

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:

Planning and Statistics Authority, Qatar

Statement:

The report includes basic items to be addressed at the next meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics, as follows:

First Item: The joint report of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics, which will be discussed during the upcoming meeting as follows:

Presenting the progress made by the Committee of Experts during 2020 in the areas of globalization, well-being, sustainability, business dynamics, demography, entrepreneurship, administrative business records and capacity building in the field of statistical registers and communication.

Establishing global databases, training and capacity building in the area of Statistical Business Registers (SBRs).

Developing the upcoming program of action for the committee and working groups for 2021-2022

Procedures required from committees and the recommendations.

Second Item: A brief description of the progress made by the relevant Committee of Experts in the five tracks of the committee's work, namely: (globalization and digitization of the business model, well-being and sustainability, business dynamics and demography, entrepreneurship, detailed business records, and capacity building) along with identifying the activities of the working groups; most important of which are:

Developing a Global Register for Enterprise Groups by encouraging the Statistics Division to cooperate with national and international institutes in order to create a Global Statistical Register for Enterprise Groups; and proposing that a model, such as the European Groups Register, be considered.

Profiling a wide range of large multinational enterprise (MNE) groups, and thus far information has been gathered on the legal structures of the world's 100 largest MNE groups. Introducing a joint product for the register of the largest multinational enterprises that brings together the experience and methods of the Global Statistical Register for Enterprise Groups, as well as an analytical database.

Agreeing on the establishment of a central data repository for business with the development of global databases.

Updating the training and capacity-building programme for statistical business registers, while develop an e-learning programme on Statistical Business Registers (SBRs), to be delivered mid-2021.

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Preparing a guide on the global core set of principal business and trade indicators that includes flexible directions for business and trade statistics programs that meet user needs. Creating a maturity model and assessment tool for the statistical business register for capacity-building purposes, while developing a manual on the maturity model on Statistical Business Registers (SBRs), complemented with an interactive online page that links the maturity model to available guidance and country practices.

Third Item: reviews the most important programs for the working groups for the upcoming period 2020-2021:

Continuing the process of revising the National Accounts System, Balance of Payments Manual, and International Investment Position

Considering the impact of COVID-19 on business and trade statistics

Working Group on Globalization and Digitization of the Business Model: Completing the list of principal business and trade indicators in relation to the digitization of the business model; expanding the main list of globalization indicators; exchanging experiences in innovation in the field of statistical production in response to the challenges posed by Covid-19 concerning the globalization and digitalization of the business model; coordinating with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.

Working Group on Well-being and Sustainability: Completing the list of principal business and trade indicators in relation to well-being and sustainability, with a focus on the contributions of enterprises to the SDGs, while considering the issues related to well-being and sustainability of research related to the National Accounts System related to education and health. Moreover, It must consider the methods of measuring the value of the free and social services being provided by social institutions and the methods of exchanging experiences in innovation in the field of statistical production in response to the challenges posed by Covid-19 on well-being and sustainability.

Working Group on Business Dynamics, Demography and Entrepreneurship: Discussing the concept of entrepreneurship and how to link its progress with developing guidelines for countries to produce statistics related to business and trade and contribute to the research agenda related to the national accounts system, balance of payments guide, international investment position and other issues related to business dynamics, demography and entrepreneurship.

Working Groups on Business Registers and Capacity Building: Finalizing the draft manual on the maturity model on Statistical Business Registers; creating an interactive online page; and developing guidelines for countries to produce business and trade statistics from statistical registers of administrative work.

Working Groups on Communication: Developing communication strategies to improve communication and coordination among working groups and communication strategies with external users such as policy makers and decision makers in the public and private sectors.

Working Group on the Joint Research Agenda on Business and Trade Statistics: Establishing a working group that includes trade and business statisticians in order to coordinate the agenda of joint research between business and international trade statistics, as well as the processes and mechanisms related to the revision of trade-related standards; and consulting with

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statistical working groups related to national accounts, balance of payments and international rankings.	
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