

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:

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Statement:

Malaysia through the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) hereby takes notice on **the progress of works of the task team of the Committee** and its planning to strengthen and expand further business and trade statistics (by developing global core set of principal business and trade indicators etc.) and coming up with innovative data solution to ensure user need are not disrupted due to COVID-19 crisis and production of official statistics continue as usual. To ensure the production of official statistics carry on as usual during the pandemic, DOSM continues and expands collaboration with custodian of administrative data in Malaysia, such as Companies Commission of Malaysia and Employee Provident Fund to name a few, to update and register establishment birth and death in Malaysia Statistical Business Register (MSBR). We commend on the milestone and achievement of the task team so far, and eagerly awaited the final products that surely beneficial in providing guidance to NSO in producing business and trade statistics that is relevant to all users and able to assist in making informed decision.

In regards to **the future work programme of the Committee for 2021-2022**, Malaysia positively supports the development of core set of principal business and trade indicators for compilation by all countries undertake by the Committee as such compilation is useful to track and monitor business and trade indicators at a global setting and at country level. The existence of a manual on the maturity model for statistical business register as a tool to assess and monitor the implementation of international recommendation on statistical business register is important in ensuring that business register of a particular country is of high quality and standard. To improve the quality of MSBR, one of our approach is to conduct the Quality Improvement Survey on yearly basis and for the first time in 2020 it was conducted via online survey to selected establishments in Malaysia. The establishments selected were those that were actively trading, had valid email address and had never selected for any economics surveys in the past four years. However, the response rate was quite low. We need to comprehensively assess and improve the quality of our MSBR and expert guidance in doing so. Thus, we welcome the initiative of the Committee to develop manual on the maturity model for statistical business register as an assessment tool to monitor and improve statistical business register. In regard to the integration of business and trade statistics rooted in the statistical business register, DOSM has made efforts to link and integrate business and trade statistics. Trade Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) was implemented under the DOSM Big Data project (STATSBDA), whereby a high volume of administrative data from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department and Malaysia Statistical Business Register (MSBR) was successfully integrated. This micro-data linking was to gain more data insights without initiating a new survey. DOSM has published the first statistics on Trade by State from TEC monthly (brief data) since December 2019 and later for annual statistics Trade by State 2019 that contains comprehensive information on major export and import products and the country of sources and destination. Malaysia is interested to be part of this team for further enrichment of knowledge and expertise.

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Malaysia acknowledges **the coming launch of revised manual International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010** which to ascertain manuals stay significant and relevant to changing environment. Malaysia fully supports this initiative and it has been set as a priority in national statistical transformation plan. We actively participate in order to provide our opinion and feedback on updating the manual of International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concept and Definitions 2010 (IMTS) and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS) in line with the current ongoing update of SNA 2008 and BPM6. It is pertinent in ensuring both manuals to be updated simultaneously for consistency purposes precisely on methods, concepts, classifications and the outcome of the updates and recommendations to be deliberated with a complete guidelines and documentations.

Malaysia supports **the establishment of a new task team to coordinate the joint research agenda between business and international trade statistics**, and related processes and mechanism of the revision of the trade-related standards.

Malaysia agrees with the recommendation by the Friends of the Chair group that **the Committee was established to coordinate the integration of the work programmes with the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics** to advance a common research and the revision process of trade-related manuals.

Submitted on:

2/17/2021