Summary Report of the
Third Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts
on Business and Trade Statistics

Virtual Meeting 29 September, 1 and 16 October 2020

1.   The third meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS), organized by United Nations Statistics Division, was held virtually, on 29 September and 1 and 16 October 2020. More than 100 business and trade statisticians from 23 countries (including 20 NSOs and 3 central banks) and 14 international and regional organizations participated at this meeting to discuss the progress of the five workstreams of the Committee, namely: globalization and digitalization; well-being and sustainability; business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship; exhaustive business registers; and capacity building.

2.   The meeting was opened by Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, UNSD Director, and Mr. Stefano Menghinello, Chair of UNCEBTS and Director of Data Collection Directorate at ISTAT. They underscored that the Committee, building on the 2030 Agenda and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, has adopted a holistic approach to business statistics linking the economy to society and the environment to respond to users' needs and emerging issues facing policy makers. This year the theme of integration was particularly prominent in the work of the Committee. The integration between business and trade statistics was made explicit in the agenda. The integration of the work of the Committee with the ongoing revision processes of the SNA, BPM and classification was recognized in the future work plan of the Committee. The integration/coordination of programmes at global regional and national level was also highlighted during the meeting. And finally, the integration of the users' needs with the businesses and trade statistics is embedded in the Committee's work.

3.   The Committee reviewed the work done by its various Task teams and agreed on its work programme for 2021-2022, which will be reported to the UN Statistical Commission in 2021. Among the most notable achievements of the Committee are: an agreed list of business statistics indicators on business demography, globalization and digitalization, and well-being and sustainability which recognizes the priorities of the 2030 sustainable Development Agenda; and the development of the maturity model for Statistical Business Registers to assist countries in identifying areas of improvement of their SBR and international organizations to identify priority areas for technical assistance. Also, UNSD reported on the progress of its work on a Global Groups Register and building a repository of business statistics databases, which were particularly welcomed by the Committee.

4.   This report summarizes the main conclusions of the meeting. Annex I and II contain respectively the agenda of the meeting and the list of participants. The meeting documents and presentations are available online at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/uncebts/Third_Meeting_2020/

Session 2: Review of the Strategic View of the Future of Business Statistics.

5.   Mr. Stefano Menghinello, Chair of UNCEBTS and Director of Data Collection Directorate at ISTAT, presented Session 2 on the Review of the Strategic View of the Future of Business Statistics. The Committee welcomed the strategic view of the future of business statistics which recognized the enterprise as central unit for business statistics that allows for the integration and the coherence of the information on businesses; and the recognition of the importance of SBRs as a backbone of any current and future improvements in the relevance and accuracy of business statistics.

<u>Outcome of the discussion</u>

6.   The enterprise-centered approach reflects the fact that the enterprise is considered the economic agent with the capacity to decide on its business activities, especially international transactions in trade and foreign direct investment. The Committee acknowledged that adoption of an enterprise-centered

approach to business statistics does not imply that other statistical units are less relevant. Rather, the choice of the enterprise as the main analytical unit allows for the coherent measurement of the evolution and behavior of business activity. The other statistical units are still of relevance for different analytical purposes such as understanding the geographical distribution of business activities (which is based on establishment). The link between the various level of statistical units should be make explicit in the SBRs in order to allow for the appropriate choice of the statistical units for the specific measurement purposes.

7.   The Committee observed that the enterprise serves as the reference unit for data integration processes and for the assessment of data quality across different statistical domains related to production, employment, trade, investment, R&D, finance and ownership.

8.   The enterprise-centered approach for the development of SBRs is also important for less mature statistical system. When developing SBRs, a strategy could be to focus initially on the quality of the information of the few large companies that contribute the most to the economic value. To choose between exhaustiveness vs quality of the entries in the business register could be to focus on the top companies and integrate other units as part of the development strategy for the SBR to have complete coverage. However, the Committee acknowledged that this approach may not be feasible for small economies dominated by many SMEs.

9.   The Committee agreed that unique identifiers in the SBRs are important for the integration of the various sources of information within the NSO. The unique identifiers originating from administrative data rely on the concept of legal unit; this has to be then mapped into a statistical unit. Therefore, the statistical units should have different identifiers from those identifying legal units.

Session 3: Updates from the Task Teams

Task Team on Globalization and Digitalization

10.   Ms. Daniela Ravindra (Statistics Canada), leader of the Task Team on Globalization and Digitalization, reported on the task team's activities since the last meeting, including development of a draft analytical and policy framework paper, which lays out the enablers and impacts of globalization and digitalization and their policy relevance. The Task Team has also identified a set of 18 core indicators on digitalization and adopted the template for technical/methodological sheets that was developed by the Task Team on Business Dynamics, Demographics and Entrepreneurship, in order to align the proposed sets of core indicators. Its next steps will be identifying core indicators for globalization. It is further identifying potential activities as a result of COVID-19 impact on statistical activities and how it can contribute to the research agenda of the SNA, BPM and other statistical manuals as well the testing of the new guidance that is being developed as part of these revision processes.

    Outcome of the discussion

11.   The Committee welcomed the progress of work of the Task Team on Globalization and Digitalization and the proposed future activities of the task team. The Committee recommended to share experiences on innovation in statistical production in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 and develop guidelines for countries. The Committee encouraged the Task Team on Globalization and Digitalization to further explore the concept of global supply chains, especially for essential industries and products being most impacted during the COVID-19 crisis, such as those related to personal protective equipment.

Task Team on Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship

12.   Mr. Gerado Durand on behalf of Mr. Arturo Blancas (INEGI, Mexico), leader of the Task Team on Business Dynamics, Business Demography and Entrepreneurship presented the task team's activities since the last meeting, including identifying 16 core indicators for business demography and entrepreneurship and elaborating the technical/methodological sheets for each indicator, based to the extent possible on existing guidance. The task team also reported developing a draft questionnaire of practices related to the business demography and entrepreneurship indicators, considering the information included in the technical sheets and plans to conduct a pilot exercise on the draft questionnaire with selected countries in preparation for the global consultation. It has further held meetings to discuss the

concept of entrepreneurship in business statistics and how to link it with other initiatives by UNCTAD and ILO. The task team also acknowledges that it is necessary to measure the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on business demography in different countries and the feasibility of including some questions in the global consultation to analyze the effects and challenges in the time of COVID19 should be evaluated. The proposed future activities of the task team include analyzing the countries' answers in the global consultation to identify data gaps and opportunity areas related to the core indicators; producing recommendations based on the diagnosis from the global consultation in order to support the capacity building on business dynamics, business demography, and entrepreneurship statistics; coordinating with the Task Team on Exhaustive Registers, particularly in the topics of the spine model and the maturity model; and contributing to the research agenda of the SNA, BPM and other statistical manuals, as well the testing of the new guidance that is being developed as part of these revision processes.

Outcome of the discussion

13.   The Committee welcomed the progress made by the Task Teams Business Demography, Dynamics and Entrepreneurship, its proposed future activities, and the proposed areas of the research agenda of the SNA and other manuals to which the TT is willing to contribute. The Committee reiterated the importance of collaboration and coordination of programmes with UN regional commissions and other regional and international organizations. The UNCEBTS very much promotes this coordination and encourage the sharing of information on regional programs on statistical business registers. The Committee also acknowledged the importance of understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the SMEs and, in this regard, it welcomed the suggested breakdown recommended for the indicators on BDDE based on business size. Also, the COVID-19 brought forward the need for high-frequency statistics on business demography. The task team could further provide guidance on how to compile such information.

Task Team on Well-being and Sustainability

14.   Ms. Alison Pritchard (ONS UK), leader of Task Team on Well-being and Sustainability presented the task team's activities since the last meeting, including measurement proposals for some SDG indicators, using UNCTAD's global core indicator methods as a starting point. In particular, the indicators of interest include those related to businesses in the areas of hunger, education, quality of jobs, decent work, and environmental impact. The task team has also welcomed new members from UNCTAD and UN Global Compact. The proposed future activities of the task team include finalizing the list of core indicators and the related technical/methodological sheets in preparation for a global consultation.

Outcome of the discussion

15.   The Committee emphasized the importance of the work of this task team on the identification and harmonization of indicators on the contributions of businesses to wellbeing and sustainability. In particular, the harmonization of standards and methods in this area is particularly important and the task team can make substantial contributions building on the work by UNCTAD on the guidance on core indicators for entities reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee also encouraged the task team to consider methods to measure the value of social and free services being provided by social enterprises (which are especially relevant in analyzing response to COVID-19 pandemic) and bringing this non-market value into extensions of the national accounts framework, beyond GDP and share experiences on innovation in statistical production through regional and global webinars in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 on wellbeing and sustainability. Further, the task team can work towards a definition of social enterprises and could be a driving force towards a common framework and terminology surrounding social enterprises building on the guidance provides on the Third or Social Economy (TSE) in the recent UN Handbook on the Satellite Account for non-profit institutions and related institutions and volunteer work.[1] The Committee also encouraged the task team to explore collaboration with the UNCEEA, given its work on linking business accounting with the environmental and economic accounts and ecosystem accounts, and to network with other

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[1] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/UN_TSE_HB_FNL_web.pdf

Committees of Experts and city groups of the system of economic statistics to enhance collaboration and user consultation.

Task Team Exhaustive Business Registers and Task Team on Capacity Building

16. Mr. Hank Hermans (Statistics Netherlands), leader of the Task Team Exhaustive Business Registers and Dr. Saleh Alkafri (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics), leader of the Task Team on Capacity Building, presented on the activities of their two task teams since the last meeting. In particular, they reported on the progress of work on development of a maturity model for statistical business registers, which includes seven dimensions and considers lessons learned from the system approach used in the work program on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The task teams also reported development of a self-assessment tool to identify the level of maturity of a particular SBR, which will facilitate assessment of implementation of international recommendations and identification of gaps and priority areas for capacity building. The proposed future activities of the task teams will be to finalize the draft guide on the maturity model for SBRs and conduct a global consultation on the draft guide. They will further contribute to the development of a UN global assessment on the implementation of SBRs in countries in order to identify gaps and priority areas of technical assistance. The task teams will also develop an interactive website, hosted by UNSD, on the maturity model that links the maturity model to existing guidance on the various aspects of the maturity model. In addition, the task teams proposed to collect country examples and best practices of using administrative data, economic census, Big Data, web scraping and artificial intelligence to update and maintain the SBR, to establish early warning systems, to develop innovations in statistical production in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 on exhaustive statistical business registers, and to draft guidance for countries for the production of related business and trade statistics. The task team on exhaustive business registers will contribute to the research agenda of the SNA, BPM and other statistical manuals on issues related to the SBRs, (such as for examples issues related to statistical units, informal economy and sectorization of MNEs and continue to network with other Committees of Experts and city groups of the system of economic statistics to enhance collaboration and user consultation. Finally, the task team will provide guidance to the development of the GGR.

> Outcome of the discussion

17. The Committee welcomed the progress of work of the task teams and the proposed future activities of the task teams, and in particular welcomed the work on the maturity model and the concept of an assessment tool for NSOs to gauge the level of maturity of their SBR. It also welcomed a system approach to SBRs which takes into consideration a business registration system, a unique identifier, the SBR and the statistics derived from the SBR and a common quality framework. This approach is very similar to that of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The Committee acknowledged the important role of the maturity model also for regional and international organizations to assess the status of implementation of recommendations on the SBR at the global level and identify priority areas for technical assistance. The Committee encouraged the Task Teams to coordinate its work with the Task Team on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship and the Wiesbaden Group and the task teams working on the System of National Account revision, including work on the statistical unit and the informal economy. Specifically, the Committee recommended the Task Teams to invite interested parties from these groups to join the Task Teams. The Committee encouraged that country experiences collected by the task teams to be shared on the UN Global Platform to share sources and methods with everyone. The Committee further suggested to include considerations on the coverage of micro-enterprises in the SBRs, on financial and human resources required for the set up and maintenance of SBRs, and on the location of the SBR unit within the NSOs and within the national statistical system (e.g., centralized vs non-centralized statistical systems) and its relationship to administrative sources.

Session 4: Research agenda for international trade statistics

18. Mr. Markie Muryawan, Chief of the International Trade Statistics Section of UNSD, moderated the discussion on the upcoming research agenda for trade statistics. He observed that, given the enterprise-based approach considered by the Committee, trade statistics are of foremost interest and it is important

to coordinate the research agenda of business and trade statistics. The Committee can play a role in contributing to these conceptual developments.

19.   Ms. Maria Borga from the IMF presented an update on the revision process for the BPM7, focusing on the priority issues, such as recording transactor-based components of services (travel, construction and government goods under services); Goods and services account by (trading) enterprise characteristics; and Merchanting and factoryless producers, among others.

20.   Mr. Rodolfo Ostolaza from the OECD presented on the compilation of indicators on trade in goods and services by enterprise characteristics, based on the linking of trade data with business register information, and their relevance for analyzing globalization.

21.   Mr. Gerardo Durand of INEGI Mexico presented how trade by enterprise characteristics data are compiled in Mexico by using micro-data linking. In addition, he presented an overview of the statistical products that result from the data linking. Namely, trade by enterprise characteristics data include information on Enterprise Ownership (domestically controlled and controlled from abroad); Size by level of employment (SMEs and Large enterprises); Revenues; Industrial Activity (contribution of a particular activity sector in trade); Trading status (on exports, imports, two-way traders); Products traded; Geographical diversification by country (subnational level).

22.   Mr. Juergen Abrams presented ABRAMS Wiki, a tool built to enhance the use of customs data based on detailed trade data reported by individual enterprise. The Committee acknowledged the power of using additional data sources to analyze trade and globalization statistics. The Committee discussed the availability of the detailed customs data to NSOs.

23.   Mr. Amitabha Pradhan of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in India presented on the measurement of e-commerce goods and services in India, highlighting data sources and questionnaires utilized, and indicators that result.

24.   Matthew Stansfeld of Statistics New Zealand presented improving measures of export and import price indexes based on new multilateral methods that are mostly automated and less subjective in nature.

Outcome of the discussion

25.   The presentations and discussions demonstrated that business and trade statistics are inherently related, and their integration can benefit economic policymaking to a great extent. Many areas of business statistics and trade statistics are indeed becoming increasingly integrated. The Committee acknowledged that data integration is important for improving the relevance of economic data and for a better understanding of economic globalization. Some important statistical areas that will facilitate integration are classifications, statistical units, and statistical business registers.

26.   The Committee acknowledged that an enterprise-centered approach and the use of SBRs as the backbone is the appropriate way to achieve integration between trade and business statistics. The Committee noted that it needs to engage with other statistical groups and stakeholders to make progress in this work. The Committee will also advise on the way forward in the development of new and promoting existing globalization related indicators such as (S)TEC. There is a need to find ways of moving from vision to strategy and operation as globalization has considerable impact on economies of all countries, including emerging economies and developing countries through international sourcing of business functions and international trade.

27.   The Committee acknowledged that there is significant overlap of the issues on the research agendas for trade and business statistics related to the thematic areas of business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship, globalization and digitalization, and well-being and sustainability. It therefore agreed that close coordination and networking should be ensured in its future meetings to take these research agendas forward. The Committee further agreed to create a task team under the Committee to advance the research agenda for business and international trade statistics. Acknowledging that international trade statistics is an integral part of enterprise/business statistics, the Committee called for an inclusive task team with representation of trade statisticians, business statisticians, analysts, and Big Data experts. The new Task Team will coordinate the joint research agenda on business and trade statistics, the processes,

and mechanisms of the revision of the trade-related standards, such as the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics, in consultation with other statistical groups related to national accounts, balance of payments and international classifications.

28.   For the overall coordination of the revision process of trade-related manuals, the Committee agreed to actively explore the integration of the work programmes of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade and UNCEBTS as recommended by the Friends of Chair Group on Economic Statistics, while recognizing the role of the OECD and WTO and respecting their visibility in determining and implementing the work programme of the new UNCEBTS Task Team.

29.   The Committee agreed that the revision process of the international trade manuals should advance concurrently with the revision of BPM and SNA standards with an expected timeline till 2025. In addition, it agreed that the revision processes will take into account existing guidelines, such as the *Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade* and the *Guidelines on Accounting for Global Value Chains: GVC Satellite Accounts and Integrated Business Statistics*.

Session 5: New and emerging areas

Global Groups Register

30.   UNSD presented on progress made toward building the Global Groups Register (GGR), a public register of the legal structures of the world's largest multinational enterprises (MNEs). UNSD reported that it has created a methodology and identified public data sources and has thus far compiled profiles for the world's 100 top MNEs. UNSD plans to release a beta version of the GGR on its website in Q4 2020. UNSD reported that it is also seeking guidance from the Task Team on Exhaustive Business Registers and working with OECD to develop a joint product building on the GGR and ADIMA.

        Outcome of the discussion

31.   The Committee welcomed the progress made toward building a Global Groups Register (GGR) and looked forward to its beta release later this year. The Committee encouraged the formulation of approaches validate and update the GGR on a sustainable basis with the involvement of countries and possibly MNEs. The Committee welcomed the collaboration between UNSD and OECD on this project and also encouraged cooperation with Eurostat and other relevant organizations. The Committee agreed that it will provide feedback on the Beta version of the GGR once it is released. In particular, it was proposed that this topic be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Task Team of Exhaustive Business Register to elaborate on how this project could move forward. The Committee proposed to invite any country or organization that is interested to join this discussion. It was further proposed to discuss the GGR at the next meeting of the Working Party on Trade in Goods and Services.

Repository with hyperlinks to relevant business and trade statistics databases

32.   UNSD presented on the progress made toward a prototype of a repository with hyperlinks to relevant business and trade statistics databases held by various agencies of the United Nations and other organizations. This data hub will increase the analytical value of the information and allow for the identification of potential gaps in business statistics. The Committee is invited to review and comment on the prototype.

        Outcome of the discussion

33.   The Committee welcomed the prototype for the online repository of hyperlinks to business statistics databases available at international and regional organizations and the proposed list of topics to organize the information. The Committee encouraged UNSD to network and coordinate with relevant international and regional organizations to ensure completeness and finalize the repository. The Committee proposed that the links to the results of the global assessment of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers and to the country progress reports could be incorporated as a new topical area in the repository.

Task Team on Communication

34.   Mr. Stefano Menghinello, Chair of UNCEBTS, presented the Terms of Reference for the new Task Team on Communication and an overview of its aims for improving internal communication and coordination across the task teams of the Committee to promote opportunities for collaboration and synergy, to ensure consistency and coherence, and to avoid duplication of work. In particular, this task team will develop a communication strategy with external users (such as academia, policy and decision makers in the public and private sector, etc.) to promote the work of the Committee and establish a dialogue with the users in order to keep abreast of new and emerging user needs. Possible deliverables of the task team will include strengthening the Committee website; creating a brochure; publishing a regular newsletter; share latest tools for data visualizations and infographics on business and trade statistics; organizing a forum for dialogue between data producers and data users; creating a logo for the Committee; and utilizing social media to share and broadcast advances in this area.

Outcome of the discussion

35.   The Committee welcomed the proposed activities of the Task Team on Communication to coordinate crosscutting issues among the existing Task Teams and to promote the Committee's work to the public. The Committee recommended that the membership of the Task Team on Communication include Task Team leaders and reflect a balance geographical representation. Based on the discussion, the Terms of Reference of the Task Team on Communication will be revised and will circulated soon. Interested members of the UNCEBTS can express their interest in participating in the Task team by contacting UNSD.

Session 6: Programme of Work for 2021-2022

36.   The Committee recognizes the importance of coordination of programmes in business and trade statistics at global regional and national level. In this regard, the Committee will develop and strengthen mechanisms for sharing information on current and planned activities among all relevant agencies, including UN regional commissions, and seek collaborations on areas of common interest. The Committee will further contribute to the revision process of the SNA, BPM and related manuals by taking up selected issue and contributing to joint tasks teams that are being created as part of the revision process. Examples of join task teams where members of the Committee can participate are the proposed joint task team on statistical units (with SNA and classification experts) and the joint task team on the informal economy.

37.   The UNCEBTS further discussed how national and international cooperation on improving SBRs, microdata linking, and providing capacity building will prove to be of fundamental importance and an essential workstream for the work program of the UNCEBTS. It should also strive to keep the dialogue open with the data providers, partners, and data users about their needs from, and their possible contributions to the works of the NSOs, and overall communicate the lesson learned through this crisis that business and trade statistics are important in their own right and for informing policies.

38.   The UNCEBTS also recognized that it should continue its efforts in the integration of business and trade statistics rooted in the SBR and their links with the environment and well-being. Also, the UNCEBTS could provide the venue where examples of alternative data sources used for business and trade statistics are collected and shared among countries. The Committee will also seek collaboration and coordination with the activities of the Friends of the Chair on economic statistics and coordinate, for example, a user-producer conference on business and trade statistics as part of the UN Global Forum on Economic Statistics expected to be held in 2021.

39.   Below are summaries of the work programmes for 2021-2022 of each task team as agreed by the Committee.

40.   *Task team on globalization and digitalization*. This task team will finalize the list of indicators on digitalization and conduct a global consultation jointly with the other task teams. It will further expand the core list with indicators for globalization. The task team will also share experiences on innovation in statistical production in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 on globalization and digitalization and the understanding of the supply chain of relevant products (such as Personal Protective Equipment) and to develop guidelines for countries. This task team will continue to network with other

Committees of Experts and city groups of the system of economic statistics to enhance collaboration and user consultation, and importantly, will contribute to relevant issues on the research agenda of the SNA, BPM and other statistical manuals as well as the testing of the new guidance notes that are being developed as part of these revision processes.

41.   *Task team on well-being and sustainability*. This task team will finalize its list of core indicators on well-being and sustainability and consider how it could contribute to the issues on wellbeing and sustainability of the SNA research agenda, particularly those related to the compilation for labor, education and health accounts. This task team will also consider methods to measure the value of social and free services being provided by social enterprises (which are especially relevant in analyzing response to COVID-19 pandemic) and bringing this non-market value into extensions of the national accounts framework, beyond GDP and share experiences on innovation in statistical production through regional and global webinars in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 on wellbeing and sustainability. In addition, the task team can work towards a definition of social enterprises and could be a driving force towards a common framework and terminology surrounding social enterprises building on the guidance provides on the Third or Social Economy (TSE) in the recent UN Handbook on the Satellite Account for non-profit institutions and related institutions and volunteer work.2 The task team will also explore collaboration with the UNCEEA, given its work on linking business accounting with the environmental and economic accounts and ecosystem accounts. The task team will continue to network with other Committees of Experts and city groups of the system of economic statistics to enhance collaboration and user consultation.

42.   *Task team on business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship*. This task team will conduct a global consultation on its proposed list of core indicators, jointly with the other task teams. The task team will further discuss the concept of entrepreneurship and how to link the progress of the Task Team with other initiatives such as those of UNCTAD and ILO. The task team will also share experiences on innovation in statistical production through regional and global webinars in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 on business demography and entrepreneurship and develop guidance for countries for the production of related business and trade statistics. It will also contribute to the research agenda of the SNA, BPM and other statistical manuals on issues related business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship and continue to network with other Committees of Experts and city groups of the system of economic statistics to enhance collaboration and user consultation.

43.   *Task teams on exhaustive business registers and capacity building (leaving no one behind).* These two task teams will finalize the draft guide on the maturity model for SBRs and conduct a global consultation on the draft guide. They will further contribute to the development of a UN global assessment on the implementation of SBRs in countries in order to identify gaps and priority areas of technical assistance. The task teams will also develop an interactive website, hosted by UNSD, on the maturity model that links the maturity model to existing guidance on the various aspects of the maturity model. In addition, the task teams propose to collect country examples and best practices of using administrative data, economic census, Big Data, web scraping and artificial intelligence to update and maintain the SBR and for early warning systems and on innovations in statistical production in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 on exhaustive statistical business registers and develop guidance for countries for the production of related business and trade statistics. The task team on exhaustive business registers will contribute to the research agenda of the SNA, BPM and other statistical manuals on issues related to the SBRs, (such as for examples issues related to statistical units, informal economy and sectorization of MNEs and continue to network with other Committees of Experts and city groups of the system of economic statistics to enhance collaboration and user consultation. Finally, the task team will provide guidance to the development of the GGR.

44.   *Task team on communication*. This task team will develop a communication strategy with external users (such as academia, policy and decision makers in the public and private sector, etc.) to promote the work of the Committee and establish a dialogue with the users in order to keep abreast of new and

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2 https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/UN_TSE_HB_FNL_web.pdf

emerging user needs. Possible deliverables of the task team will include strengthening the Committee website; creating a brochure; publishing a regular newsletter; share latest tools for data visualizations and infographics on business and trade statistics; organizing a forum for dialogue between data producers and data users; creating a logo for the Committee; and utilizing social media to share and broadcast advances in this area.

45.	*Task team* on the research agenda in business and trade statistics. The Committee will invite experts on international trade statistics to join the Committee and form a new Task Team on the joint research agenda on business and trade statistics in order to better integrate business and trade statistics. The Committee will actively coordinate the integration of the work programmes with the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade as recommended by the Friends of Chair Group on Economic Statistics to advance on a common research agenda and the revision of the manuals.

Tuesday, 29 September 2020

7:00-7:30 Session 1: Opening and objectives of the meeting
- Stefano Menghinello, Chair UNCEBTS and Director for Data Collection, ISTAT
- Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division
- Ilaria Di Matteo, Chief Business Statistics Section, UNSD

Chair: Stefano Menghinello (ISTAT)

7:30-8:20 Session 2: Review of the Strategic View of the Future of Business Statistics[1]
- Stefano Menghinello, Chair UNCEBTS and Director for Data Collection, ISTAT
- Discussion

8:20-10:30 Session 3: Updates from the task teams

This session will review and discuss the progress of work of the task teams of the UNCEBTS, identify areas for further work building on the lesson learnt from the experiences during COVID-19 and explore areas of further coordination with groups working on areas of common interest.

a) Task team on globalization and digitalization - Daniela Ravindra (Statistics Canada)
   - Discussion
b) Task team on business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship - Arturo Blancas (INEGI)
   - Discussion
c) Task team on wellbeing and sustainability
   - Alison Pritchard (UK ONS) - Discussion

Thursday, 1 October 2020

Chair: Stefano Menghinello (ISTAT)

7:00-7:20 Discussion of previous day's conclusions

7:20-8:00 Session 3: Updates from the task teams - continued
d) Task team on exhaustive business registers and Task team on capacity building on SBRs
   - Hank Hermans (Netherlands CBS) and Saleh Al Kafri (PCBS)
   - Discussion

08:00-9:00 Session 5: New and emerging areas

This session will discuss progress in new areas taking into account the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2020, the outcome of the Special meeting on the impact of COVID 19 on business and trade statistics (and its impact on the work of the Committee), and the impact on the UNCEBTS from the work undertaken by the Friends of the Chair on the future of economic statistics.

Moderator: Ilaria Di Matteo

- Update on the Global Group Register, Nancy Snyder (UNSD)
- Prototype of repository of hyperlinks to Business statistics database available in
  international/regional organizations, Zhiyuan Qian (UNSD)
- Task Team on Communication, Stefano Menghinello (ISTAT)
- Report from the Special UNCEBTS meeting on the impact of COVID 19 of Business
  statistics, Ivo Havinga (UNSD)
- Update from the Friend of the Chair on the Future of Economic Statistics, Ivo Havinga
  (UNSD)
- Discussion

9:00-9:40 Session 6: Programme of work, 2021-2022

This session will bring together the discussion from the previous sessions into a concrete programme of work for the UNCEBTS and its task teams for the period 2021-2022.

- Stefano Menghinello (ISTAT)
- Discussion

9:40-10:00 Session 7: Conclusions and closing

Friday, 16 October

Session 4: Research agenda for international trade statistics

Given the enterprise-based approach considered by the Committee, trade statistics are of foremost interest. It is important to coordinate the research agenda of business and trade statistics. The Committee can play a role in contributing to these conceptual developments. This session will review the research agenda for international trade statistics and the update of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and the Manual of Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS) to identify their impact on the work programme of the UNCEBTS.

Moderator: Markie Muryawan (UNSD)

- BPM7 revision update, Maria Borga (IMF)
- Trade in goods/services by enterprise characteristics, Rodolfo Ostolaza (OECD)

- TEC for TiVA calculations, Gerardo Durand (INEGI)
- Enhancing the use customs data beyond trade statistics, Juergen Abrams (ABRAMS Wiki)
- Measuring E-commerce, Amitabha Pradhan (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India)
- Calculation of Trade Indices using Multilateral Method, Matthew Stansfield (StatsNZ) - recording
- Discussion

ANNEX 2: List of participants

Mr. Jason Annabel
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australia

Ms. Luisa Ryan
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australia

Mr. Manpreet Singh
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australia

Mr. John Shepherd
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australia

Mr. Branko Vitas
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australia

Mr. Tom Joseph
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australia

Mr. Lukas Mikesa
Statistics Austria
Austria

Mr. Reinhard Josef Fiedler
Statistics Austria
Austria

Mr. Daniel Brandão Cavalcanti
Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
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