

**Meeting of the UN Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics**  
**Rome, Italy**  
**7-9 May 2018**

Economic globalization has created new opportunities for businesses to organize their production chains more efficiently. This has increased the complexity of compiling economic statistics, as it is more difficult to break down production activities on a country-by-country basis. There is a need to understand the cross-country benefits and risks by being able to “look through” the global firms in the global value chains (GVCs) and see their contributions in the production networks of resident enterprises in multiple countries. These emerging global production arrangements pose challenges to macroeconomic and business statistics, including the supporting business registers. The challenges include the choice of the statistical unit, the classification of the (global value chain satellite) accounts, the implementation of the principle of economic control and ownership, and the recording of domestic and cross-border transactions and positions in national accounts and balance of payments statistics.

In its decision 46/107, the Statistical Commission established the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics to address these measurement challenges. The main task of the Expert Group is to develop a handbook that will account for the measurement of GVCs, as described in various reports to the Commission on this topic in the past five years. Both the GVC perspective and the perspective of the national data compiler are fundamental to understanding the composition of the handbook. However, with the realization of the cross-country impact of GVCs on the economic structure of partner countries, a multi-country perspective for those national industries that are included in major GVCs is encouraged in the handbook.

This meeting of the expert group on international trade and economic globalization statistics will be held in Rome, Italy on 7-9 May 2018. The meeting will have as the main agenda item the finalization of the handbook on “Accounting for Global Value Chains (GVCs): extended national accounts and integrated business statistics.” The handbook describes a new GVC framework for measuring and analyzing economic statistics, which captures the effects of globalization in national accounts and business statistics. This approach provides a national perspective on globalization while building a multi-country satellite account for a specific global value chain.

The GVC approach builds on the integrated collection of business statistics from large global enterprises (across countries) for a select set of GVC-related economic activities, including trade in intermediate goods and services and foreign direct investments. In addition, inter-country supply and use tables, as well as inter-country input-output tables, can help to chart and understand relations at a macroeconomic level. To properly and correctly measure the cross-border statistics, some data-sharing with important economic partner countries may be necessary. The Commission also agreed with the development of a global enterprise group register to help national statisticians better understand business strategies and the relations between enterprises in various economies.