

Minutes ISWGNA Meeting

Geneva
26 April 2010

Participants:

In Geneva

Eurostat: Christian Ravets

IMF: Manik Shrestha

UNSD: Herman Smith, (Chair)

UNECE: Carsten Hansen, Tihomira Dimova,

Via telephone

OECD: Nadim Ahmad

1. Progress with the 2008 SNA implementation programme

As part of the development of guidance on the implementation of the SNA to both countries and regional commissions on the priorities and data requirements for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and related source statistics the ISWGNA discussed a paper by the IMF on an information structure for national accounts capacity building activities. The paper proposes to use the taxonomies that the IMF implemented for managing its technical assistance operations as a basis for an information structure for planning, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the SNA. These taxonomies are based on the national accounts milestone assessment, the CES classification of statistical activities and the IMF DQAF framework.

The ISWGNA agreed that the paper provides a useful framework for assessing the integration step of the statistical production process of national accounts statistics. UNSD will incorporate the information structure proposed by the IMF and the priorities and data requirements regarding national accounts and basic economic statistics for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in the draft paper *Information system for assessing the progress of 2008 SNA implementation*. The paper will be submitted to the ISWGNA for its concurrence by the end of June.

2. Terms of reference for the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts

The ISWGNA discussed further amendments to the draft terms of reference of the AEG and possible candidates for the AEG, taking into account the requirement of global representation. UNSD will incorporate the suggested amendments and circulated the draft terms of reference for the AEG to the ISWGNA for its concurrence.

3. Terms of reference for the Task force on FISIM

The ISWGNA discussed further amendments to the draft terms of reference for the Task force on FISIM, which include issues for clarification and issues for further research. It is proposed that the first meeting of the Task force will take place from 4 to 5 October 2010 (venue TBD). The deadline for recommendations on the clarifications issues are set for September 2011 and

for the research issues by the end of 2012. Eurostat will incorporate the suggested amendments, including proposed members for the Task Force with global representation and will circulate the draft terms of reference and tentative timetable of the work of the Task Force on FISIM to the ISWGNA for its concurrence by the middle of May.

4. Task force on emission permits

OECD reported that the draft report of the Task force on emission permits will be circulated to the Task force members in the second week in May. It is expected that the report will be submitted to the ISWGNA around the end of May for its consideration.

5. Questions on the tourism satellite account

The World Tourism Organisation asked the opinion of the UNSD and the IMF balance of payments experts for guidance on identifying the providers of international passenger transport services and the treatment of frequent flyer programmes. The ISWGNA agreed more time is needed to assess all aspects of the issues. The UNWTO will be requested to incorporate comments from consultations on the issues and submit their proposal for the treatment of these transactions to the ISWGNA for its consideration to determine the consistency of the proposed treatment with the guidelines of the 2008 SNA.

6. Activities of the ISWGNA members

OECD

The OECD will embark on a project this year, with the Chinese NBS, to develop supply-use tables in China. A scoping/fact finding mission is anticipated for the end of June, with follow-up missions to be determined as progress dictates.

Eurostat

Development of the ESA
Development of *Essential SNA*

IMF

Regular technical assistance missions.

System of National Accounts 2008

India – November 2009

Quarterly national accounts workshops:

Brazil – March 2010

Singapore – April 2010

Over the next two years workshops are planned for various regions on the overview of the 2008 SNA and compilation of goods and services accounts.

As part of its contribution to the work of the IAG on the development of sectoral balance sheets, the IMF plans to hold a conference on the topic in January 2011.

As part of the programme on the management of natural resources a pilot programme with a few countries will address the compilation of flows and stocks of natural assets with a national accounts perspective.

UNSD

The UNSD is planning the following meetings in cooperation with the regional commissions on developing 2008 SNA implementation programmes in the respective regions:

- ESCWA – May 2010
- CARICOM – June 2010
- ECLAC – July 2010

Similar SNA implementation seminars are planned for other regions in collaboration with ECE, ECA, ESCAP in 2010 and 2011

UNECE

The Group of Experts on the Impact of Globalisation of National accounts, whose secretariat is provided by the ECE will finalise its report by the end of the year. ECE is also planning a number of training workshops on the 2008 SNA and related economic statistics for the countries in the sub-region in the course of 2010 and 2011.

7. Next ISWGNA meetings

The next meeting of the ISWGNA is scheduled for the end of June 2010.

8. To do list

Action	Due date	Responsible	Status
ISWGNA meetings	2010	UNSD	In progress
A paper on the priorities and data requirements regarding national accounts and basic economic statistics for the implementation of the 2008 SNA	June 2010	ISWGNA	Combined with Information system for assessing the progress of 2008 SNA implementation
Update of the paper Information system for assessing the progress of 2008 SNA implementation	End May	UNSD	
A paper on information structure for technical cooperation and capacity building activities		UNSD, IMF	Done
Prepare an inventory of dissemination of balance sheet and accumulation account data IMF, OECD and Eurostat	End May	IMF, OECD and Eurostat	In progress
Consider how high-frequency statistics could fit in with the 2008 SNA implementation and supporting statistics programme	Oct 2010	ISWGNA	
Update the note on Developing standardised training material on all economic domains to help 2008 SNA implementation	Oct 2010	UNSD	

Develop a knowledge base on training material	Dec 2010	ISWGNA	
Set up Task force on FISIM	June 2010	Eurostat	
Report of the task force on emission permits	May 2010	OECD	
Comments on the draft chapters on goods for processing and merchanting	5 March	ISWGNA	Done
Update the draft mandate for an AEG	Middle May	UNSD	