

**Regional Seminar on Developing a Programme for the Implementation of the SNA-2008 and
Supporting Statistics in the ECO member countries
11 – 13 September 2013**

**Statement by
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Distinguished Delegates,

Firstly I would like to say that it is a great privilege for me to address you on behalf of Mr. Birol AYDEMİR, the President of the Turkish Statistical Institute.

He apologized you that he is unable to join you today morning to make the opening speech because of the intensive and pre-determined work schedule.

I would like to welcome all of you to Turkey and wish you a nice stay in our capital city, Ankara.

I would also like to thank co-organizers United Nations Statistical Division and Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Cooperation Organization and also thank SESRIC for hosting this seminar.

Distinguished Participants,

As we all know, the System of National Accounts, shortly SNA-2008 is the latest version of the international methodological standard for national accounts, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

In this regard, SNA-2008 has recently become one of the leading issues within the global statistical agenda and studies have accordingly intensified on this subject.

Taking this importance into account, this seminar will help us to develop a programme of work on the implementation of the SNA-2008 and supporting statistics.

Many improvements have been achieved in national accounts in general terms; however, there are still challenges and problems in many countries about implementation.

Within this context, close cooperation and joint works among National Statistical Institutes (NSI) and other data providers are very important; since national accounts are comprised of data collected from various fields of statistics.

Sharing of data and access to administrative registers are of utmost importance as well in those terms.

Besides, exchange of information and experiences at global platform are key factors in developing statistical infrastructures of NSIs.

Since TurkStat has become a statistical hub within the region, we stand ready to cooperate and share our deep-rooted experiences with countries.

To this end, I believe that this seminar will serve the aims and expectations of the participants.

Accordingly, we are very pleased to contribute to the capacity building of ECO member states in various fields of statistics as a leading country within the region.

Since national accounts have to reflect new economic phenomena in a global economy, the road to full implementation of the new SNA-2008 should not be longer for all of us.

For these reason, we mainly focus on the issues affecting gross domestic product (GDP) and its main components.

The studies on integrated economic accounts and major indicators are also considered as high priority for us.

For implementation of the SNA-2008, studies to construct the effective cooperation with other institutions involved in collecting and producing relevant data have been continued.

In order to strengthen statistical capacity in national accounts and related statistics in various ways for producing detailed figures, there should be a good cooperation not only with our stakeholders but also with international organizations, namely UN, Eurostat, IMF and OECD.

By addressing implementation of SNA-2008 and supporting statistics together, this seminar would greatly contribute to the regional implementation and success of the system.

I sincerely believe that all of us, gathered here on the occasion of this seminar, will benefit from experiences of other countries and reflect them on their own studies.

This seminar will be used as a tool to initiate the formulation of national strategy and implementation program for the SNA-2008.

Lastly, I do hope that the participants will return to their countries fully satisfied with this seminar and with pleasant memories of our country.

Thank you and have a nice seminar.