CONCEPT NOTE

4 March 2025
13:15 - 14:30 (EST)
UN Headquarters, CF-E, New-York

Enhancing Trade in Services Statistics

Background

The global trade landscape is increasingly dominated by services, spanning finance, technology, tourism, education, and beyond. As services trade becomes a key driver of economic growth, the need for accurate, timely, and comparable trade in services statistics is more critical than ever. However, many countries face persistent challenges in compiling such data due to methodological complexities, resource constraints, and evolving international standards. **What can we do jointly in the statistical community to fill these pressing data gaps?**

Objective

This side event aims to discuss the ways forward in which we can jointly enhance trade in services statistics globally. Among other ideas, we will showcase the **Trade-in-Services Information System (TiSSTAT)**, developed by UNCTAD, as an innovative solution to these challenges. TiSSTAT is designed to enhance the capacity of national statistical institutions, providing them with modern tools to collect, compile, and disseminate trade in services data that meet international standards.

Event highlights

The speakers will share country and international experiences, discuss the use of common standards and tools, like TiSSTAT, and engage in discussions on improving statistical capacities in joint efforts. The event will focus on:

- Strengthening national statistical systems.
- Enhancing data quality and comparability.
- Supporting sustainable trade policies through reliable statistics.

The session will feature presentations by:

- **Anu Peltola**, Director, UNCTAD Statistics Service
- **Steve MacFeely**, Chief Statistician and Director, OECD Statistics and Data Directorate
- **Laurent Hounsa**, Chief Statistician and General Director, INStaD, Benin
- **Her Excellency Intissar Abdullah Al Wahaibi**, Chief statistician and General Director, GCC- STAT (tbc)
- **ECLAC** (representative, tbc)

The event will provide Chief Statisticians with an opportunity to explore how to enhance national trade in services statistics to address data and quality challenges, and provide more detailed and harmonized information for evidence-based policy. We look forward to your participation!