

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:

UNCTAD

Statement:

UNCTAD,

THANKS the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics for their report and recommendations, which sets out a proposed way forward for the better alignment of business, trade, digital economy and macroeconomic statistics for the UN system.

EXPRESSES support in broad terms for the recommendations proposed. However, UNCTAD would like some further clarity regarding the role of the existing Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) – is it proposed that this group would be disbanded or subsumed by the proposed new Task team? While there might be some merit in such a proposal, further clarity is first required, so that member states and entities can understand what exactly is being proposed.

EXPRESSES support for the importance being given to the training and capacity-building programme on statistical business registers, as the backbone of statistical infrastructure, and business and trade statistics, and the need for capacity building in particular for African countries.

NOTES and supports the plans for closer coordination and integration of trade and business statistics and reflecting that in the revision of the SNA, BoP and related manuals for trade statistics. UNCTAD further stands ready to assist in any efforts to enhance and strengthen linkages with social and environmental aspects, and also measures to incorporate a gender dimension and sustainable environmental and business reporting.

Submitted on:

2/18/2021