

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)

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

Note on the integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains and strategy direction of UNCEBTS

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Outline of the presentation

- A little bit of history... and the founding principles of the UNCEBTS
- The production framework
- The business model
- The strategy
- The amended mandate and governance of the Committee
- Recommendations from the final report of the UN Statistical Commission
- Identification of new priority areas and coordination of activities for UNCEBTS
- Proposals and way forward

A little bit of history.....and the founding principles of the UNCEBTS

- The UNCEBTS was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 50th session in **March 2019** to provide coordination and guidance for the development of business and trade statistics and foster their integration and harmonization.
- The Committee has adopted an **integrated economic statistics approach** based upon an **enterprise-centered perspective** to foster integration across domains covering both a production and an output framework. **Early foundation in Mexico City in 2010?** The first time we introduce “enterprise” in a Trade Statistics Manual.
- A **pragmatical approach**: strategic view but also a **production framework** and an **output framework**
- **National based best practices** are often used as driver to **boost innovation and learning in other countries**, following a peer to peer knowledge sharing approach.

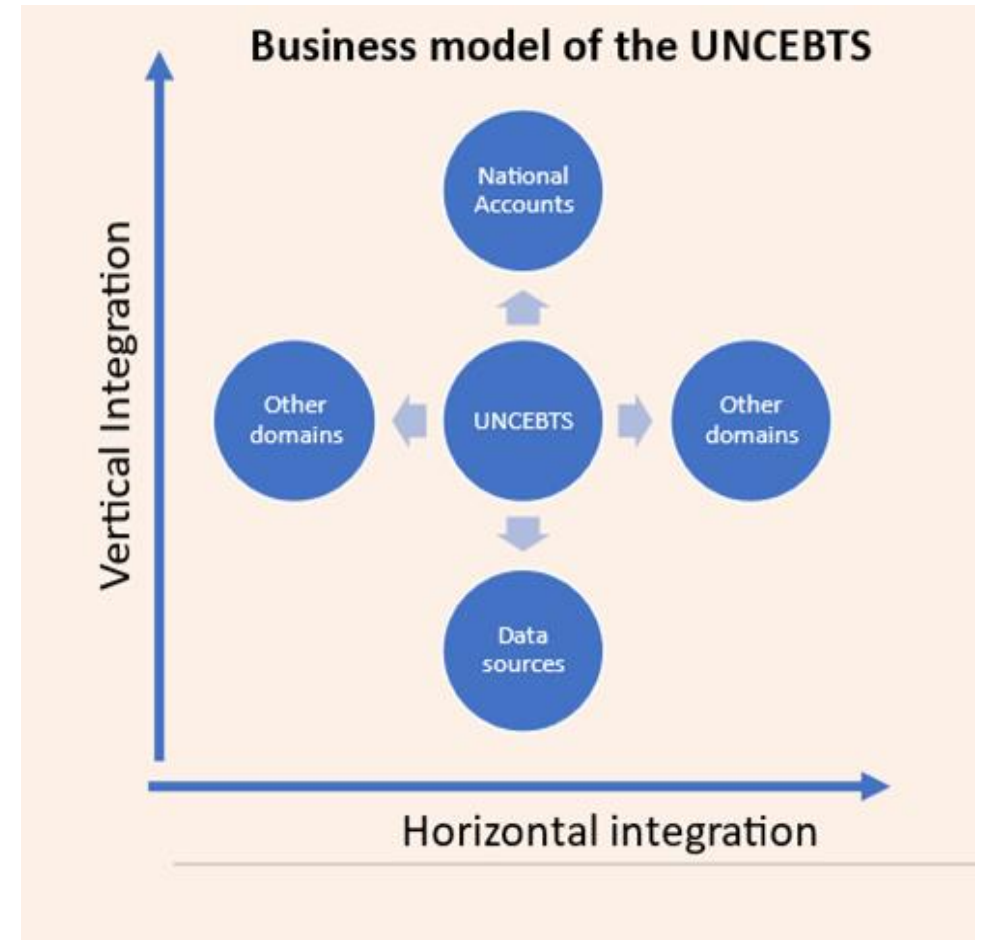
The production framework

- The **production framework** is based on **statistical business registers**, the use of common definitions and classifications and the **integration of survey and administrative and other data sources**.
- The **establishment of a statistical business register and its evolution according to a maturity model** are considered as key elements to support integration between business and trade.
- This production framework should be **expanded to other statistical domains : socio-demographic, environment and multi-domain statistics**, taking into account differences in terms of statistical units, classification schemes and methodology
- **New data sources and the future role of business registers** is a challenge for the future



The business model of UNCEBTS

- Both **vertical and horizontal integration** is pursued by the Committee.
- The **vertical integration** refers to the integration from **input data sources** of the statistical business register up to the business surveys and administrative and other data sources finalized to the production of business and trade data and indicators.
- It is also linked upward to a more **general frameworks such as national accounts and other economic and environmental accounts**.
- On the other hand, the **horizontal dimension focuses on the integration between business and trade statistics** and extends to the integration of business and trade statistics with other statistical domains, such as **environmental and social statistics through the linkage to their registers**.



The strategy of the UNCEBTS

The programme of work of the Committee focuses on the following five strategic areas:

- **coordination,**
- **methodology and concepts,**
- **capacity building,**
- **data integration and new data sources**
- **Communication**

It is regularly updated by The **Statistical Commission**, which at its 55th session in March 2024:

- endorsed the **amended mandate and governance of the Committee** to facilitate stronger integration between business and trade statistics and **stronger coordination across other statistical domains and with the macroeconomic framework**
- The **final report of the UN Statistical Commission** also provided an overall picture on the **challenges and evolution patterns of the UN Statistical System and to identify possible areas of integration and cooperation across statistical domains.**

The amended mandate and governance of the UNCEBTS

In terms of decisions on UNCEBTS, the UN Statistical Commission:

- a) Endorsed the amended mandate and governance of the Committee to **facilitate stronger integration between business and trade statistics and stronger coordination across other statistical domains and with the macroeconomic frameworks;**
- b) Approved the note on **mainstreaming a gender perspective into trade and business statistics**, and encouraged the Committee to strengthen ongoing collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics;
- c) Expressed its appreciation for the **progress on integrating geospatial aspects into business and trade statistics;**
- d) Commended the work on the **global initiative on unique identifiers for businesses;**
- e) Underscored the importance of **capacity development to strengthen the capabilities of the national statistical system for the compilation of business and trade.**

The Recommendations from the final report of the UN Statistical Commission

- An inclusive and representative Statistical Commission to **leave no one behind**,
- That the work in the field of statistics and data **is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem**
- The **need for technological innovations to systematically modernize statistical offices** and national statistical and data systems and to promote practices for the generation of information aligned with principles,
- Confirmation of the **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**,
- Leading role of the **Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.**

Identification of new priority areas and coordination of activities

- New priority areas call for the **identification and development of cross-cutting activities between the Committee's Task Teams** as well as for a **more intense collaboration between the Committee and other United Nations bodies** responsible for other statistical domains, such as national accounts, social and environmental statistics

In its recent meetings and reports, the Committee discussed and identified emerging areas of work such as:

- **integration of business and trade statistics with the environment domains,**
- **entrepreneurship**
- **digitalization and production automation technologies in manufacturing and services**
- **multinational enterprises and GVC**
- **entrepreneurship and gender**
- **the global initiative on unique identifiers**

The link between recommendations from the final report of the UN Statistical Commission and UNCEBTS priorities

The identification of new priority areas shall also be considered in the light of the **priorities defined recently by the UN Statistical Commission**. A **selection of priorities to be linked/incorporated with the UNCEBTS ones are the following**:

- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- **Environmental-economic accounting and more indirectly Climate change**
- **Gender statistics**
- **Use of data science for statistical production and dissemination**
- **Macro-economic accounts and statistics**
- **Geospatial data**

Focus on priority areas recommended by UN Statistical Commission

- **The need to expand the set of indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a better planning and focus on the production of new indicators based on the integration of business and trade statistics.**
- **The increasing demand of new data and indicators based on Environmental-economic accounting** is well documented in both the forthcoming revision of National Accounts and the increasing demand of information better design policies integrating economic and environmental goals.
- **The integration of business and trade with the social domain should not be limited to the gender, but should be also extended to other dimensions, based on policy priorities.**
- **Emerging topic from the Media/policy Agenda:** In many advanced countries, GDP is growing at a slow pace, productivity is stagnant, while employment is expanding. In association with that **working poor's are growing. This dilemma should be better analyzed with a focus on employment linked to business characteristics (employer-employee databases)**

Proposals and way forward

The **internal activities of the UNCEBTS are already well defined** in the work programme recently approved by the UNSC and should be fine-tuned with respect to emerging priorities and cross cutting goals

A **stronger coordination across other statistical domains and with the macroeconomic framework should be pursued and strengthen by the UNCEBTS.** The interaction between the UNCEBTS and the other relevant groups should be made in an effective and sustainable manner:

- By identifying the relevant Groups and Committees responsible for the **emerging topics**, working together in the definition of the work programme of the UNCEBTS, namely defining **specific areas of cooperation**.
- By promoting **specific thematic meetings** of the UNCEBTS with the relevant Groups and Committees to understand the priorities. Taking the relevance of the topic, by **organizing a joint event** with other Groups and Committees to discuss the production of statistics based on new data sources and statistical registers
- By promoting the **share of knowledge and best practices in relevant common topics** and developing **pilot projects** and **training programme** to support capacity development works on common issues.