

Minutes of the ISWGNA:NA teleconference

2 December 2013

Participants: Gallo Gueye (Eurostat), Tihomira Dimova (UNECE), Kim Ziechang (IMF), Herman Smith (UNSD), Benson Sim (UNSD), Peter van de Ven (chair) and György Gyomai (OECD)

Excused: Barbro Hexeberg (World Bank)

1. New members of the AEG

The ISWGNA discussed possible replacements for the recently retired members of the AEG, namely Art Ridgeway – Canada, and Ebo Duncan – Ghana.

In addition to the two immediate replacements, a more generic proposal for a possible extension of the AEG (beyond its current membership of 16) was also discussed. The extension of AEG membership would provide more critical mass for discussions on conceptual issues.

The list of proposed candidates will be considered by the ISWGNA:MG at its meeting to be held during the next UNSC meeting in New York.

2. Report of the ISWGNA to UNSC

ISWGNA members welcomed the format and concise nature of the draft report put forward by UNSD. With the exception of the section on “Scaling up the coordination and resources for the implementation of the SNA” (section II.B.), no major observations were made. Actions agreed:

- UNSD will incorporate the comments of the ISWGNA in the report, particularly to reflect the minutes of the AEG pre-meeting more closely, to delete paragraphs 21 to 26 from the document, and to rephrase the relevant section in such a way that it invites UNSC to reflect on the integrated approach, and a governance mechanism on issues which are beyond the remit of ISWGNA.
- The new draft will be circulated to ISWGNA:NA for comments by close of business (EST) 2 December 2013.
- Comments are expected by close of business on Wednesday 4 December 2013.
- Final draft to be sent to the ISWGNA:MG on Friday, 6 December 2013.

3. Report on scaling up the implementation of the SNA 2008

The report has to be finalised by the end of January 2014.

The following roadmap was proposed:

- The ISWGNA:NA is expected to provide comments to the UNSD draft report before 13 December 2013.
- The drafting group will receive the revised draft before the end of December 2013.

- The ISWGNA:NA will receive the draft for a second round of comments before it is submitted at the end of January 2014.

4. Consultation on SDMX-NA

It was agreed by all members that a global consultation for the National Accounts DSDs is necessary. Two options have been discussed: whether the consultation is directly carried out by the ISWGNA, or the SDMX sponsors group carries it out in collaboration with the ISWGNA. In view of the upcoming SDMX sponsors group meeting, OECD proposed to await the discussion in the SDMX sponsor group, and consider possible follow-up actions on the basis of the outcome of this discussion.

5. Topics for the following AEG-meeting

It was agreed that this agenda item will be done in a written consultation. OECD will draft a discussion note.

AOB: the ISWGNA was invited to nominate a member to the technical subgroup of COICOP

The UNSD will nominate a representative on behalf of ISWGNA.