

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (p) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: business and trade statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/20 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

Statement provided by:

USA (United States of America)

Statement:

The United States (U.S.) welcomes the report of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and supports the broad and ambitious set of initiatives highlighted. The U.S. appreciates the Committee's intent to refine its strategic view to address the need for more timely, high frequency, and granular data and to put a focus on digitalization, productivity and innovation; the "green economy"; and well-being and social inclusion. The U.S. also appreciates that the Committee will coordinate across the relevant statistical domains, which will help prioritize addressing data gaps that are identified, ensure conceptual and presentational consistency across domains, and avoid duplication of work.

The U.S. Census Bureau initiated a pilot program to establish Domain and Node environments to share data between the Census Bureau and the United Nations. The Domain environment at the U.N. will contain data from the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, and the Netherlands, and the Node environment was established at the Census Bureau. The U.S. is preparing import and export data, for 2013 to present data, to load into the environment and test. The intent is to establish queries against the data to solve issues of asymmetry.

Given the schedule for updating the System of National Accounts and the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position conceptual manuals, it is critical that the related component manuals such as the international trade statistics manuals are updated on a timely basis. The United States applauds the efforts of the task team on international trade statistics to achieve this goal; the U.S. has and will continue to support this effort with in-kind contributions. The U.S. also welcomes the work to prepare a maturity model and assessment tools for trade statistics that can be used by countries and that can support capacity building engagements.

The U.S. also endorses the global consultations on, and future dissemination of, the manual on the global core set of principal business and trade indicators and the manual on the maturity model for statistical business registers. These manuals will serve as important resources for countries as they seek to develop or enhance important statistical products and in the case of business registers, the targeted collection of data that support those products.

The U.S. also endorses the establishment of an initiative aimed at improving the availability of a unique identifier in countries' administrative data sources and the link with a global unique identifier. Given the complexity of companies' organizational structures and the existence of uncoordinated data sets, these identifiers have the potential to simplify the production of valuable statistics through data linking and reduce burden on data providers.

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