



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

**Seventh Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Business and Trade Statistics
Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 September 2024**

Report of the Meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva from 24 - 26 September 2024. The meeting was attended by members from 19 countries and several international and regional organizations.

2. 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.

3. The meeting reviewed the progress of work of its task teams, addressed follow-up actions to the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission and reviewed new developments and initiatives in business and trade statistics. In addition, the meeting provided 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.

4. The opening statement by the UNSD Director Mr. Stefan Schweinfest highlighted the importance of the Committee's crucial role in enhancing the quality and coherence of business and trade statistics and underscored the importance of further integration across statistical domains to respond to the evolving needs of the global community. He commended the significant progress by the Committee towards the development of various methodological standards on business and trade statistics, among others, the publication of the United Nations Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers, the finalization of the Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics and the revision of the trade statistics manuals, and stressed the importance of the Committee's

work on capacity development to strengthen the capabilities of the national statistical systems for the actual compilation of business and trade statistics.

5. The opening remarks by the WTO Deputy Director-General Ms. Angela Ellard highlighted the critical role of integrating business and trade statistics in today's rapidly evolving global economy and underscored the ongoing collaboration between the WTO and the UN in advancing statistical methodologies and building capacity in developing economies. Four key areas where integrated data can significantly impact policy decisions were highlighted, namely cross-border transactions and the movement of people across borders; integrated environmental data with trade and business statistics; gender disaggregated data, and trade data at subnational level.

6. The present report summarizes the main outcome and actions of the meeting. The Committee:

- a. Expressed gratitude and thanks to the outgoing Chair Mr. Stefano Menghinello for his leadership and contribution in leading the Committee since its inception and guiding its work program to the current level, and congratulated for his new role as member emeritus of the Committee and interim Chair of the TT-W&S.
- b. Confirmed Mr. Gerardo Durand from INEGI Mexico as the Interim Chair of the Committee from September 27, 2024, to March 31, 2025, and expressed gratitude for his commitment to the Committee's work.
- c. Tasked the bureau to identify priority areas for the Committee to work on in the short to medium term and to align the Task Team activities with those priorities.
- d. Emphasized the need to have stronger coordination between the Committee and inter-agency working groups and intergovernmental organizations of other statistical domains, with suggestions to: define specific areas of cooperation; organize joint events to discuss the production of integrated statistics based on new data sources and statistical business registers; promote share of knowledge and best practices in relevant common topics, and develop pilot projects and training programme
- e. Acknowledge the usefulness of developing a UN Manual/Handbook of Business Statistics; noted the need for concerted efforts, dedicated resources, and prioritization; tasked the Bureau to develop a way forward and timeline, including the consideration of a global consultation exercise and elaboration of guidance/technical notes to assess the priority needs, in advancing the development work.
- f. Welcomed the progress on the drafting of the Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics; recommended its submission as a White Cover version to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2025 for endorsement following the review and endorsement by the Bureau after the global consultation process in the fourth quarter of 2024.

- g. Welcomed the progress on the revision of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics 2010 (IMTS 2010) and Manual on Statistics on International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010).
- h. Recommended the development of a centralized global public repository to share country practices and library documents for all domains of business and trade statistics.
- i. Reiterated the importance and the centrality role of statistical business register for the compilation of business statistics and their integration with other statistical domains. Identified the priority work programme for the Task team on Statistical Business Registers (TT-SBR), which includes the finalization of the discussion note on the integration of geospatial information into SBR; preparation of the Country Progress Report and Global Consultation of SBR; providing a platform to exchange information on the SBR recoding based on the revised industry classification, and the development of a toolkit for the SBR maturity model. Statistical interoperability of SBR with other registers was highlighted as another issue to be further explored by the task team.
- j. Expressed support and approval for the Strategic Roadmap for the Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses; took note of the importance of the establishment of unique identifiers for enterprises for efficient microdata linkage and the linking between the national and global unique identifier as a way to address confidentiality issue.
- k. Commended on the work by Task team on International Trade Statistics (TT-ITS) on the development of methodological guidelines which includes: the revision of trade statistics manuals (IMTS and MSITS); the drafting of the Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics and the development of an online public repository for the dissemination of related country practices, and the drafting of the 2nd volume of Manual on Principal Indicators on Business and Trade Statistics. Highlighted the importance for the TT-ITS develop a way forward in advancing the globalization work programme in collaboration with other task teams of the Committee.
- l. Took note of the key activities of the Task team on Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship (TT-BDBDE) in 2024 which included identifying relevant gender indicators, developing a repository for gender-related statistics, and creating a template for the recording of national practices. Identified the work programme in 2024-25 which covers: the finalization of the template for mainstreaming gender in business and trade statistics; development of the public repository for gender statistics; further research on entrepreneurship, particularly in small and medium enterprises, and strengthening collaboration with international bodies and other task teams.
- m. Confirmed the renaming of the Task Team on Digitalization (formerly known as the Task Team on Globalization and Digitalization), to reflect the focus of the task team

on the digitalization workstream and that the workstream on globalization has moved over to TT-ITS. Took note of the current focus of the task team work on measuring the adoption of automation technologies and the collaboration with UNCTAD's TG on measuring e-commerce to develop more reflective indicators.

- n. Recommended the elaboration of a concept note on the sustainability and well-being topic including the following issues: aligning the Committee's activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), list of proposed indicators, description of the production framework (business register, direct reporting, new data sources), and explore the use of new data sources.
 - o. Reiterated the importance of the Committee's work programme in capacity development to strengthen the capabilities of the national statistical systems for the compilation of business and trade statistics. Called for development of training materials and capacity building programme by the Committee in collaboration with other partners following the adoption of methodological standards on business and trade statistics.
7. The meeting documents and presentations are available online at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/uncebts/Seventh_meeting_2024. Detailed minutes of the meeting and list of participants are included in Annex I and II respectively.

Annex 1: Detailed minutes of the meeting

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

Follow up to the UNSC decision and introduction of the strategic framework

8. Mr. Stefano Menghinello (Istat) and Ms. Cristina Neves (Portugal) chaired the session, recapitulating UNCEBTS activities since 2019 and providing a next direction of UNCEBTS based on the priority areas recommended by UN Statistical Commission.
9. They suggested that stronger coordination across other statistical domains and with macroeconomic framework should be pursued and strengthened by the UNCEBTS in the following ways:
 - Defining specific areas of cooperation
 - Organizing a joint event to discuss the production of statistics based on new data sources and statistical registers
 - Promoting share of knowledge and best practices in relevant common topics, developing pilot projects, and training programme
10. In the discussion part, the feedback on the presentations is:
 - Ms. Anu Peltola (UNCTAD) commented that it is important to see what we can do to advance the work on employer-employee database because it is key to link business statistics and social issues such as gender equality measurements. Also, she pointed out that SBR plays an important role in linking data, but it is difficult to attract funds for SBR especially in developing countries despite the core of business statistics. Understanding multinational enterprises is also key for several economic indicators.
 - Mr. Gerardo Durand (INEGI) mentioned that it is necessary to understand the governance of the activities from other domains (such as sociodemographic statistics) to cultivate more cooperation, which clarifies what we should do in the business statistics.

Trends in trade and emerging data needs

11. Mr. Coleman Nee (WTO) and Mr. Victor Stolzenburg (WTO) provided the analysis of trade statistics and emerging data needs. They suggest that:
 - Current data availability is lagged behind the needs of policy makers.
 - Systemic administrative collection of individual characteristics linkable to regional and firm-level datasets is required. These in turn should be linkable to customs datasets.
 - Confidentiality needs should be better balanced against public interest in informed policy making.
 - New technologies should greatly facilitate data collection and accessibility in the future.

Stocktaking of countries/international organizations experiences in the advanced work on business and trade statistics and their integration with other statistical domains

12. The group presented various activities on business and trade statistics from various countries and organizations that align with the new strategic direction of the Committee.
13. Eurostat presented the activities of ensuring relevance of European business and trade statistics, horizontal and vertical integration of business and trade statistics.
14. OECD showed the recent initiatives and publications related to globalization, monitoring economic developments, and innovation LAB and experimental work.
15. UNCTAD explained their efforts for vertical and horizontal integration of business and trade statistics.
16. IMF talked about their BPM7 update relating to trade and business statistics and other business and trade statistics initiatives such as MARIO project and statistical forum on AI technologies.
17. WTO noted their recent accomplishments such as launching trade in service statistics data set (TISMOS) for various users.

Strengthening coordination with inter-agency working groups and groups from intergovernmental organization

18. Speakers were consulted on how to strengthen the collaboration between the UNCEBTS and the groups that they are representing, and which may be the specific areas of cooperation. Likewise, they were consulted if there are opportunities to organize joint events to discuss shared priorities.
19. The group discussed the roles of their organizations in facilitating such collaboration. The UN-NES held a series of webinars in 2023-24 on the implementation of statistical classifications, and will hold upcoming webinars on data strategy as well as AI and data science for economic statistics.
20. From UNSD, an update on the SNA was provided, noting the importance of collaboration during the revision process. The next step will be to focus on implementation and emerging data needs, where business statistics play a major role. The SNA update will be discussed further at an upcoming session of this meeting.
21. The UN-CEBD hosts the UN Global Platform, which provides a comprehensive suite of advanced tools and a platform for knowledge sharing.
22. The IAEG-SDGs is reviewing the global indicator framework, with business and trade statistics contributing to a number of the goals. Consultation with the custodian agencies could improve collaboration in capacity development and addressing data gaps.

23. The EG-ISGI noted their focus on reinforcing collaboration between regional bodies, expert groups and UN agencies, and seeking partners for capacity building activities on geospatial integration. The revised Global Statistical Geospatial Framework is to be presented next year.
24. The EG-ECCS noted the development of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, including implementation guidelines and a self-assessment tool. Indicators could be examined for their relevance to businesses, particularly regarding mitigation and adaptation.
25. The UNCEEA noted the role of the SEEA CF as an integrating framework in ensuring horizontal and vertical integration. The CF is being revised to reflect changes in the SNA as well as emerging policy priorities. Data is now being collected on energy flow and air emissions accounts. Maintaining consistency with updates of the GFSM and COFOG and the newly developed CEP is also crucial.

Round table discussion and summary of the strategic discussion on business and trade statistics and the way forward

26. A roundtable discussion was held, focusing on governance and collaboration on shared priorities.
27. The main topics raised include:
 - Resource allocation: a lack of resources in many organizations increases the need for collaboration, and to make use of existing resources.
 - Collaboration: participants discussed current best practices in collaboration, both within UNCEBTS and with other organizations, including cross-group interactions and shared memberships. Potential improvements such as increased cross-task team interaction, and alternatives to a siloed team approach were also discussed. The importance of communicating with stakeholders and taking a needs-based approach was noted, as were the difficulties in accurately identifying stakeholders. It was suggested to keep focus on the substantive work as well, among all the discussion on organizational strategy.
 - Defining key priority areas: it was suggested for the Committee to focus on 2-3 issues at a time, and to ask task teams to align their activities with those priorities, while noting these priorities may extend over more than one year. The document on the strategic direction and priorities for UNCEBTS will be updated based on the discussion, to be further discussed with the UNCEBTS Bureau.
 - Leave no one behind: participants discussed the needs of developing countries, including training and guidance on overcoming barriers such as statistical laws, administrative data access and confidentiality concerns. The importance of developing 'political will' was noted, as were the difficulties in securing funding for business registers and other initiatives.
 - Statistical business registers: the group discussed the importance of interoperability in SBRs, as well as the use of satellite registers in keeping the SBRs 'lean.'

- Other frameworks: it was noted that work will need to be done to incorporate updates to the GFS and SNA, including the treatment of marketing assets.

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Task Team on Statistical Business Registers

28. Mr. Hank Herman (Statistics Netherland) chaired the session, providing a progress update of the task team. Key activities in 2024 so far include such as preparation of the paper on the integration of geospatial information and workshop on SBR capacity building (Japan, Jordan). As work to be done in 2024, he put an emphasis on and demonstrated the SBR Maturity Model Repository as a toolkit to facilitate the NSO's efforts to improve their SBR as a next step.
29. Mr. Andrew Allen (ONS) talked about implementation of the classification update on the UK business register, which was practical and helpful for other NSOs to follow.
30. Mr. Julian Chow (UNSD), Mr. Ricco Dun (GLEIF), and Mr. Bastiaan (Statistics Netherland) presented the outline of the Strategic Roadmap of the Global Initiative on Unique Identifiers for Businesses. They plan to carry out global assessment survey, reach out to organizations for cooperations, do capacity building, and seek for pilot opportunities for the global unique identifiers for the next steps.
31. In the discussion part, feedback on the presentation included:
- Ms. Cristina (Statistics Portugal) noted that the idea of repository is the similar to the task team of trade statistics, specifically developed for the domain of integrating business and trade statistics, so a more global repository, to include all the needs from different areas within the UNCEBTS, could be envisaged.
 - Ms. Melike (Turkish Statistical Institute) made a comment that they have started to use GLEIF in their FATS production process. They are looking forward to the development of the enterprise scope in GLEIF as it will have a positive impact on their work, and they are very satisfied with the work on GLEIF.

Task Team on International Trade Statistics

32. Ms. Cristina Neves (Statistics Portugal) chaired the session, providing a progress update of the task team. Their key activities in 2024 include revising the trade statistics manuals (IMTS and MSITS), drafting HIBTS and MPIBTS and developing the online repository on country practices. The next steps are to:
- Stocktaking globalization-related activities in other working groups and assess the potential for collaboration
 - Link globalization issues with digital, green and inclusive dimensions

- Take LCU on board as a priority that is integrated and coherent with SNA/BPM
- Add more expertise to cover the abovementioned subjects because they are beyond the scope of traditional trade statistician role

33. Also, to advance the documents revision, they set the target UNSC endorsement deadlines of their documents as follows:

- MPITS: 2025
- HIBTS: 2025
- IMTS: 2026
- MSITS: 2026

34. Regarding the development of the repositories, it was discussed that it will be performed in coordination with the TT-SBR, TT-ITS and TT-BDBDE with the technical support of the UNSD and that there will be a focus group dedicated to this issue.

35. Following the progress report, Mr. Mathieu Loridan (ITC) shared his experience of pilot program: automatic collection and processing of transactional data in Africa. The program focused on transactional data which can provide policy makers and other users with timely and granular data. This type of data enables users to do more insightful analysis.

36. The presentation interested the audience, so there were a wide range of questions. Main questions on the presentations included:

- Ms. Margarita Lysenkova (GRI) asked a question about how the data can help track and assess the regulation or environmental changes because companies are keen on these kinds of changes. Mr. Mathieu Loridan answered that we will be able to analyze that in the future.
- Mr. Patrick Quill (IMF) asked a question about how the system can give feedback on data quality to NSOs and improve the quality of NSO's statistics. Mr. Mathieu Loridan answered that it was not the main focus of the program, and the program was not in the stage, but it might be a future outcome of this program although it depends on the country specific situation.

Task Team on Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship

37. Mr. Gerardo Durand (INEGI - Mexico) chaired the session, providing an update on the key activities and achievements of the Task Team in 2024. Key activities included identifying relevant gender indicators, developing a repository for gender-related statistics, and creating a template for national practices. The next steps are to:

- Finalize the template for mainstreaming gender in business and trade statistics for endorsement at the UN Statistical Commission in March 2025.
- Continue the development of the public repository for gender statistics.
- Prioritize further research on entrepreneurship, particularly in small and medium enterprises.

- Strengthen collaboration with international bodies and other task teams.
38. Following the progress report, Mr. Ashley Ward and Ms. Michela Gamba (OECD) presented the OECD Gender Data Initiative, which focuses on addressing gaps in gender-disaggregated data and promoting best practices in gender statistics. They noted challenges around data completeness and timeliness, with next steps including enhancing gender data visibility and developing corporate guidelines.
39. Lastly, Ms. Hui Min Cui (SingStat - Singapore) shared insights into producing new findings in entrepreneurship through data integration. She highlighted the use of the Statistical Business Register (SBR) and integrated longitudinal databases, focusing on leveraging Unique Entity Numbers (UEN) for enterprises and Unique Identification Numbers (UIN) for individuals. Key findings from two major studies were presented: one on high-growth firms, which revealed that younger firms experience faster growth and outperform non-high-growth firms in revenue and employment, and another on women-owned companies, which have seen significant growth. These insights are expected to support the development of evidence-based policies for entrepreneurship.
40. Feedback on the presentations included:
- Mr. Cody Hill (Census Bureau) emphasized the importance of linking indicators to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the relevance of sub-national statistics and gender. He stressed the need to consider regional needs and the significance of practical cases in gender analysis. The discussion addressed challenges faced by countries lacking Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) and the necessity for specific surveys to collect data. Additionally, he recommended including country-specific examples in the repository.
 - Ms. Petra Sneijers (Eurostat) discussed efforts in the EU to integrate gender into business and trade statistics, as well as the challenges of microdata linking in different countries. She emphasized starting with easier subjects and gradually tackling more complex integrations, such as linking business and social registers.
 - Ms. Nathalie Brault (Statistics Canada) shared insights on maintaining social acceptability and transparency in linking business and personal data. She highlighted the importance of proactive disclosure to maintain public trust.

Task Team on Digitalization

41. Mr. Mark Uhrbach (Statistics Canada) provided a progress report on the activities of the task team. It was recently agreed that the team would focus on digitalization, with the workstream on globalization moving under the TT-ITS. The ToR and team name are being changed to reflect this, and there may be a renewal of the team membership.
42. A number of members of the task team have joined the UNCTAD Task Group on Measuring E-commerce in or to collaborate on future work in this area as it was determined this was the best course of action to avoid duplicating work on the e-commerce issue.

43. The Subgroup on Measuring the Adoption of Automation Technologies was launched in February. A background note has been drafted and circulated for comment. The paper includes several initiatives and surveys from international organizations and countries and summarizes the varying definitions and measurement considerations.
44. The Chair of the TG-eCOM introduced the work of the group and its objectives to develop internationally agreed guidelines and recommendations on measuring the value of e-commerce transactions, and supporting the development of internationally comparable statistics. Committee members interested in joining the group were encouraged to reach out.
45. WTO provided an overview of their work on e-commerce, which follows two tracks: 1) multilateral, exploratory look at issues surrounding e-commerce, and 2) Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce, on negotiating rules to regulate e-commerce. Regarding 1), thematic issues recently discussed include consumer protection, the digital divide and legal and regulatory frameworks. The moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions was recently extended. Regarding 2), the Initiative focuses on digital trade facilitation and promoting an open digital environment.
46. The upcoming IMF Statistical Forum on Measuring AI and the WTO Conference on International Trade and AI, both in November of this year, were both noted.

Work programme on Wellbeing and Sustainability

47. Mr. Stefano Menghinello (Istat) discussed the work programme of the TT-W&S, noting that it is currently inactive but ready to be re-started.
48. The SDGs are among the highest priority areas, and we still need to provide them with information despite the pause in the task team.
49. Private data providers are challenging providers of official statistics. As companies evolve, we need to change with them. Our national accounts/GDP framework should be updated to account for new production processes (i.e. circular vs. linear) and motivations (i.e. value of corporate reputation).
50. CSR reporting is currently not standardized, so new data sources and technologies are required. Reporting is increasingly mandatory, but at a slow pace, so a proactive approach is required. The Bureau should provide a concept note on the topic to the UNSC, including the link between SDG and business statistics frameworks, proposed indicators, and a description of the production framework. The TT-W&S should also be restarted ASAP, by merging with others if needed, and in coordination with the IAEG-SDGs and UN-CEBD.
51. WTO provided an overview of their work on trade and the environment, including: the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) and their recent initiatives and analyses in priority areas such as sustainability and climate change agreements; and the WTO Environmental Database. The presentation also reviewed additional issues, noting the benefits to their work of the increasing integration of environmental and geospatial statistics into business and trade.

Recent discussions also include identifying key environmental goods and services, and improving data on the circular economy.

52. The group held a follow-up discussion, including on the upcoming Eurostat Task Force on CSR and recent changes in the treatment of environmental services in the revised CPC.

Thursday, 26 September 2024

Possibility for the UN Manual of Business Statistics

53. Mr. Julian Chow (UNSD) discussed the possible development of the UN Manual on Business Statistics. The key point was that there are a lot of emerging issues we have to address although we needed to consider how to prioritize and reduce the burden of NSOs and organizations based on their limited resources.

54. Feedback on the presentation included:

- Mr. Stefano Menghinello (Istat) remarked that the manual should have an overarching vision and interconnection through a wide range of manuals like SNA, SBR, and trade statistics because each existing manual already had specific and detailed information.
- Ms. Annabel Mourougane (OECD) pointed out that it is not the good time to develop the manual because each task team have already had a lot of tasks like the revision of other manuals. She suggested an alternative way of documenting a guidance note focusing on specific topics such as informal economy. She also mentioned that there are some concepts we are missing to define such as “startup,” which varies from country to country.
- Ms. Nathalie Brault (Statistics Canada) suggested that grasping the specific needs for the manual is useful to advance this way forward.
- Mr. Andrew Allen (ONS) also mentioned that an overarching manual is useful despite the resource limitations of NSOs and organizations.
- Ms. Cristina Neves (Statistics Portugal) agreed with the needs of the manual, so she suggested that we would be able to start with a specific guidance note as a good way forward. We can congregate each guidance note as a manual later. This is a feasible way considering resource constraints.

55. Based on the positive feedback from audiences, Mr. Julian Chow (UNSD) summarized that, with regards to the next step, he will bring back this to the bureau of the committee and set up a task team to explore this issue further as well as the needs to care about priorities and resource issues. Also, he mentioned that the global assessment of the needs of the manual is a concrete next step.

56. Finally, Mr. Markie Muryawan (UNSD) concluded that this will be brought to the bureau of the committee and the bureau will agree on the timeline and the way forward.

Revision of IMTS and MISTS

57. In this session, Ms. Amy Donnelly (ABS) presented the IMTS progress update. Their focus was non-observed trade and informal cross-border trade. Their plan for the next step is:

- October-December 2024
 - Finalizing draft
 - Consultation and review of draft IMTS (ver.2) by TT-ITS
 - Outstanding topics/focus groups
 - Preparing summary of changes for UNSC
- 2025
 - Global consultations (planned for Q2 2025)

58. Also, Ms. Barbara D'Andrea (WTO) outlined the interim MSITS progress update prior to the main detailed discussion of MSITS revision in the Expert Group Meeting of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics next day. Their principles of the revision are compact, modern, and accessible. The revision focuses on providing a holistic view on trade in services and streamlining.

59. After the presentations, the feedback on them is:

- Mr. Cody Hill (Census Bureau) commented that it is desirable for all the trade statistics to be able to be disaggregated by gender. He mentioned that hopefully gender is naturally included as a characteristic in the future. Ms. Ilda Duarte Fernandes Meyer (Deutsche Bundesbank) replied to Cody's comment that the task team will take his point on board. Ms. Barbara added a comment that gender is possibly another type of dimension in the conceptual framework this time. In the long run, 15 years, we need to be able to be disaggregated by further characteristics. She also added that she is welcoming any expertise to jump into our discussion to deepen the discussion of the revision.
- Mr. Patrick Quill (IMF) mentioned that the timing and the contents are supportive for BPM7 revision.

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

60. Mr. Gerardo Durand (INEGI) and Ms. Cristina Neves (Statistics Portugal) reviewed the activities of the Committee on the integration of business and trade statistics and gave the progress update on the drafting of the dedicated Handbook on this matter. So far, they said that HIBTS concluded the 5th editing round including the comments and suggestions from NSOs and organizations. The key idea is an initiative for a repository of practices to integrate business and trade statistics, which is a similar thought of TT-SBR. As next steps, the global consultation (from September 17th to October 18th) is still in progress, and chief editors will keep communication with the UNSD Trade Branch to discuss the next steps and the organization of the repository of practices on integrating business and trade statistics.

61. Also, Ms. Hui Min Cui (SingStat) shared her experience in SingStat of Integrating business and trade data to profile goods exporting firms. The takeaway from this presentation is:

- Data integration enables SingStat to produce policy insight on emerging topics cutting across statistical domains without additional reporting burden.
- The unique identifier of enterprise-level played a key role.
- SBR is the backbone of this analysis to integrate administrative and survey data.
- The international statistical manuals are useful in terms of methodology and country practices for reference.

62. The feedback on the presentations is:

- Mr. Andrew Allen (ONS) commented that organization in a country responsible for SBR and trade statistics is sometimes different, which can lead to a cooperation problem.
- Ms. Hui Min Cui (SingStat) commented that in Singapore they introduced unique identifier (UENs) in 2009, which has a huge benefit to data integration. She also added that in Singapore international trade and international investment are considered as key characteristics, so SBR in Singapore includes these values. However, SBR does not still meet the emerging data needs such as gender, environmental, and inclusive analysis. Singapore needs to consider resource constraints to improve this aspect.
- Mr. Cody Hill (Census Bureau) mentioned that the idea of a repository is valuable for all countries to take a look at.

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

63. Mr. Ouljour Houssaine (Morocco) showed the progress update on 2nd volume of the Manual of Principal Indicators on Business and Trade Statistics. They have identified and discussed a set of indicators that may be recommended for countries as a reference list for trade statistics and drafted chapters. A chapter that includes emerging topics such as well-being, gender inequality, environment, and digitalization is still ongoing. The next steps and timeline are:

- Finalizing the draft of chapters and sections
- First draft by end of October 2024
- Global consultation in November 2024

Update on the BPM6 revision

64. Mr. Patrick Quill (IMF) shared the progress update on the BPM6 revision. The revision included the new chapter such as emerging issues like informal economy, digitalization, and globalization, which is advanced with collaboration between BPM and SNA. They provided outreach seminars and learned the high demand for practical implementation guidance and training and challenging issues including capturing crypto assets, digital services, and informal economy. For the next step, they plan to hold the second round of outreach seminars. These seminars focus on in-person seminar, compliers and senior officials. This will be joint or separate BPM7/2025SNA outreach seminars.

Update on the SNA revision

65. Mr. Herman Smith (UNSD) explained the progress update on the SNA revision. There are a limited number of conceptual changes that have impact on key macroeconomic indicators such as the recognition of data as produced assets and improving consistency in the application of the sum-of-costs method. The revision will be adopted in the UNSC on March 2025. In order for that, it is now in the process of global consultation. In terms of post 2025 SNA, he also mentioned that there are several areas to research such as crypto assets, treatment of the atmosphere as an asset, and review of statistical units.

Election of the Chair

66. Mr. Stefano Menghinello noted that his scheduled term as Chair is ending. The initial plan for Ms. Cristina Neves of Statistics Portugal to be named as new Chair was not possible due to recent developments within Statistics Portugal. The Bureau determined it would be best to name a temporary Chair for a period of six months (September 27, 2024, to March 31, 2025), while the process to nominate a permanent replacement continues. The Bureau member Mr. Gerardo Durand of INEGI-Mexico was unanimously approved.

Regional/national methodological/capacity development work on business and trade statistics

67. Panelists were invited to present their recent work in capacity development/technical assistance.

68. WTO noted that TA is one of their core functions, with a dedicated Division and partnerships with several international organizations. They provide both general and thematic training, at different levels, and members can request topics for discussion. E-commerce/digital trade ranks as a priority for emerging issues this year. Several trainings/initiatives have taken place or are planned in the Arab countries, the Caribbean and Africa, including the Digital Trade for Africa project.

69. UNSD reviewed feedback from two SBR workshops in 2024, in partnership with ESCWA and SIAP. Participants noted the relevance of the workshops and usefulness of the SBR Maturity Model. Common themes that emerged include difficulties in measuring the informal economy and the use of economic censuses. Participants requested further trainings, particularly including country experiences, assistance with specific IT tools, and guidance on use of administrative data.

70. IMF reviewed their extensive programme of TA visits to individual countries and multi-country trainings. Requests can come directly from compilers, or are based on country teams' assessments of needs. Visits are usually for approximately 2 weeks, and staff often meet with leaders to get buy-in. Following the visits a report with recommendations is prepared. Common topics include direct investment/IIP and external debt and price indices.

71. UNCTAD noted that all their capacity development requests are published online, including how funding amounts are requested and secured. Any Committee members interested in funding or requesting training are encouraged to reach out. Topics covered include trade in services, gender and trade and the TrainForTrade programme.
72. UNECE does not have a dedicated budget for training, but occasionally receives funds to do so. Their work focuses on developing methodological guidelines and recommendations, including in national accounts, business registers and employment/entrepreneurship statistics.

Conclusions and way forward

73. Mr. Stefano Menghinello gave remarks on his term as Chair, thanking his colleagues and complimenting the work of the task team leaders. He discussed future challenges such as competition from private data providers and the need to keep up with evolving business practices. Prioritization will be a key point, and enhancing collaboration can help to reduce the workload. He suggested online trainings following the publication of each manual.
74. Mr. Markie Muryawan (UNSD) noted that Stefano will stay on as a member emeritus of the Committee and interim Chair of the TT-W&S, and congratulated Gerardo on his new role.
75. Mr. Gerardo Durand (INEGI-Mexico) thanked Stefano for his incredible work over 6 years and recognized his comments on future needs and priorities. He also noted the need to coordinate with other bodies and promote the repository.
76. Mr. Julian Chow (UNSD) also thanked Stefano for his work and continued contributions, and Gerardo for his inspirational words as the new Chair. He thanked WTO for hosting and UNSD staff for supporting the meeting. Feedback will be consolidated and shared with the Committee.
77. Mr. Markie Muryawan (UNSD) reminded members that the Committee is still seeking a host for next year's meeting, likely around the same time of year for 3 days.

Annex II: List of Participants

The list includes in-person attendees and remote meeting participants.

In-person attendees:

Thiago Gonçalves Ferreira
Fundação I B G E
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Canada

Nathalie Brault
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Yuan Xue
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Deutsche Bundesbank
Germany

Dwi Cahyo Ardianto
Bank Indonesia
Indonesia

Harry Satya Baskoro
Bank Indonesia
Indonesia

Stefano Menghinello
Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat)
Italy (Chair)

Esmond McLean
Bank of Jamaica
Jamaica

Sita Bookal
Statistics Mauritius
Mauritius

Gerardo Durand
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)
Mexico

Ouljour Houssaine
Office des Changes
Morocco

Hank Hermans
Statistics Netherlands
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Ana Cristina dos Santos Neves
Instituto Nacional de Estatística
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Magrietha Gouws
Statistics South Africa
South Africa

Nthabiseng Bernadette Makhatha
Statistics South Africa
South Africa

Valentin Llorente Garcia
National Statistics Institute
Spain

Pannala Appuhamilage Hashini Saubhagya
Department of Census and Statistics
Sri Lanka

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UK Statistics Authority
United Kingdom

Cody Hill
U.S. Census Bureau
United States of America

David Talan
U.S. Office of Management and Budget
United States of America

Carsten Boldsen
ECE

Rami Peltola
ECE

Tihomira Dimova Rodde
ECE

Alfonso Zeron Marmolejo
ECLAC

Petra Sneijers
EUROSTAT

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GLEIF

Margarita Lysenkova
GRI

Patrick Quill
IMF

Julia Spies
ITC

Annabelle Mourougane
OECD

Alexander Blackburn
UNCTAD

Anu Peltola
UNCTAD

Bojan Nastav
UNCTAD

Daniel Ker
UNCTAD

Nour Barnat
UNCTAD

Onno Hoffmeister
UNCTAD

Petra Kynclova
UNCTAD

Sanja Blazevic
UNCTAD

Julian Chow
UNSD/Business Statistics Section

Ryosuke Kurematsu
UNSD/Business Statistics Section

Markie Muryawan
UNSD/Trade Statistics Section

Barbara D'Andrea Adrian
WTO

Coleman Nee
WTO

Rainer Lanz
WTO

Stefania Gallo
WTO

Victor Stolzenburg
WTO

Remote participants:

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Austria

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Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE)
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UNSD/Environment Statistics Section

Ilaria Di Matteo
UNSD/Environmental Economic Accounts Section

Herman Smith
UNSD/National Accounts Section