



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# **Draft proposal for a Global initiative on unique identifiers**

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UN Committee of  
Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

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## Outline

- Rationale for this initiative
- Background on the discussion so far
- Request by the UNSC
- Draft proposal for the global initiative

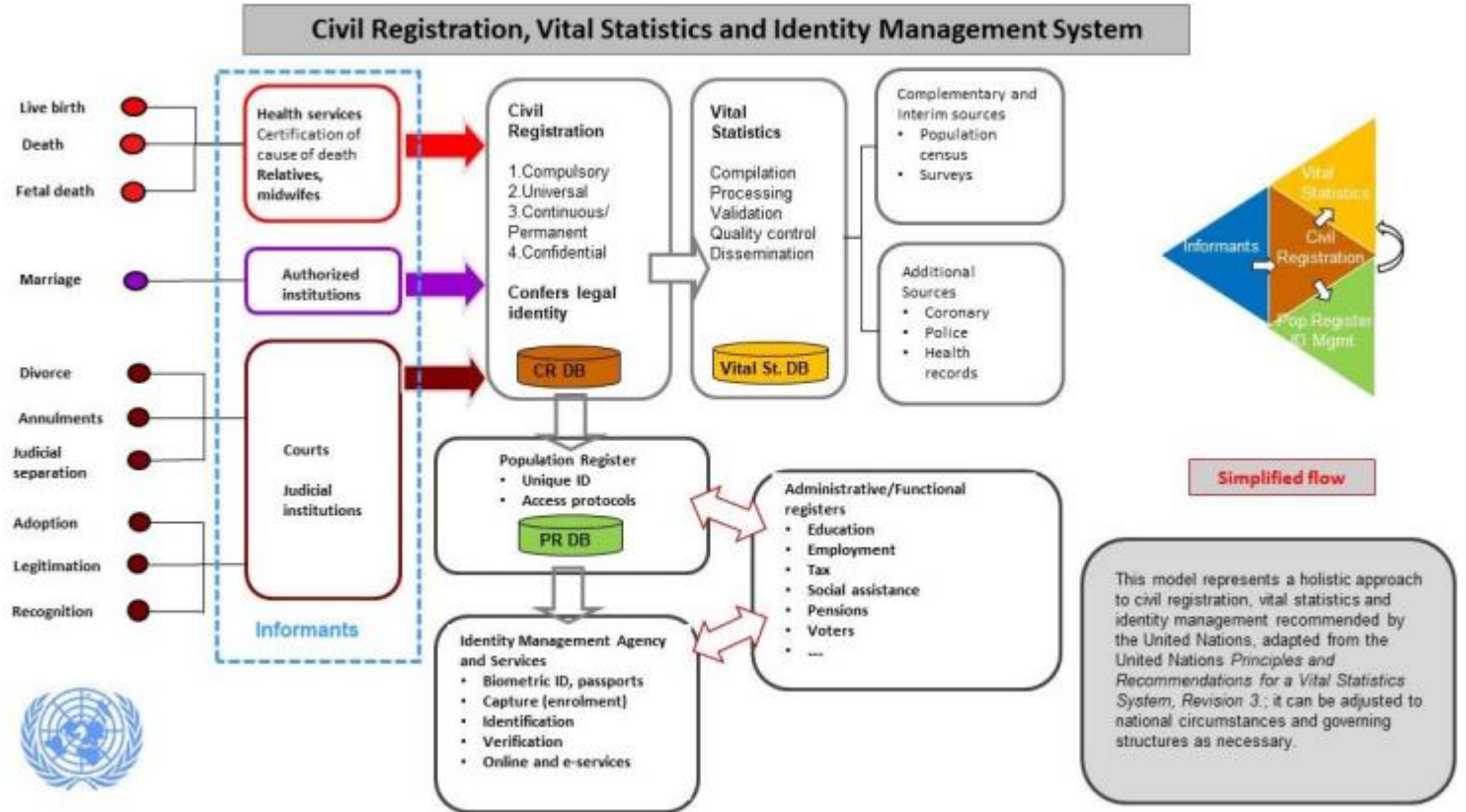


## Rationale for this initiative (1)

- Statistical Business registers cannot be view in isolation
- A holistic approach to SBRs takes into account:
  - a legal business registration system
  - an identity management system
  - a statistical business register (SBR)
  - a system of demographic and other business statistics derived from SBR
- Improving the registration of businesses and the identify management system for businesses greatly facilitates the establishment and the maintenance of Statistical Business Registers
- This is a similar approach to Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and population registers
  - Guidelines on the Legislative Framework for Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management (UN 2019)
  - Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Revision 1 (UN 2018)

## Rationale for this initiative (2)

- Similarities with Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- [United Nations Legal Identity Agenda](#)
- Global initiative that was launched as a “One UN” approach to:
  - establish a common approach to the issue of functional registration and legal identity; and
  - to support of Member States building holistic, country-owned, sustainable civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems.
- 13 UN agencies





## Rationale for this initiative (3)

- One of the main issues in the establishment and improvement of Statistical Business Registers (SBR) in countries is the lack of a unique identifier and a well-functioning business registration system
- Strengthening of the legal registration of business and the availability of unique identifiers is essential for
  - a better use of administrative data in the SBRs and
  - linking of data from various sources



## Background on the discussion so far

- The conversation started with GLEIF in December 2020 on how to strengthen business registration and establishment of unique identifiers in countries in order to benefit SBRs and also the establishment of global registers
- 4<sup>th</sup> UNCEBTS meeting in June 2021 discussed the initial proposal and there was a general support for the initiative
- 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the UNSC in March 2022:  
The UNSC “Supported the development of a global initiative aimed at improving the availability of unique business identifiers in administrative data sources, considered essential to help countries in strengthening statistical business registers and better understanding globalization; and requested the Committee to further elaborate the initiative and to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, in 2023.”
- Further discussion took place with during the period June-July 2022 with the UNCEBTS Chair, Task team leads, Eurostat, GLEIF
- Current draft is the outcome of the discussion at the joint meeting of the task team on Exhaustive Business Register and Capacity building in August 2022



## Main elements of the draft proposal for the global initiative

- The main objectives of the global initiative are to:
  - strengthen the transparency on businesses in countries by **improving their registration**
  - **improve the availability of unique business identifiers** in administrative data sources in countries
  - **promote access to and sharing of administrative data** for statistical business registers
- In addition, in order to better understand globalization and the profiling of the multinationals in their cross border legal ownership structures, it is important to **link national unique identifiers with global identifiers**
  - ⇒ This will in turn facilitate the establishment and maintenance of global registers containing the legal structure of multinationals, in particular the global registers (UNSD-OECD), the link between business and trade etc.
- It will be important to explore how to leverage the existing initiative the Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) System which provides global unique identifiers of legal entities and their ownership structure and has a robust infrastructure of the issuance of identifiers with countries



- The *Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses* is envisaged to gather interested international/regional organizations active in the domain of SBRs and business registration and statistical legislation, supported by countries through the UNCEBTS
- It is proposed that the initial focus of the global initiative is on:
  - Outreach to relevant international/regional organizations
  - Coordination of technical cooperation activities aimed at strengthening the administrative registration of businesses in countries and the relevant legislation
  - Development of guidelines and case studies on the importance of a well-functioning registration system in countries for SBRs
  - Demonstrate through case studies the importance and benefit of linking national identifiers with global identifiers, such as the LEI





- The Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses is expected to be closely linked with the global assessment on the status of implementation of SBRs in countries
- The global assessment can serve as
  - the basis for the identification of countries where the legislation and registration system need to be strengthened
  - The monitoring tools for the Global initiative

- The Committee is invited to
  - Provide comments on the draft proposal
  - Endorse the draft for submission to the United Nations Statistical Commission

Thank you!