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Background document  
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**Items for discussion and decision: Business and trade statistics**

## **Terms of Reference of the Task Team on Statistical Business Registers**

Prepared by the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics

# Terms of Reference

## Task Team on Statistical Business Registers

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Chair of the Task Team on Statistical Business Registers: Hank Hermans (Statistics Netherlands)

### Background and Mandate

1. Statistical Business Registers are the backbone for producing economic statistics that meet the increasing demand for better integrated, coherent and comparable statistics across countries and statistical domains. Given the strategic importance of Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) within the statistical system, the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) established in 2022 a Task team on Statistical Business Registers (TT-SBR) with the broad objectives to:

- advance the methodological development of SBRs (especially taking into account evolving user needs and continuous innovation);
- identify and develop tools to help countries to improve their SBRs, also aiming at leaving no one behind; and
- share knowledge and country practices.

2. The TT-SBR is the result of a merge of the previous Task teams on Exhaustive Business Registers and Capacity building which have been working very closely in the past and have jointly developed the Maturity Model for SBRs in 2022.

3. The task team focuses on further elaborating all elements of the Statistical Business Register Maturity Model (SBRMM). The SBRMM is meant to provide countries with a tool to assess the stage of development of their SBRs and identify possible improvements to the SBR, so that no one is behind. The maturity model is a live framework that is periodically reviewed and adjusted. Having that in mind, the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) aims to be a tool to:

- share knowledge and best practices by means of a knowledge base
- determine the current state of your SBR by a self assessment questionnaire
- determine possible next steps for development
- find help and guidelines to actually be able to take those steps.

4. The task team will continue to seek collaboration and coordination with the other relevant statistical entities, such as the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers and engage with countries that are not members of the task team.

## Areas of work

5. There are three main areas of work of the task team on Statistical Business Registers

### **Methodological work (Statistical Business Register Maturity Model)**

6. Within the framework of the Maturity model for SBRs, the task team primary works on the development of methodological guidance for SBRs and the development and maintenance/update of the SBR Maturity Model. The main components of the Maturity Model are the manual, the self assessment questionnaire and a knowledge base.

7. The knowledge base aims on providing countries with relevant information on improving their statistical business register. This information may include best practices, guidelines, references to existing manuals and any other form that contains useful information.

### **Capacity building**

8. The task team works on

- (1) the identification of priority areas for technical assistance programmes through, for example, the analysis of responses to the global assessment; and
- (2) the development of training materials and tools for specific topics related to SBRs.

Capacity building for topics other than SBRs may be developed from the other task teams of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics.

### **Other areas**

9. Apart from the main activities on the maturity model and capacity building, the task team works on the following topics:

- Multi National Enterprises
  - i. Provide guidance on the development of the UNSD-OECD Multinational Intelligence Initiative, including advising on methodological considerations, new data sources for inclusion and its further validation and enhancement
  - ii. How to share data of MNEs between countries while preserving confidentiality
- Infrastructure of SBR
  - i. Collect/develop best practices for the management of unique identifiers in countries and provide guidance and general technical support to the global initiative on unique identifiers
  - ii. Contribute to the Manuals on the Integration of SBR and trade register and microdata linking being prepared by the UNCEBTS
  - iii. Collect and develop best practices related to statistical units and the statistical unit model
  - iv. Inclusion of Geospatial information in the SBR
  - v. Data quality management
- Knowledge sharing

## Description of deliverables and timing

10. The workplan and the progress of work of the task team are reviewed annually by the UNCEBTS and the UNSC. Adjustments to the work plan may be made in order to reflect feedback from the Committee, the decisions of the Statistical Commission and the discussion within the Task team.