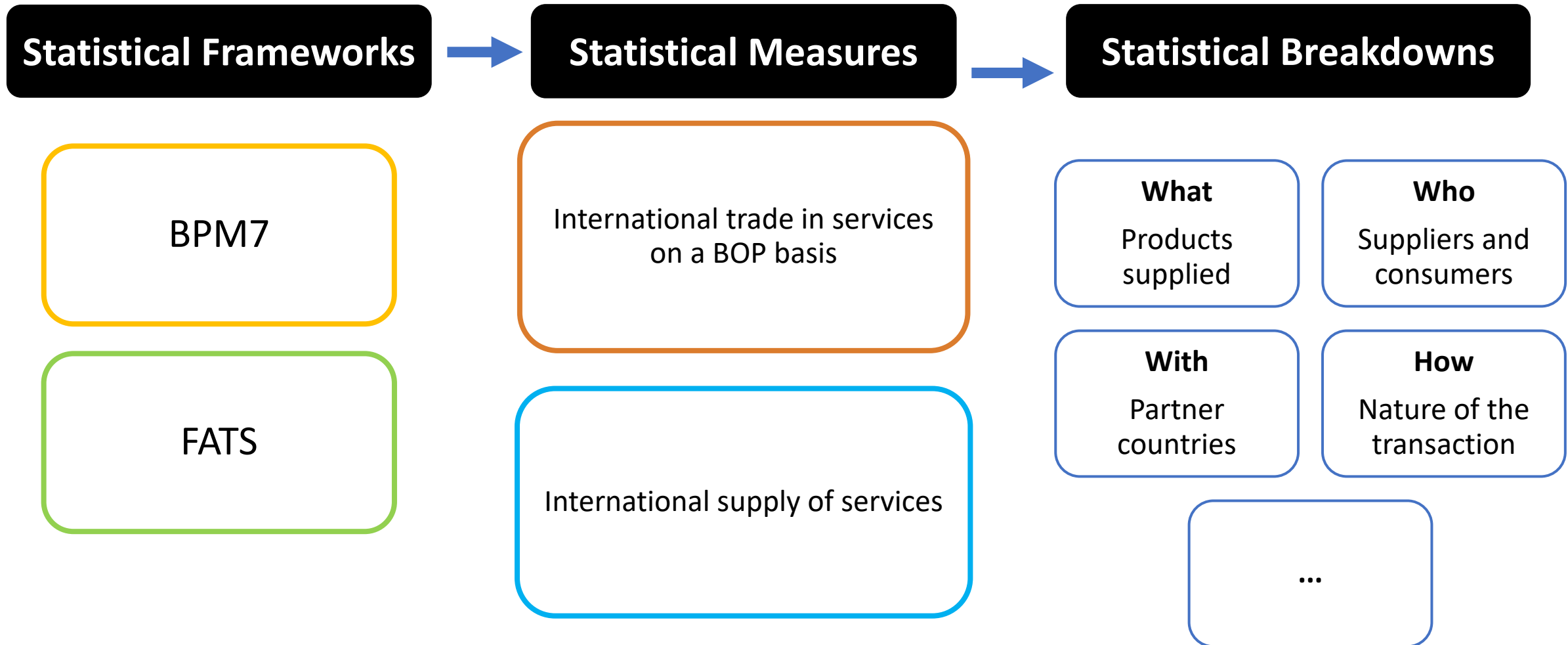
What is traded (with additional granularity)

With partner countries

How trade takes place (modes of supply, digital trade, sustainably...)

Who trades (STEC, gender dimension...)

What do we mean by **integrated** framework?



Outline of the new MSITS (4/4)

6. Quantitative indicators on the international supply of services (new chapter)

- Measurement of prices, volumes and quantities for the international supply of services (new material, research ongoing)
- Quantitative indicators for modes 2, 3 and 4 (existing material)

7. Data quality and dissemination (new chapter)

- Quality assurance framework
- Data dissemination (confidentiality, revisions, seasonal adjustment...)
- Text largely drawing on IMTS, with adaptations

Timeline & next steps

- Drafting of chapters in progress (by chapter leads & contributors), review by chief editors and MSITS team on a rolling basis
- EBOPS 2026 under finalization
- Coordination with IMTS leads on common issues
- Preliminary version of MSITS expected for end 2024