

**STATISTICS AND DATA DIRECTORATE
COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL POLICY****Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Services Statistics****WPTGS 2019 Main Conclusions****Prepared by the WPTGS Bureau**

This document presents the WPTGS Bureau Conclusions for the 2019 WPTGS Meeting (27-29 March 2019) and the joint WPTGS-WGIIS Meeting (27 March 2019).

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WPTGS 2019 Main conclusions

1. Identifying and Explaining Trade Asymmetries

There was, for the fifth consecutive year, high country participation in the bilateral trade asymmetries meetings. The Bureau encourages the OECD to continue to prioritise this activity and asked the Secretariat to:

- Organise biannual bilateral trade asymmetry meetings (including using virtual video based meetings, such as WebEx), and support bilateral discussions through the provision of background material highlighting the main areas of asymmetry.
- Integrate revised data into the OECD balanced trade datasets and GVC indicators.
- Contact a small number of volunteer countries that would be interested in ‘User testing’ the OECD Trade Asymmetry Explorer tool – before it is rolled-out to the full WPTGS group; ensuring that it is customised to serve the needs of the bilateral and trilateral asymmetry meetings.
- Develop a “Trade Asymmetry” webpage that provides a repository of published asymmetry documentation, including papers on communications with users and any recommendations countries have made.

2. Digital Trade

Given the importance of the information derived from the OECD stocktaking survey on digital trade, the Bureau recognised the rapid rate of change in this area of measurement and proposes:

- That a 2020 survey be undertaken prior to the next WPTGS meeting.

The Bureau acknowledged the progress on the Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade.

- The Bureau asks countries to send their feedback on the draft chapters and any national experiences for measuring digital trade to wptgs@oecd.org and/or statistics@wto.org.

Following the receipt of this round of comments, the handbook will be submitted to the Expert Group and presented at a special meeting to be held back-to-back with the Inter-agency TFITS meeting in October.

3. Trade by Enterprise Characteristics

The Bureau acknowledged the wide country coverage of Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC), now reaching 31 of 36 OECD countries as well as 6 non-member countries, and growing demand for Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC). The Bureau asked the Secretariat to:

- Explore the possibility of an OECD STEC collection; and
- Dedicate a special session on STEC at WPTGS 2020.

4. Measuring Multinationals

The Bureau recognised the strong demand from policy makers, analysts, and statisticians, for more data on MNEs and their activities, and underlined the wide support among WPTGS members for the development of tools at the international level to assist and further the development of such statistics.

The Bureau asked the Secretariat to:

- Host a coordinated discussion on the Challenges of Measuring MNEs with National Accounts colleagues, possibly taking place back to back with the WPNA meeting in November.
- Draft a proposal, setting out the pros and cons of a dedicated OECD questionnaire direct to MNEs, for next year's WPTGS.

Finally, the Bureau welcomed the work on ADIMA and recognised its potential to serve as an input for profiling work.

- Moving forward, the Bureau asks that the Secretariat begin developing tools that could help see countries engage in non-disclosive validation of ADIMA data.

5. Services trade by Modes of Supply

The Bureau welcomed the strong progress on Services modes of supply within countries and their coordination with the International Organisations.

6. TiVA

The Bureau encouraged the OECD to invite interested countries to TiVA regional meetings to assist in the process of generating common tools, data and methods and transparent and replicable TiVA processes and results.

7. Measuring Global Production

The Bureau acknowledged the significant efforts reported at the 2019 WPTGS meeting to integrate and attempt to integrate global production measures, such as processing, and encouraged the Secretariat to:

- Consider a special session on Global Production at the 2020 WPTGS.

8. GVCs

The Bureau acknowledged this informative OECD-IMF collaboration. IMF BOPCOM endorsed the creation of a Working Group, led by OECD and IMF, to identify components in the current framework that could be used to develop indicators on GVCs and examine how to better identify the role of MNEs in the current account. The Bureau encouraged the OECD and IMF to:

- Continue work on GVC measurement in areas deemed most feasible by national compilers.

9. Administrative items

The Bureau noted that the next WPTGS meeting will be in the week of 24-28 March 2020 (in the OECD Conference Centre at 2, Rue André-Pascal).