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## International trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed and appreciated the report on international trade statistics;<sup>6</sup>

(b) Recognized the need for an overarching measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization, taking into account the existing frameworks and guidelines, notably the System of National Accounts, Balance of Payments, and the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics, as well as the research and studies done by Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and various working groups;

(c) Also recognized the need for an appropriate mechanism for coordination of the work on international trade and economic globalization, ensuring that the functions of the existing expert groups, working groups and task forces are fully accounted for at the international and regional levels;

(d) Agreed to the creation of a “friends of the chair” group tasked with preparing a concept paper on the scope and content of the framework, and on the appropriate mechanism for coordination of the work in this area, and in this connection noted that a number of countries and international organizations had expressed their interest in participating in the group;

(e) Requested that a clear timetable and terms of reference be prepared for the work of the “friends of the chair” group as soon as possible;

(f) Requested that the concept paper of the “friends of the chair” group take into account the different levels of statistical sophistication and of available resources of national statistical systems and make provisions for corresponding milestones for the implementation of envisioned recommendations;

(g) Requested that the “friends of the chair” group pay special attention to the topics of confidentiality of microlevel data, the legal aspects of data collection and sharing, and the interconnectedness of cross-border relations, in trade and related financial aspects.