

**Minutes  
of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA)  
Teleconference, June 20, 2005**

**Participants:** C. Aspden, F. Lequiller (OECD), A. Bloem, R. Dippelsman, C. Gorter, L. Laliberte (IMF), B. Newson (Eurostat), I. Havinga, M. Csizmadia, V. Vu (UNSD), C. Carson (Project Manager), A. Harrison (Editor), B. Hexeberg (World Bank)

**1 Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted with some modifications. The final agenda is attached as annex I.

**2 July AEG Meeting Agenda**

The majority of the papers for the July meeting have been distributed to the AEG and posted on the designated web-site. The remaining papers will be distributed this week. The paper for issue #C10 Measurement of Non-Market Output in Volume Terms will be added to the agenda (for information).

To help the chairs manage the time during the meeting, the UNSD agreed to produce a more detailed agenda, which will indicate the time allocated for the introduction, discussion and summary on each issue. Guidelines for presenters and chairs will also be developed to improve the focus of the meeting. ISWGNA members were asked to supply the names of the presenters for issues their organizations were sponsoring.

The following was agreed with respect to the “e-discussion” issues (issues to be discussed electronically prior to the meeting): (i) the UNSD would produce summaries of the discussions prior to the meeting; (ii) the UNSD would present the paper and the Manager the issue; and (iii) oral discussion to reach a conclusion will be allocated only if a consensus does not emerge from the e-discussion.

**3 Ongoing Global Consultation and E-discussions**

The ISWGNA discussed the disappointing outcome of the global consultation on issue #16 Government and other non-market producers: cost of capital of own assets, where only 2 countries had expressed their opinion. It was agreed to not make any further attempts to receive responses although by the deadline 30 June additional replies may come in. Given the outcome, the mechanisms for these global consultations on a single issue should be reconsidered. This is in line with the MG views on such consultations.

With regards to the consultation undertaken among AEG members on issue #25c, Multi-territorial Enterprises, only a few members had responded despite reminders. It

was concluded that nothing more should be done pending the outcome of the BOPCOM meeting.

Nine issues are out for e-discussion prior to the upcoming AEG meeting. It was agreed that encouraging reminders to the members of the AEG to respond would be sent by UNSD which might be followed-up by a reminder of the Chair. While the group acknowledged that AEG members are busy, the e-discussions were seen as essential in order to have enough time allocated to the remaining (and more complex) issues on the agenda. The question of whether or not ISWGNA members should express their views through the e-discussions was raised. It was agreed to hold off any contributions by the ISWGNA until the AEG members had had sufficient time to express their views (– until June 30.)

#### **4 Participation at AEG meeting**

In response to a request from a National Statistical Office to send an observer to the AEG meeting, the ISWGNA confirmed its earlier position that no country observers should be allowed. However, as part of the outreach program, it was agreed to extend an invitation to the UN Regional Commissions to attend the meeting (as observers and at their own expense.)

#### **5 Future Consultations on AEG recommendations**

The ISWGNA discussed to whom recommendations by the AEG should be sent for comment – the heads of NSOs and CBs or the heads of national accounts branches in NSOs and CBs and research departments in CBs. It was decided that the IMF and the UNSD (as holders of address lists and responsible for sending the letters) would look into the possibilities and make a proposal no later than at the July meeting. Furthermore, it was agreed that the UNSD-maintained list of heads of national accounts should be updated with the assistance of OECD, Eurostat and UN Regional Commissions,.

The group also confirmed the need for sending out selected documents in French and Spanish, but did not identify any papers suitable for translation -- the short report of the meeting being too short and geared to the meeting participants and the long report too extensive. It was agreed that a sub-group consisting of IMF, UNSD, the Editor and the Manager would prepare a proposal with regards to selection of document(s) to be translated. This group would also consider which institutions could undertake the translation, probably into French and Spanish. The proposal will be discussed no later than at the forthcoming ISWGNA meeting in Bangkok.

#### **6 Outstanding issues**

The next meeting of the ISWGNA will take place on Sunday July 17 @ 2.00 pm, at the Royal Princess Hotel, Bangkok. Items for the agenda for this meeting and the

meeting on July 23 should be sent to the Chair and Project Manager, who will prepare draft agendas.

It was agreed that the clarifications submitted by Mr. Antonio Massieu of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) to the ISWGNA will be added to the list of issues for clarification. UNSD will inform the WTO accordingly.

OECD offered to contribute a paper on chain linking as the issue had been brought forward by a note sent by E. Diewert. As this is a clarification issue, the meeting welcomed the effort. In this regard, the meeting reminded itself that issues for clarification are accepted until the end of 2005, and agreed they would not necessarily need to be discussed by the AEG at any of its meetings.

UNSD on behalf of the ISWGNA has sent out a letter to Mr. Steven Keuning, Director General Statistics of the European Central Bank (in Frankfurt) indicating its appreciation and acceptance of the invitation to host the fourth AEG meeting scheduled for January-February 2006.

## Annex 1

### **Agenda**

- 1 Adoption of Agenda
- 2 July AEG Meeting Agenda
- 3 Ongoing Global Consultation and E-discussions
- 4 Participation at AEG meeting
- 5 Future Consultations on AEG recommendations
- 6 Outstanding issues

Annex 2

**Actions agreed upon at the meeting**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>By who</b>
2	Develop guidelines for presenters and chairs to improve the focus of the AEG meeting	ASAP	UNSD, Manager
2	Revise provisional agenda and list of documents according to changes agreed during the teleconference	ASAP	UNSD
2	Send names of presenters to UNSD	ASAP	All
2	Develop a document “Organization of work” in form of a detailed agenda adding presenters and time allotted to each item	Within one week	UNSD
3	Send reminder(s) to AEG members about the ongoing e-discussions	ASAP	UNSD
4	Reply to the national statistical office requesting clarification that observes are not allowed in the AEG meeting	ASAP	UNSD
4	Send invitations to UN Regional commissions	ASAP	UNSD
5	Make a proposal re. to whom AEG recommendations should be addressed for comment	Before July 17	UNSD, IMF
5	Prepare a proposal with regards to selection of document(s) to be translated, and consider which institutions could undertake the translation.	Before July 17	IMF, UNSD, Editor, Manager
6	Send items for the agenda for the July 17 and 23 meetings to chair and manager.	Before July 13	All
6	Inform WTO/OMT that their proposal will be included in the list of clarifications	End of June	UNSD