



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

**7th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics
24-26 September 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

– hosted by the World Trade Organization (WTO)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA (last update: 23 September)

The 7th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics will take place from 24 - 26 September 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will be hosted by the World Trade Organization.

Since its establishment, the Committee has worked to strengthen basic business and trade statistics needed for the overall improvement of economic statistics and for responding to emerging needs. The Committee focuses on coordination, development of methodology and concepts, capacity-building, data, and communication on business and trade statistics. The Committee's strategic view on business and trade statistics is rooted in a horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics across statistical domains.

The meeting will review the progress of work of its task teams, address follow-up actions to the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission and review new developments and initiatives in business and trade statistics. In addition, the meeting will provide strategic direction on the organization and work programme of the Committee to ensure that it reflects the current efforts by the Committee to better integrate business and trade statistics and also to strengthen the horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains.

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

9:30 – 9:50 Opening remarks

- Angela Paolini Ellard WTO (Deputy Director-General, WTO)
- Stefan Schweinfest (Director, UNSD) – video recording

9:50 – 10:30: Follow up to the UNSC decision and introduction of the strategic framework
(UNCEBTS Chair)

This session will provide an overview of the decisions of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2024 and the follow up work of the UNCEBTS. It will review current and upcoming priorities for the work programmes on business and trade statistics in countries and international organizations. This session will also present the strategic framework on the integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains and provide a strategic discussion on the work programme and future direction of the Committee.

- Note on the integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains and strategy direction of UNCEBTS (Stefano Menghinello, Istat and Cristina Neves, Statistics Portugal)
- discussions

10:30 – 11:00: Photo of the group and coffee break

11:00- 11:20: Trends in trade and emerging data needs

- Coleman Nee and Victor Stolzenburg, WTO

11:20 – 12:30: Stocktaking of countries/international organizations experiences in the advanced work on business and trade statistics and their integration with other statistical domains.

The session will present various activities on business and trade statistics from various countries and organizations that align with the new strategic direction of the Committee.

- Plans for European business and trade statistics (Petra Sneijers, Eurostat)
- OECD recent outputs and work programme (Annabelle Mourougane, OECD)
- Onno Hoffmeister, UNCTAD
- IMF work on business and trade statistics and their integration with other statistical domains (Patrick Quill, IMF)
- Barbara D'Andrea, WTO

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch

14:00 – 15:30: Strengthening coordination with inter-agency working groups and groups from intergovernmental organization

A stronger integration between business and trade statistics and stronger coordination across other statistical domains and with the macroeconomic framework should be pursued and strengthened by the UNCEBTS. The UNSC identified new priority areas and emerging topics, with relevance to the work that is being developed by the UNCEBTS, which imply that this Committee continue to actively reach out to groups of experts in other statistical domains to improve the coordination of activities and identify areas of common interest. The main purpose of this section is to discuss the way forward to strengthen the collaboration with inter-agency working groups and groups from intergovernmental organizations to advance the integration of business and trade statistics in other statistical domains.

(Round-table discussions)

- UN Network of Economic Statisticians (Aishath Shahuda, Co-Chair of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians and Deputy Chief Statistician, Maldives Bureau of Statistics)
- Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Herman Smith, Chief, National Accounts Section, UNSD)
- UN Committee of Experts on Big data and Data Science for Official Statistics (Luis Gerardo Gonzalez Morales, Chief, Data Innovation Section, UNSD)
- Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (Cara Williams, Co-chair of IAEG-SDGs, Statistics Canada)
- Expert Group on the integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (Claudio Stenner, Co-chair of EG-ISGI, IBGE Brazil)
- Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics (Reena Shah and Emil Ivanov, Environment Statistics Section, UNSD)
- UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (Ilaria Di Matteo, Chief, Environmental-Economic Accounting Section, UNSD)
- Discussion

15:30 – 15:45: Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00: Round table discussion and summary of the strategic discussion on business and trade statistics and way forward

This session will discuss the organization and governance practice to make the Committee effective and sustainable and to draw conclusion and next step of action to better integrate business and trade statistics, to strengthen the horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains.

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Task teams update / countries experiences

9:30 – 10:50 Task Team on Statistical Business Registers

This session will review the progress of the work of the Task team on statistical business registers and discuss emerging topics in this area

- Progress report (Hank Hermans, CBS, TT-SBR leader)
- Implementing the classification update on the UK business register (Andrew Allen, ONS)
- Global initiative on unique identifiers for business (CBS/UNSD/GLEIF/UNCITRAL)
- Discussions

10:50 – 11:10: Coffee break

11:10 – 12:30: Task Team on International Trade Statistics

This session will review the progress of the Task Team's work on international trade statistics and discuss emerging topics in this area. It will focus on globalization topics (such as MNEs' activities) and future plans due to the finalization of the various trade statistics manuals.

- Progress update (Cristina Neves, Statistics Portugal and Ouljour Houssaine, Office des Changes - Morocco, TT-ITS leaders)
- Using real-time data for trade-related business decisions – Experience from the African Trade Observatory project (Mathieu Loridan, ITC)

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch

14:00 – 15:15: Task Team on Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship

This session will review the progress of the work of the Task Team on business dynamics, demography, and entrepreneurship and discuss emerging topics in this area.

- Progress report (Gerardo Durand, INEGI, TT-BDBDE leader)
- Mainstreaming the gender dimension in OECD statistics: The OECD Gender Dat Initiatives (Michela Gamba/Ashley Ward, OECD) (remote presentation)
- Producing new insights on entrepreneurship through data integration (Hui Min Cui, SingStat)
- Discussions

15:15 – 15:30: Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30: Task Team on Digitalization

This session will review the progress of the work of the Task Team on globalization and digitalization and discuss emerging topics in this area

- Progress report (Mark Uhrbach, StatCan. TT-G&D leader)
- E-commerce discussions at the WTO (Stefania Gallo, WTO)
- Update on the Task Group on measuring e-commerce value (Si Yuan Tan, TG-eCom Chair) (remote presentation)
- Discussions

16:30 – 17:00: Work programme on Wellbeing and Sustainability

This session will review the progress of the work of the Task Team on wellbeing and sustainability and discuss emerging topics in this area.

- Progress report (Stefano Menghinello, Istat)
Environment and the WTO – how can statistics help? (Rainer Lanz, WTO)

Participants are invited to join the social self-funded dinner in the evening

Thursday, 26 September 2024

Morning Session: Handbook/Manual update

9:30 – 12:10 (20 minutes coffee break at 10:50-11:10)

Possibility for the UN Manual of Business Statistics

The session will discuss the use cases and justifications if UN Manual on Business Statistics is needed.

- Possible development of the UN Manual on Business Statistics (Julian Chow, UNSD)

Revision of IMTS and MISTS (ABS and WTO/OECD)

This session will provide an update on revising the trade statistics manuals both IMTS and MSITS.

- IMTS progress update (Amy Donnell, ABS, Chief editor)
- MSITS progress update (Barbara D'Andrea, WTO, Chief editor, on behalf of WTO and OECD)

Integration of Business and Trade Statistics/ Handbook on the Integration of Business and Trade Statistics

This session will review the activities of the Committee on the integration of business and trade statistics and provide an update on the drafting of the Handbook on the Integration of Business and Trade Statistics.

- Progress update (Gerardo Durand, INEGI, Cristina Neves, Statistics Portugal, Chief editors)
- Integrating business and trade data to profile goods exporting firms (Hui Min Cui, SingStat)

2nd volume of the Manual of Principal Indicators on Business and Trade Statistics

This session will provide the update on the 2nd volume of the Manual of Principal Indicators on Business and Trade Statistics

- Progress update (Ouljour Houssaine, Office des Changes – Morocco, Ying Yan, WTO, Chief editors)

Update on the BPM6 revision (Patrick Quill, IMF)

This session will provide a progress update on the BPM6 revision

- Progress update on the BPM6 revision (Patrick Quill, IMF)

Update on the SNA revision

UNSD would provide a progress update on the SNA revision (remote presentation)

- Progress update on the SNA revision (Herman Smith, UNSD)

12:10 – 12:30 Election of the Chair

In accordance with paragraph 17 and 18 of the UNCEBTS Mandate and Governance, a Chair will be elected among the members of Committee for a period of three years.

- Overview of the election process (UNSD as UNCEBTS Secretariat)
- End-of-term remarks from Outgoing Chair (Stefano Menghinello, Istat)

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch

Afternoon Session: Capacity Building and other business

14:00 – 15:00: Regional/national methodological/capacity development work on business and trade statistics (UNSD)

This session will invite international/regional organizations and countries to present their methodological development or capacity-building activities on business and trade statistics.

- WTO (Barbara D'Andrea)
- ITC (Julia Spies, ITC)
- STATFRIC (Adoum Gagoloum)
- UN Regional commissions (tbc)
- UNCTAD (tbc)
- Feedback from capacity development activities on statistical business registers (UNSD)

15:00 – 15:30: Conclusion and way forward (UNCEBTS Chair)

Expert Group Meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics

Friday, 27 September 2024

– hosted by the World Trade Organization (WTO)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The extended meeting of the of Task Team on International Trade Statistics of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics will take place on the 27 September 2024 focusing on the drafting of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS).

The Task Team on International Trade Statistics (TT-ITS), under the auspices of the UNCEBTS, is mandated to update the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS). The drafting of the manual has begun this year, having agreed on the working new outline, need for clarification on the conceptual framework, terminology, international services coverage, data sources, among others. It will consider updates of related frameworks and classifications, including BPM7, 2025 SNA, CPC Version 3.0, ISIC Rev. 5 and Guidance notes by the TT-ITS relating to the update of the trade manuals.

The meeting will review the progress of work since the TT-ITS meeting in June 2024 in Ankara, Türkiye and discuss follow-up actions and next steps, including actions needed with respect to the discussions of the UNCEBTS Meeting.

Morning Session (9:30 – 12:30, including 15 minutes coffee break at 10:50-11:10)

Welcome, follow-up matters, and updates

Opening remarks; Adoption of the Agenda; Follow up matters.

(Cristina Neves, Statistics Portugal, TT Co-leads and Barbara D’Andrea, WTO, Antonella Liberatore, OECD, Chief editors)

Progress update on drafting of Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services.

(Barbara D’Andrea, WTO, Antonella Liberatore, OECD, Chief editors)

Chapter 2. Conceptual framework.

(Alexis Grimm, BEA)

Chapter 3. Transaction between residents and non-residents.

(Andrea Carboni, Bank of Italy, Diana Wyman, Statistics Canada)

Chapter 4. Services supply through commercial presence.

(Cristina Neves, Statistics Portugal, George Papadopoulos, Eurostat)

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch

Afternoon Session (14:00 – 16:00)

Chapter 5. Towards a holistic measure of trade in services.

(George Papadopoulos, Eurostat, Ilda Duarte Fernandes Meyer, Deutsche Bundesbank)

Chapter 6. Quantitative indicators on the international supply of services.

(Annette Meinus and Ilda Duarte Fernandes Meyer, Deutsche Bundesbank)

Chapter 7. Data quality and dissemination.

(Habib Khan and Jiayue Zeng, UNSD)

EBOPS. Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification 2026.

(Markie Muryawan, UNSD, Ying Yan, WTO)

Conclusion and way forward.

(Cristina Neves, Statistics Portugal, TT Co-leads and Barbara D'Andrea, WTO, Antonella Liberatore, OECD, Chief editors)