

# **International Workshop on the Integrated Use of International Trade Statistics and Economic Statistics**

Beijing, China and Virtually  
23-25 November 2021

Organized jointly by NBS China, UNSD and UNCTAD in cooperation with WTO

## **Concept Note**

### **Background**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes international trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, as well as an important means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Consequently, international trade data and statistics are crucial for evidence-based policymaking, monitoring, trade promotion, and trade negotiations. For the 2030 Agenda, international trade statistics monitor how trade contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals through tracking progress towards trade-related Goals. Moreover, trade statistics are vital for international trade agreements like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and the Agreement on Trade related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Consequently, there is now an increased demand for more relevant, coherent and high-quality trade and business statistics. Particularly, integrated trade and business statistics are very important for the design, implementation, and monitoring of economic and social policies, as well as other applications. For example, linking trade and business statistics provides useful information on a) the characteristics of the businesses behind trade flows of goods and services, b) the contribution of particular economic sectors to trade, c) the share of small and medium-sized enterprises to total trade; and d) the share of enterprises that trade with a certain partner country and the amount of trade value they account for. These and related statistics are important for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. Furthermore, data need to be produced and understood in the context of globalization and digitalization. At the same time these phenomena pose many challenges to compiling high-quality trade and business statistics.

This Workshop is organized jointly by the NBS, UNSD, and UNCTAD in cooperation with WTO, at the request of NBS, to help tackle some issues regarding the production and use of integrated international trade statistics, including digital trade and e-commerce, trade by enterprise characteristics, statistics of international trade in services by mode of Supply, foreign affiliates trade statistics (FATS), and other related economic statistics. The main goal of the Workshop is to assist the participants to gain better understanding of the concepts and definitions set out within the “International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010” (IMTS 2010) and “Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010” (MSITS 2010), especially on topics such as digital trade, e-commerce, Trade in Services and Business and Trade Statistics linking.

In addition, the workshop will look at the UNCTAD “Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Digital Economy 2020”. Produced under the auspices of the UNCTAD Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy (WG-ECDE), the Manual is intended to guide statisticians from developing countries through all the steps involved in the production and dissemination of statistics related to e-commerce and the digital economy. It sets out core indicators on the use of ICT by businesses, the ICT sector, and trade in ICT goods, ICT services and digitally delivered services. This includes indicators on businesses receiving and placing orders digitally (e-commerce). In addition, the workshop will look at the availability of data on the value of e-commerce, as well as consider good practices and steps that can be taken to make such data more widely available.

## **Objectives of the Workshop**

Three main objectives of the Workshop include:

- 1) further advancing the implementation of IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010 recommendations especially for compilation of e-commerce and selected categories of Trade in Services,
- 2) strengthening data production on digital trade and e-commerce
- 3) enhancing capacities to link data related to business and trade statistics.

The Workshop will include presentations on conceptual and methodological issues, data sources, collection and compilation, country practices, and round-table discussions especially regarding Mode of Supply, Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS), e-commerce assistance programs, Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) and Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC).

## **Participants**

Primary target beneficiaries of the Workshop include compilers and producers of data and Statistics of International Trade in Goods and Services:

1. Statistical Officers for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services
2. Balance of Payment Statisticians
3. Business statisticians

Secondary target beneficiaries of the Workshop include users of data and Statistics of International Trade in Goods and Services:

4. Ministries (Tourism, Trade, Economy, Finance)
5. Other industry players (economists, lawyers, etc.)

## **Organization**

All participants (international and in China) will participate virtually in a form of a Webinar on the Zoom platform. Simultaneous two-way translation of Chinese to English and English to Chinese will be provided.