Statement provided by:
International Monetary Fund

Statement:
The research agenda proposed by the new task team overlaps with research topics that are already being researched and discussed in the process of updating the System of National Accounts (SNA) and Balance of Payments Manual (BPM). This task team should coordinate with both the SNA and BPM research teams to avoid duplication and ensure conceptual and methodological consistency with these statistical manuals. Furthermore, the work of this group should concentrate on issues closer to its mandate and not covered elsewhere, such as how business statistics can provide the necessary inputs to other macroeconomic statistics domains (like national accounts or balance of payments) and/or building a global group register, which already in itself is a large undertaking.

Further, we do not support the integration of business and international trade statistics under a single umbrella. The scope of the group will be too large and difficult to manage. We recommend better cooperation among the existing groups through the sharing of agendas and establishment of joint task teams on issues of common interest.

Submitted on: 2/19/2021