

# Why Export-Import Price Index

- Part of the core sets of economic statistics.
- Being a highly import driven economy – could serve as lead indicator of the expected inflationary trend at the consumer level and assist in making the necessary interventions.
- Improve GDP estimates – in the absence of XMPI, we have been using the CPI as proxy indicator to deflate/measure the real growth of XM component, which would not be as accurate as the XMPI. Therefore, having an XMPI would improve the GDP estimates
- These are the reasons why we want to come up with the XMPI.

# How the index was developed

- So it was through the RPES established by UNESCAP to strengthen the economic statistics in the region, that we have initiated the development of XMPI. ESCAP was the lead coordinator and provided both technical and financial support.
- They fielded a price consultant to help us develop the index.
- Initial proposal to conduct survey based data collection which would entail more resources
- However, given the expertise and the experience of the consultant, he recommended that we try and use the trade statistics data which required less resources

# Contd.

- The implementation phase involved:
  - Data assessment
  - Consultation with key stakeholders
  - System development (computation and technical processing)
  - Training the local staff and documentation of the processes
- The implementation part is where strong collaboration and support of development partners and key national stakeholders esp. data providers play a vital role in successful completion of the task. With the technical expertise that was available to us and also the support and willingness to share the data by the customs office, we have been able to develop the index and has been published officially recently.

## **Challenges:**

- Getting timely data (establishing relationship and data sharing mechanism)
- Human resources and other priorities

## **Recommendations:**

- Customs data is a good starting point for compilation of XMPI as it requires minimal resources and the data is reliable enough
- Detailed documentation of the processes are necessary for current as well as future reference. This is essential in building trust in the statistics produced.
- Regional collaboration and platforms for knowledge/experience sharing provide opportunity to build capacity and strengthen statistical system