

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: business and trade statistics

Document E/CN.3/2021/9 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

Statement provided by:

Egypt

Statement:

Egypt would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter

The Africa Group welcomes the activities undertaken by the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics in 2020. The Group appreciates the progress task teams have made towards identifying a core set of business and trade indicators to be recommended at the international level. Furthermore, the Africa Group supports the creation of a global enterprise group register, the development of a maturity model for statistical business registers, the establishment of a regular assessment of the status of implementation of statistical business registers in countries; and the development of an e-learning programme on statistical business registers.

The Africa Group supports the future work plan of the Committee and its Work Teams with regards to finalization of the global core set of principal business and trade indicators and the preparation of a manual on the indicators; finalization of a manual on the maturity model for statistical business registers; the sharing of experiences on innovation in statistical production in response to the challenges posed by COVID-19; the coordination of programmes in business and trade statistics at the global, regional and national levels; the contribution to the revision process of the System of National Accounts (SNA), the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* and related manuals; to keep the dialogue open with data providers, partners and data users; and the continuation of the Committee's efforts in the integration of business and trade statistics.

The African Development Bank as a member of United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Business Statistics (UNCEBTS) fully participated in UNSD Webinar meetings held in calendar 2020. due to COVID 19 Pandemic. The Bank also conducted an online assessment of statistical business registers for

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purposes of identifying priority areas of support for regional member countries in the implementation of the AfDB Statistical Business Register(SBR) Guidelines for Africa as well as the scope of introduction of the Generic System as a means of fast-tracking SBR development within the National Statistics Offices and of harmonizing SBRs across them. This report is therefore timely for the development of business and trade registers in the region.

The Africa Group also supports:

- the launch of the revision of the manuals on International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 and on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010.
- The creation of a new task team to coordinate the joint research agenda between business and international trade statistics, and the related processes and mechanisms of the revision of the trade-related standards; and
- The role of the Committee to actively coordinate the integration of the work programmes with the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics.

The Africa Group would like the Committee and its Work Teams to consider the specific needs of African countries while undertaking the above indicated planned activities and to also adequately involve them in the process. Moreover, the planned capacity building programmes, especially the e-learning programmes, have to be widely circulated so that many countries could take advantage of the opportunities.

Egypt is on process for the digitalization project, which will establish a National ID for each building and unit, as well as the establishments and lands. This project will assist in establishing the statistical register.

Also, CAPMAS is a member in three working groups on: business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship; exhaustive business registers; and capacity-building (leaving no one behind) which formed the expert group.

Submitted on:

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