Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: business and trade statistics


**Statement provided by:**
Paul Schreyer, Chief Statistician, OECD

**Statement:**

Regarding paragraphs 28, 29, 30 and 31, please consider the following:

We very much welcome the report of the UNCEBTS. The report may however give rise to confusion when it comes to the roles and responsibilities for updating the Trade Manuals. In paragraphs 29, it is stated that the UNCEBTS will create a new task team with the objective of coordinating “… the joint research agenda between business and international trade statistics, and the related processes and mechanisms of the revision of the trade-related standards …”. While we agree on the need for coordination when updating international standards and manuals, it should also be clear that the UNSC has previously mandated the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) with the update of the Trade Manuals. The establishment of the new UNCEBTS task team leads to a very confusing governance structure. There is also a risk of not fully capitalising on the expert knowledge on trade statistics in the TFITS. We therefore would like to request a clarification of paragraphs 28 – 30, in line with the mandates previously agreed by the UNSC.

Submitted on: 2/19/2021