

Seminar on the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the Western Asia Region

**Jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and
Gulf Cooperation Council**

23-26 May 2010, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Provisional Agenda

Sunday, 23 May 2010

Session 1 Opening

08:30-09:00 *Registration*

09:00-09:30 *Opening of the seminar*

UNSD, ESCWA, GCC

Objectives and organization of the seminar

Administrative matters and introduction of participants

Adoption of the agenda

Arabic translation of the 2008 SNA

09:30-10:00 *Progress with the Arabic translation of the 2008 SNA*

ESCWA/UNSD

Discussion

- Agreement and commitment of countries for forming a reference group of National Accounts experts in the region for the peer review of the Arabic translation of the 2008 SNA

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

Session 2 Main changes in the 2008 SNA

10:30-12:00 *- Overview of main changes in the 2008 SNA including changes relevant to the ESCWA region*

UNSD/ESCWA

Discussion

12:00-12:30 *Coffee break*

Session 3 Financial crisis – need for high frequency economic indicators

- 12:30-14:00 - International initiatives for greater availability of statistics on high frequency economic indicators
- Introducing of the high frequency economic indicators data template

UNSD

Discussion

Monday, 24 May 2010

Session 4 Regional assessment and initiatives for improving the scope, detail and quality of the national accounts and supporting economic statistics in the region

- 08:30-10:00 *Assessment of the status of National Accounts compilation in the region and initiatives for improving the scope, detail and quality of the national accounts and supporting economic statistics in the region*

ESCWA/GCC

Discussion

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

Session 5 2008 SNA implementation strategy

- 10:30-12:00 SNA implementation strategy: mandate UNSC, global initiative, scope widened to include basic statistics and institutional environment, principles (strategic planning, coordination and implementation), elements (modalities). ISWGNA to develop tools such Knowledge Base (KB) on normative standards and country practices and KB on training and capacity building, website on 2008 SNA implementation programme, compilation guidance, outreach tools by milestone

Discussion

12:00-12:30 *Coffee break*

Session 6 **2008 SNA implementation strategy – contd.**

12:30-14:00 *2008 SNA implementation strategy explained*

A system wide diagnostic and vision to implementation programme with well developed coordination mechanism covering UNECE domains of economic statistics (2), environment and multi functional statistics (3), methodology of data collection, processing and dissemination (4), institutional strategy (5)

Discussion

Tuesday, 25 May 2010

Session 7 **Review of the strategic framework – Overview of diagnostic tool**

08:30-10:00 - Assessment of periodicity, timeliness (annual and HFI)
- Registers and census frames (agriculture, economic and population)
- Data sources: use of administrative data

Discussion – way forward

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

Session 8 **Overview of diagnostic tool – contd.**

10:30-12:00 - Data sources: Use of household (income and expenditure and labor force surveys, case of 1 2 Survey) and enterprise surveys (case of industrial statistics collections: benchmark, annual and infra annual frequency, informal sector coverage, etc.)

- Data integration, linkages, editing, imputations (use of statistical techniques, data validation)

Discussion – way forward

12:00-12:30 *Coffee break*

Session 9 **Breakout Group discussion**

12:30-14:00 - Group discussion on way forward on data sources and data integration

Wednesday, 26 May 2010

Session 10 Overview of diagnostic tool – contd.

08:30-10:00 - Communication and dissemination (communication: websites, etc and dissemination: accessibility and serviceability)

- Organisation and management of statistical organization (pre-requirements: legal environment, national statistical council, statistical agenda, consultations with users (advisory committees; human resource management: training and capacity building programme, national training institute, career planning, management training in change management; ICT management: modernization of ICT environment)

Discussion

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

Session 11 Breakout Group discussion

10:30-12:00 Group discussion on way forward on Communication and dissemination; and organisation and management of statistical organization

12:00-12:30 *Coffee break*

Session 12 Plenary session

12:30-14:00 Report back from break out group discussions
Conclusions and recommendations
Evaluation of the seminar
Closing of the seminar