

Draft Conclusions

FIRST PART:

With Decision 48/114 the Statistical Commission requested in 2017 to create a Committee of Experts to prepare UN Guidelines for Statistical Business Registers (SBR) and to give guidance on issues of business and basic economic statistics, taking into account the use of administrative data the scope of statistical units and statistical domains in the context of globalization, digitization and well-being and sustainability.

The agenda of the first meeting reflects the mandate of the Statistical Commission, including the preparation of the SBR guidelines and the strategic direction and program of work on integrated business statistics, globalization, digitalization and well-being and sustainability.

It is the objective of the first meeting to come to a formulation of the governance, mandate and program of work of this Committee of Experts and its position in relation to other regional and international bodies in this field.

Proposed vision contextualized from the standard Mandate of the UN Committee

"To inform, advise and support UN countries on a strategic vision, direction and coordination for the methodological development of business and trade statistics and its implementation in national, regional and international statistical systems. For this purpose, it will review, maintain and update normative international statistical standards and supporting documents. Based on these internationally agreed methodological manuals, it will promote requirements for business and trade statistics at national, regional and international level in terms of scope and quality, promote implementation of those statistics through capacity building and promote its analytical and policy use. While undertaking this work, the Committee will coordinate with statistical entities at national, regional and international level in business and trade statistics and other statistical domains to seek synergies and promote best practices.

The Committee seeks to establish an internationally agreed required data set for business and related statistics which countries should aspire to compile and disseminate with a priority for the coverage of statistical units with relevant impact on the economic structure, activity and performance"

SECOND PART:

The Committee supports a cross-cutting approach focusing on thematic areas, such as globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability, and the link with the macroeconomic and environmental economic accounts. These thematic areas were chosen to align with programs of work on the SNA, SEEA and ILO guidelines on decent work.

The Committee advocates the adoption of a register based approach for the production of business statistics complemented by alternative solutions to inform the economic structure, activity and performance at local, national, regional and international level. Where possible, drivers of business dynamics regarding international trade, direct investment, R&D, innovation, and ICT should be reflected in the statistical business register. The Committee will address those issues with a strategic

approach to highlight best practices, identify new data requirements, and discuss emerging issues and statistical topics related statistical units, classifications, concept and definitions.

In order to formulate and implement the Committee's program of work, task teams will be created on specific issues covering coordination, methodology, data, capacity building and communication, for which leads will be appointed.

For instance, the Task Team on Coordination could prepare the vision and strategy for the Committee based on an overview of the mandates and work programs of existing statistical groups at regional and international level related to business and trade statistics from both a macroeconomic and macroeconomic perspective. In particular the Task team of Coordination should identify the programmatic areas of the Committee, which will contribute and work coherently and complementary to the existing statistical groups such as on specific statistical domains like national accounts, price statistics, data exchange and sharing, ICT and innovation, etc.

THIRD PART

GOVERNANCE:

Being a country-led Committee, the leads of task teams will be countries, which have demonstrated best practices and strong interests in advancing particular work streams. The leads of the task teams are also responsible for advice on the members of the Task team from national regional and international agencies. The Task teams should have appropriate regional country representation and representation of other stakeholders, as appropriate.

The Task teams and their compositions will be proposed to the UN Statistical Commission in the report of the Committee.

The Chair of the Committee and UNSD will support the overall governance of the Committee supported by the Bureau of the Committee consisting of the leads of the Task Teams.

FOURTH PART

EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

- Summary report of the first meeting of the Committee of Experts
- Strategies and work programs of the Task Teams to be prepared by their leaders
- Report to the Statistical Commission

TIMELINE

Mid-June 2018 – summary report of the first meeting of the Committee of Experts

End September 2018 - strategies and work programs of the Task Teams

End November – report of the Committee to the UN Statistical Commission