

**Second Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Business and Trade Statistics
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Coordination of the activities of the Task Teams on global assessments

Prepared by UNSD in collaboration with the Task Team leaders

1. Since the 1st Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) in 2018, the task teams of the Committee have been discussing their terms of references and refining their work programmes. A number of task teams envisioned the conduct of a global assessment on country practices in the specific area of interest of the task team. This has raised the question whether a coordinated approach in the conduct of these assessments is needed in order to reduce the response burden to countries.
2. The task team on business dynamics, business demography and entrepreneurship is working toward the identification of core set of indicators on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship that are relevant to all countries. These indicators take into accounts new and emerging drives of business activity, such as innovation and communication technology, research and development, e-commerce, globalization, employment and skills development. The task team plans to conduct an assessment of national practices in business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship, covering data collection and challenges to the compilation of data, in order to develop recommendations and guidance on the harmonization of these statistics in the long term. Particular attention will be given in the assessment to the central role of statistical business registers in surveys and censuses.
3. The task team on globalization and digitalization is working toward the preparation of a compendium that brings together the existing work in the area of globalization and digitalization in order to identify possible gaps and actions to remedy shortcomings, taking into account the work that is being already done in other fora. The task team aims to foster collaboration and integration of programmes relevant in globalisation and digitalization and promotes an integrated approach to globalisation and digitalisation issues. The task team plans to conduct a global assessment on the work done in countries on globalization and digitalization.
4. The task Team on Capacity building (no one left behind) is focusing on statistical business registers (SBRs). In particular, the task team aims to reduce the gaps between countries in the early stage of development of SBR and those in an advanced stage by identifying the specific needs of such countries and developing tools tailored to the specific needs. The task team plans to conduct a global assessment on the status of implementation of SBRs in countries in order to identify countries that need assistance and develop tailor solutions.
5. The task team on exhaustive business registers is working on developing guidance for Statistical Business Registers to become more inclusive and exhaustive in a rapidly changing economy; and better tailored to statistical production. As part of this work, the task team aims to prepare a strategic view on exhaustive SBRs based on the identification of different challenges across countries depending on the stage of maturity of SBRs. In this regard, the task team discussed the possibility to conduct a global assessment on the status of implementation of SBRs and on the challenges across countries. Given the similar

assessment planned by the task team on capacity building, close coordination between the two task teams is sought.

6. The preparation of these assessments will be coordinated among the task teams. The draft questionnaire forms will be initially prepared by the relevant task team and will be circulated among all the task teams for comments. The task teams highlighted the importance to make the survey forms as simple as possible and to develop an online survey to facilitate countries' responses. The assessment will be accompanied with a note describing the objectives of the assessment and explaining the benefits for countries to respond.

7. The conduct of these assessments, however, can be organized in different ways and the views of the Committee are sought in this regard.

8. One way to organize the conduct of the assessments is to send independently three separate questionnaires to countries, possibly at different points in time. This might have the advantage that each questionnaire is easily directed to the correct respondent and each questionnaire form can be sent independently as it is developed. The disadvantage could be the perceived response burden to the countries which receive three separate surveys from the UNCEBTS.

9. Another way to organize the conduct of the assessments is to coordinate the assessments as to send one survey consisting of three parts, one for each task team's assessment. An advantage of this approach is that the countries are approached only once for the survey. However, because the survey contains 3 separate parts - likely to be answered by different respondents, more coordination will likely have to take place in the statistical office in order for them to respond.

10. Based on the discussion that took place within each task team, it is proposed that the assessment is conducted through one survey covering the different areas.

11. UNSD, as secretariat of the UNCEBTS, is best placed to conduct the assessments and will seek cooperation with partners, especially the United Nations regional commissions.

12. The Committee is invited to express its views on the conduct of these assessments, in particular whether to conduct separate and independent assessments or one assessment which contains three separate parts.