

ISWGNA Management Group Meeting

03 March 2020

Minutes

Participants: Mariana Kotzeva and Gallo Gueye (Chair, Eurostat); Paul Schreyer (OECD); Haishan Fu (World Bank); Louis Marc Ducharme and Jim Tebrake (IMF); Stefan Schweinfest, Ivo Havinga, Herman Smith, Benson Sim and Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD)

1. Introduction of the ISWGNA report to the Commission

The ISWGNA Management group agreed with the introduction for the ISWGNA report to the Commission with two small additions

2. The SNA research agenda

2.1 An update on progress of the work of the 4 sub-groups

The ISWGNA:MG recognised the progress of the subgroups on globalization, digitalization and wellbeing and sustainability on all their work strands. The ISWGNA:MG welcomed the detailed work timetables with the aim to have draft guidelines available for review at the UNECE Expert Group on National Accounts meeting, Geneva, 28-30 April 2020; and the IARIW Conference, Oslo, 24-28 August before presenting them to the AEG meeting scheduled for 5-9 October 2020 in Paris.

The Steering group of the subgroup on communication had its first meeting on 27 February. The Group underscored the importance of collaboration with other macroeconomic accounting domains and consider the establishment of a joint working groups that includes SNA, BOP, GFS, and SEEA experts and possible experts from other groups like on prices, business registers, classification etc. It will also work on a SNA Collaborative Hub with the aim to enhance the current SNA website. There is also a need for design and development of digital solutions for the international macroeconomic accounting community for coordination purposes to centralize and share knowledge. This initiative would require collaboration among various stakeholders such as SNA, BPM, GFS, etc. . The application of technology would also benefit from the Friends of the Chair initiative on developing interlinked digital versions of the manuals.

The ISWGNA:MG welcomed the proposed work of the subgroup on communication and encouraged the Group to use technology for communication purposes.

2.2 Collaboration between the SNA and the BPM with respect to the update process and timeline

The ISWGNA:MG reaffirmed that aligning the update of the SNA with other manual s of the system of economic statistics is a crucial task in the overall process to update international statistical standards. Effective collaboration in the work on overlapping issues will ensure that substantive discrepancies can be avoided and the use of consistent terminologies across manuals.

The IMF has prepared an initial list of issues that are overlapping in the SNA and BPM research agendas. For some of these issues, collaboration is ongoing in the form of joint task teams, while for others, the

modalities of cooperation will need to be discussed at the next ISWGNA technical group meeting. Similar lists should be prepared for the other manuals of the system of economic statistics that are subject to updates.

3. Transfer of the Chair

In accordance with the normal rotation policy UNSD is the chair until March 2022.