I am pleased to welcome you to this virtual International Workshop on the Integrated Use of International Trade Statistics and Economic Statistics.

I thank you for joining this important Workshop despite the challenges of different time zones. The need for international engagements to share best practices and experience in statistical data production and use has never been greater than in the current times, with many global challenges which require more timely, granular, and high-quality data. Data sharing and linking and alternative data sources have been identified as ways to promote integration among statistical domains; thus, it enables us to address those challenges.

I especially thank China NBS for their initiative to jointly organize this Workshop with UNSD and UNCTAD in cooperation with WTO. I would also like to recognize important contributions from Eurostat, OECD, and various national institutions worldwide for supporting this Workshop.

This Workshop will help tackle important issues for advancing the production and use of international trade statistics, including digital trade and e-commerce, trade by enterprise characteristics, statistics of international trade in services by mode of Supply, foreign affiliates trade statistics (FATS), and other related economic statistics. Some of you may know that we are currently revising the trade statistics standards, and these topics are very much in focus. I expect that the discussions and outcomes of the Workshop would be beneficial for the revision work.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Statistical Commission recognize the interconnectedness of different phenomena, including businesses and jobs, international trade, and information, communication, and technology. Therefore, I am happy to see that the agenda of this Workshop reflects the interconnectedness of these phenomena and tackles the production of various datasets, linking and their use.
Apart from many attendees, I am delighted to see participants and resource persons at this Workshop from diverse backgrounds, including trade, the balance of payment, and business statisticians, compilers, academics, and analysts. I am confident that this diverse participation will enrich everyone’s experience. Furthermore, besides the discussions and exchanges on the conceptual framework and compilation practice, the Workshop will also share information on other available technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

Let me conclude by wishing you a successful Workshop. I am confident that participants will acquire substantive knowledge involving techniques on trade data production and their use, especially trade-in services compilation practices, digital trade, e-commerce, and linking trade and businesses.

Thank you very much.