

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:
Pacific Community (SPC)

Statement:

E/CN.3/2021/9

Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

The Pacific Community (SPC) acknowledges and supports the work done by the Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, in particular the task teams of the Committee. SPC supports the:

- preparation of the manual on the global core set of principal business and trade indicators and a manual on the maturity model for statistical business registers;
- launch of the revision of the manual on International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 and the Manual 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 as recommended by the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics to advance a common research agenda and the revision of the manuals.

Suggestion to the Commission: SPC Economic Statistics Advisor to be a Member of the Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

SPC through its Economic Statistics Advisor plays a lead role in providing technical assistance to its member countries in the Pacific with respect to:

International Trade

International Merchandise Trade: Most of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories compile the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) with technical assistance from SPC. There has been good progress in this space since the release of the Pacific Harmonised Classification 2017 (PACHS17) compiled by SPC in collaboration with the Oceania Customs Organisation. Two important areas of work in-progress are: a soon to be released compilation guide and a Pacific Commodity Trade Database targeted to be released end of 2021 or early next year.

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Trade in Services: Fiji is the only country that does a compilation and publishes this statistics every quarter. The other countries use the overseas exchange transaction records to compile the data for Balance of Payments. SPC hopes to assist more countries to strengthen compilation and dissemination of trade in services.

Business Registers - SPC feels that whilst most of the developed and some of the developing countries will be able to adopt most of the recommendations, the Pacific National Statistics Offices, because of its size and skills, will not be able to. This is where SPC will be able to provide technical assistance. Currently a Pacific Business Register Development Guide exists which may need to be revised to take account of latest developments.

Submitted on:

3/3/2021