

# Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE AREAS OF WORK FOR THE UNCEBTS

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# UNCEBTS: A FORWARD AND BACKWARD LOOK



## Start up phase:

### Definition of a common vision:

- cross-cutting issues and enterprise centered approach

### Definition of a common statistical production framework:

- The business register and data integration/record linkage

### Organization of activities:

- Task teams reflecting priority areas

## Intermediate phase:

Elaboration of the Strategic view

Task teams' outputs and research position paper (IAOS)

Manual on the **global core set of principal business and trade indicators**

Manual on the **Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers**

## Evolution phase:

**Integration with trade statistics**

**New priorities?**

**New outputs?**

**Fine tuning or reshaping of existing Task Teams?**

# FACTORS DRIVING CHANGES IN THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

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## DEMAND OF BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

- After the discontinuity generated by Covid-19, countries are looking for the «new normal»
- For many countries the «new normal» is associated with evolution in life-style and business strategy
- For some countries the «New normal» is connected to major Recovery Plans that will reshape the structure of the economy focusing on green economy, digitalization and integrated social and economic projects.

**DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT NUMBERS FOR THE NEW NORMAL?** Variables, classifications, statistical units

# FACTORS DRIVING CHANGES IN THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

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## SUPPLY OF BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

- Shortage of skilled workers, need to adopt a better work-life balance, etc
- High costs of direct reporting (financial and burden on the respondents)
- Microdata linkage and data sharing without collecting new data
- Need to exploit new data sources (more updated, more business relevant, more flexible)

**DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT INPUTS AND PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION FOR THE NEW NORMAL?**

# THE IMPACT OF THE RECOVERY PLAN ON BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS



Traditional business and trade statistics are finalised to measure the state of the art of a given country under following assumptions:

- Structural change is relatively low and homogeneous (**stable estimation parameters**)
- New industries evolve slowly over time (**stable classification schemes**)
- Statistical units are not affected by major changes (**stable units, only variables can change**)
- Some issues are not covered or partially covered

«Industrial» recovery plans are boosting investments in specific industries also affecting business behaviour and the drivers of growth

They are very likely to determine the following effects:

- Instability of estimation procedures (National accounts, SBS and trade)
- Obsolescence of some classification scheme/item
- The need of new indicators

**NSO should invest on quality (consistency and business relevance), how the UNCEBTS can support this process?**

# ELABORATING A STRATEGIC VIEW FOR THE UNCEBTS

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- The Committee shall respond to the mandate from UN member states at the Statistical Commission back in 2018 to **better integrate business and trade statistics** for addressing the data needs for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data.
- The Statistical Commission recognized the interconnectedness of businesses, people and the environment, to leverage common data sources and collection mechanisms: **holistic approach**
- the need to **further integrate business and trade statistics to inform the thematic areas** of business dynamics, business demography and entrepreneurship; globalization and digitalization; and wellbeing and sustainability.
- The need to **invest on new data infrastructure, data linkage and data sharing**
- To identify emerging topics for the 2022-2025 program for business and trade statistics . Some examples: furthering of the work on **global value chain analysis**; exploring the feasibility of a **unique legal identifier**; support developing countries in setting up a **statistical business register platform**; creating a **communication strategy** to promote the work of the maturity model to national policy makers for the development of sound statistical business registers; establishing a **global register of multinational enterprises**

# CONCLUSIONS

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- To consolidate the strategic view in connection to new challenges
- To elaborate a full integration between Business and Trade Statistics
- Fine-tuning of the Task Teams
- Set up priorities for the Task Teams
- To plan the program and to monitor new outputs