

MINUTES
ISWGNA MEETING 28 FEBRUARY, 2008

Participants

Eurostat: G. Gueye (Chair), C. Ravets
IMF: K. Zieschang
OECD: C. Aspden
World Bank: B. Hexeberg
UNSD: I. Havinga, G. Singh, H. Smith, A. Becker (Minutes)
1993 SNA Update project: C. Carson (outgoing Project Manager),
P. McCarthy (incoming Project Manager),
A. Harrison (Editor)

The ISWGNA met at UN headquarters in New York at the margin of the 39th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). Members of the ISWGNA not present at the Commission participated via telephone.

1. Organizational matters

The ISWGNA took note that Ms. Carol Carson retired as Project Manager of the 1993 SNA Update project on 28 February 2008. She is succeeded by Mr. Paul McCarthy. The group thanked Ms. Carson for her leadership and congratulated her on the successful completion of Volume 1 of the updated 1993 SNA. The group also welcomed Mr. McCarthy as the new Project Manager. In addition, the chair of the ISWGNA rotated from the IMF to Eurostat.

2. Decisions of the 39th session of the UN Statistical Commission 2008

UNSD briefed the ISWGNA on the decisions of the UNSC on the update of the 1993 SNA, summarised as follows:

- The UNSC adopted in principal Volume 1 of the updated 1993 SNA;
- The UNSC endorsed the ISWGNA proposal for an additional two month review period of Volume 1, until end of April 2008, with the review focusing on the coherence and consistency of the System with the recommendations of the 44 issues adopted by the UNSC in 2007 and the clarifications and consistency issues that flowed from these;
- The UNSC requested that the ISWGNA takes appropriate measures to ensure that Volume 2 of the updated 1993 SNA is duly completed and presented for adoption to UNSC in 2009;
- The UNSC requested the ISWGNA to seek the opinion of countries on the title of the updated 1993 SNA during the two month review period;
- The UNSC mandated the ISWGNA to proceed with the finalization and publication of Volume 1, after approval by the Bureau of the Commission, in pre-edit electronic and paper versions, taking into account the substantive observations made during the two-month review period;

- The UNSC urged the ISWGNA to present a strategy for implementation of the updated 1993 SNA in the context of development cooperation to the UNSC in 2009, reflecting the need for regional and sub-regional coordination, given the different levels of statistical development, and elaborate on the advocacy strategy to engage users, especially those engaged in policy formulation and analysis; and
- The UNSC welcomed the ISWGNA proposal to convene a meeting in 2008 for interested countries and other stakeholders to work out the modalities of the creation of a high-level group on national accounts and report the outcome to the UNSC in 2009.

3. The way forward on Volume 1

The ISWGNA plans to submit the white-cover version of Volume 1 for UN editing by the end of May 2008, following its approval by the Bureau of the UNSC.

It was agreed that the Project Manger should inform the AEG on the outcome of the UNSC and further progress on the update of the 1993 SNA in a set of newsletters.

3.1. Review of Volume 1

The review period for Volume 1 will start on 3 March and will conclude on 30 April 2008.

Comments will be posted on the project's website as soon as they are received. Immediately following the conclusion of the world-wide review all comments will be consolidated by the ISWGNA as follows:

Eurostat:	EU countries
OECD:	OECD countries outside of the EU
UNSD:	All remaining countries

The ISWGNA emphasized that comments suggesting the re-opening of recommendations adopted by the Commission will not be considered. All consolidated comments will be submitted to the Editor no later than 5 May 2008 and will be discussed at the ISWGNA meeting on 9 May in Luxembourg. The editor is to advise the ISWGNA as to how the comments should be presented for ease of amending the draft text.

3.2. Longitudinal review by the ISWGNA

The ISWGNA reiterated that the longitudinal review across all chapters of Volume 1 and by issues will be completed by 14 March 2008. The comments from the longitudinal review will be discussed by the ISWGNA in a teleconference during the week of 24 March 2008. The results from this discussion and the consistency issues identified during this review will be prepared for posting on the project's website within a week of ISWGNA agreement on the comments.

It was agreed that it is extremely important that reviewers should be aware not only of the recommendations on the 44 issues but also the list of clarification items and a list of changes stemming from review by the AEG and ISWGNA of consistency issues. Documentation on the 44 issues is available in the FSCR on the web site (some small

changes are outstanding). A list of clarification issues is also available on the web site. The information on changes from consistency checks is also on the web site but more disperse. The Editor suggested that synthesising this material was needed for annex 3 on changes (to form part of volume 2 – to be prepared by UNSD). Based on existing material, UNSD will produce a document indicating where changes can be found for posting on the website by mid-March.

3.3. Revised chapters 1, 2 and 16

The Editor agreed that revised versions of chapters 1, 2 and 16 will be available for review by the ISWGNA by 14 March 2008. The comments by the ISWGNA on these chapters will be sent to the editor by 20 March and then discussed in a teleconference during the week of 24 March 2008. The revised versions of chapters 1, 2 and 16, taking into consideration the ISWGNA comments, will be posted on the project’s website within a week of the teleconference. The world-wide review of these chapters would also be completed as part of the two month review period.

3.4. Outstanding parts for the white-cover version of Volume 1

The Editor identified the following outstanding parts to be finalized for Volume 1:

- Reader’s Guide:
To be completed by end of April 2008 by the Project Manager;
- Cross-references, external references, glossary, list of abbreviations:
These will be prepared by the Editor by mid May in the context of preparing the pre-edit version, UNSD will provide the full UN approved forms of the terms, subject to abbreviations and external references;
- Index:
By end March 2008 the Project Manger will compile the index for one chapter as an example from which to establish a timeline and responsibility for the completion of the index for all chapters of Volume 1; and
- Chapter annexes:
There are four chapters of the “old” 1993 SNA with annexes. The Editor suggested that the ISWGNA needed to evaluate the relevance of theses annexes in the updated 1993 SNA. The following chapters with annexes are:
Chapter 4: Annex on informal employment - will be absorbed in Volume 2;
Chapter 6: Measurement of storage - will be evaluated by OECD by 14 March 2008;
Chapter 10: COT - will be evaluated by OECD by 7 March 2008; and
Chapter 12: Revaluation- will be evaluated by IMF and the Editor by 10 March 2008

3.5. Timeline for Volume 1

Deadline	Task	Responsible
3 March	Launch of the global review of Volume 1	UNSD
14 March	Submission of revised chapters 1, 2 and 16 to the ISWGNA for review	Editor
14 March	Preparation of electronic annexes for chapters 6, 10 and 12 - if still relevant and submission to the Editor	OECD, IMF, Editor

14 March	Newsletter to the AEG reporting on the outcome of the UNSC 2008	Project Manager
14 March	Submission of comments from the longitudinal review to the Editor	ISWGNA
14 March	Indication of where reviewers can find documentation on all changes in volume1, the 44 issues, clarification items and consistency items.	UNSD
20 March	Comments by the Editor on the longitudinal review	Editor
20 March	Comments by the ISWGNA on revised chapters 1, 2 and 16	ISWGNA
Week of 24 March	ISWGNA teleconference to reach agreement on comments from the longitudinal review and chapters 1, 2 and 16	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
One week after teleconference	Preparation by Editor of ISWGNA longitudinal review and revised chapters 1, 2 and 16 for posting	Editor
31 March	Index for one chapter of Volume 1	Project Manager
30 April	Conclusion of global review on Volume 1	
30 April	Reader's Guide to cover both volume 1 and 2	Project Manager
5 May	Submission of consolidated country comments from the global review to the Editor	Eurostat, OECD, UNSD
9 May	ISWGNA meeting in Luxembourg to discuss country comments	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
14 May	Consolidation and posting of finalized country comments	UNSD
23 May	Submission of the revised chapters of Volume 1 to the ISWGNA for review, including cross-references, external references, glossary, list of abbreviations	Editor
Week of 26 May	ISWGNA teleconference to discuss issues related to the revised chapters and to prepare a recommendation regarding the adoption of the revised Volume	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
30 May	White-cover version to be submitted for UN-editing. Electronic version posted on the web site; hard copy to be prepared for dissemination	UNSD

4. The way forward on Volume 2

To ensure the timely submission of Volume 2 to the UNSC in 2009, the ISWGNA decided to shorten the period for world-wide review on its chapters to 30 days.

4.1 Drafting of Volume 2

The ISWGNA has agreed that Volume 2 will contain 12 chapters (18 to 29) and two annexes, namely:

Chapter 18: Elaborating the accounts
Chapter 19: Population and labour inputs
Chapter 20: The role of capital services in the national accounts
Chapter 21: Measuring corporate activity
Chapter 22: The government and public sectors
Chapter 23: Non-profit institutions in the System
Chapter 24: Households
Chapter 25: The informal sector
Chapter 26: The rest of the world account (external transaction account)
Chapter 27: Links to monetary and financial statistics
Chapter 28: Input-output and other mixed based analysis
Chapter 29: Satellite accounts and other extensions of the System
Annex 3: Changes in the updated SNA
Annex 4: Further research

Chapter 27 is already posted on the project's website and has passed through the commenting process; therefore no initial new drafting is needed at this stage.

Chapters 20, 22 and 25 are already drafted but may need some amendments. The ISWGNA will look at these chapters and provide comments by 20 March 2008, to see if they can be posted without further work. If this is agreed, these chapters will then be posted on the project's website for world-wide review with a 30-day commenting period. The ISWGNA will summarise comments on these three chapters and chapter 27 by 31 May 2008 and submit them to the Editor.

For the remaining 8 chapters and two annexes it was agreed that an annotated outline of the chapters/annexes be prepared as follows:

Chapters 21, 29:	Eurostat
Chapter 26:	IMF
Chapter 19:	Project Manager
Annex 3:	UNSD
Annex 4:	OECD
Chapters 18, 23, 24, 28:	Editor

All detailed outlines are due by 30 April 2008. The ISWGNA will discuss the detailed outlines for the remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2 at the ISWGNA meeting planned for 9 May 2008.

The initial drafting of the remaining chapters/annexes will be undertaken between 9 May and end June/mid-July. Review by the ISWGNA will take place in the two weeks following the submission to the ISWGNA, allowing posting on the project's website between mid-July and end-July for world-wide review with a 30-day commenting period. The world-wide review will close end August.

By end September, the Editor will finalise the chapters 20, 22, 25 and 27.

The ISWGNA will summarise comments on the remaining 8 chapters and 2 annexes for discussion at a face to face meeting in mid-October. At this meeting the final version of chapters 20, 22, 25 and 27 will also be discussed.

Between mid-October and mid-December the Editor will revise these 8 chapters and 2 annexes of Volume 2 on the basis of the comments from the world-wide review.

4.2 Timetable for Volume 2

Deadline	Task	Responsible
20 March	Comments by ISWGNA if chapters 20, 22 and 25 can be posted in their current state	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
28 March	Posting of chapters 20, 22 and 25	UNSD
30 April	Prepare annotated outlines for remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
30 April	Close of comment period on chapters 20, 22 and 25	
9 May	ISWGNA meeting to discuss annotated outlines	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
31 May	Finalize summary of comments from world-wide review on chapters 20, 22, 25 and 27 and submission to the Editor	ISWGNA
31 May	Finalized detailed outlines	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
30 June – 15 July	Drafting of the remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2 and submission to ISWGNA	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager
15 July – 31 July	Revision and posting of the remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2	ISWGNA
31 August	Conclusion of the world-wide review on Volume 2	
30 September	Finalize chapters 20, 22, 25 and 27	Editor
30 September	Summarise world wide comments on remaining 8 chapters and 2 annexes and submit to the Editor	ISWGNA
Mid-October	Meeting to discuss final version of 4 chapters, comments on 8 chapters and 2 annexes	
Mid-October to Mid-December	Editor to complete remaining 8 chapters, for discussion by ISWGNA	Editor, ISWGNA
Mid-December	Revised Volume 2 available for submission to the UNSC in 2009	Editor

5. Next teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on 25 March at 3 PM (New York/Washington, DC), 8 PM (Paris/Luxembourg) and 26 March at 6 AM (Canberra).

6. To-do-List

Action	By when	Responsible	Status
The Project Manager will prepare a draft letter to the ECB about ECB's comments on the mapping of taxes from the classification in the GFSM and the OECD's Revenue Statistics	End-July 2007	Project Manager	On hold
Update of the Full Set of Consolidated Recommendations (44 issues document) to incorporate changes and UNSC decisions	When possible	Editor	Pending
Draft an example on insurance that includes the compilation of the complete set of accounts with data from the books of insurance companies.	March 2008	UNSD, Eurostat	Pending
Comments on Room document on Implementation Strategy	February 6	All	Done
Actions for Volume 1			
Launch of the global review of Volume 1	3 March	UNSD	
Submission of revised chapters 1, 2 and 16 to the ISWGNA for review	14 March	Editor	
Preparation of electronic annexes for chapters 6, 10 and 12 - if still relevant and submission to the Editor	14 March	OECD, IMF,	
Newsletter to the AEG reporting on the outcome of the UNSC 2008	14 March	Project Manager	
Submission of comments from the longitudinal review to the Editor	14 March	ISWGNA	
Indication of where reviewers can find documentation on all changes in volume1, the 44 issues, clarification items and consistency items.	14 March	UNSD	
Comments by the Editor on the longitudinal review	20 March	Editor	
Comments by the ISWGNA on revised chapters 1, 2 and 16	20 March	ISWGNA	
ISWGNA teleconference to reach agreement on comments from the longitudinal review and chapters 1, 2 and 16	Week of 24 March	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	

Action	By when	Responsible	Status
Preparation by Editor of ISWGNA longitudinal review and revised chapters 1, 2 and 16 for posting	One week after tele-conference	Editor	
Index for one chapter of Volume 1	31 March	Project Manager	
Conclusion of global review on Volume 1	30 April		
Reader's Guide	30 April	Project Manager	
Submission of consolidated country comments from the global review to the Editor	5 May	Eurostat, OECD, UNSD	
ISWGNA meeting in Luxembourg to discuss country comments	9 May	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
Consolidation and posting of finalized country comments	14 May	UNSD	
Submission of the revised chapters of Volume 1 to the ISWGNA for review, including cross-references, external references, glossary, list of abbreviations	23 May	Editor	
ISWGNA teleconference to discuss issues related to the revised chapters and to prepare a recommendation regarding the adoption of the revised Volume 1	Week of 26 May	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
White-cover version to be submitted for UN-editing. Electronic version posted on the web site; hard copy to be prepared for dissemination;	30 May	UNSD	
Actions for Volume 2			
Comments by ISWGNA if chapters 20, 22 and 25 can be posted in their current state	20 March	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
Posting of chapters 20, 22 and 25	28 March	UNSD	
Prepare annotated outlines for remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2	30 April	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
Close of comment period on chapters 20, 22 and 25	30 April		
ISWGNA meeting to discuss annotated outlines	9 May	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
Summary of comments from world-wide review on chapters 20, 22, 25 and 27 submitted to the Editor	31 May	ISWGNA	

Action	By when	Responsible	Status
Finalized detailed outlines	31 May	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
Drafting of the remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2 and submission to ISWGNA	30 June – 15 July	ISWGNA, Editor, Project Manager	
Revision and posting of the remaining chapters/annexes of Volume 2	15 July – 31 July	ISWGNA	
Conclusion of the world-wide review on Volume 2	31 August		
Finalize chapters 20, 22, 25 and 27 and submit to the ISWGNA	30 September	Editor	
Summarise world wide comments on remaining 8 chapters and 2 annexes and submit to the Editor	30 September	ISWGNA	
Meeting to discuss final version of 4 chapters, comments on 8 chapters and 2 annexes	Mid-October		
Revised Volume 2 for submission to the UNSC in 2009	Mid-December	Editor	

Items marked as 'Done' in this to-do list will be omitted in the following to-do list.