

Minutes

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts Teleconference December 8, 2005

Participants: C. Aspden, F. Lequiller, J. P. Dupuis (OECD); A. Bloem, C. Gorter (IMF); D. Glatzel, P. de Rougement (Eurostat); I. Havinga, V. Vu, H. Smith, M. Csizmadia (UNSD); A. Harrison (Editor); C. Carson (Project Manager); B. Hexeberg (World Bank)

The final agenda is attached as Annex 1.

1 Issue Papers and E-discussions

(i) Availability of papers, deadlines etc

All issue papers, except two (- for issues #16 Government and other non-market producers: cost of capital of owned assets and #25 Units -combined paper), have been submitted for ISWGNA review. The meeting was assured that the two remaining papers would be finalized within a few days.

The ISWGNA decided that comments on issue papers should be made by December 12, allowing the authors three days for revisions and an additional three days for the Editor to review the papers before they are made available for the AEG at the designated web site on December 21. To expedite the launching of the e-discussions, however, the meeting agreed to allow comments up until cob December 9 only for those papers which will go for e-discussion.

It was, furthermore, agreed to adopt a common policy with regards to identify in each paper the responsible parties / authors. The Manager will make a suggestion for how this can be done.

With regards to the e-discussions, it was agreed that the UNSD would distribute to the ISWGNA for comments the template previously applied. As this template worked satisfactory last time around, no substantial changes were expected.

(ii) Specific issues

#2 Pension Schemes: Eurostat informed that they would not be in a position to supply a paper on the delineation between social security schemes and unfunded pension schemes organized by government, but that they could submit a paper describing the position of a number of EU member states.

The OECD told that they would like to contribute an additional paper for discussion at the AEG meeting, which was welcomed by the ISWGNA. It was noted that the paper could not be expected before end December.

#C16 Measurement of labor inputs: As this is a clarification, the ISWGNA decided the paper would go to the AEG for information only, and that there would be no presentation at the AEG meeting.

#25c Globalization: It was noted that an information paper on globalization would be available for the AEG meeting.

#32 Informal sector: Most participants in the teleconference had expected a more comprehensive treatment of the informal sector than what is now included in the current SNA. The way forward was seen as, at a minimum, an information note mapping out this more comprehensive treatment along with a plan (terms for reference) to carry it forward. The possibility of a hiring a consultant was again raised.

2 Papers contributed by individuals or groups outside the AEG

The ISWGNA discussed what kind of status papers contributed by individuals should have in the updating process. It was agreed that such papers (as opposed to invited papers coming from task forces, or individuals working on behalf of task forces, that has been asked to look into specific issues) should not be brought to the table at the AEG meeting. It was agreed that the author of a paper on an issue could be asked to make a reference to the recommendations and comments from the outside to ensure that the AEG benefits from the full range of views. The contribution by individuals will also be posted on the designated web-site as a comment to the official paper.

3 Agenda for the AEG Meeting

Some minor changes were suggested to the previously circulated draft agenda. The UNSD in cooperation with the Editor and Manager took on the job to work out a revised version to be circulated to the ISWGNA for final approval.

Furthermore, all ISWGNA members were asked to submit name of presenters to the UNSD by mid December, allowing a more detailed version of the agenda with information on presenters and chairs to be developed.

4 Refinement of issue descriptions

The ISWGNA at its October meeting agreed to refine some of the issue descriptions currently posted on the web. The OECD and the IMF informed that they had reviewed and made suggestions for refinements. The ISWGNA will at its next meeting in January discuss how to review and agree on the final descriptions.

The issue of how to announce the refinement of the issue descriptions will need to be worked out, and the UNSD took on the responsibility to draft a suggestion in this regard.

5 AEG participation

In addition to the AEG members and the ISWGNA, it was agreed to invite Mr. John Ruser (Bureau of Economic analyses, US) in his capacity as moderator of the task force on Pension

Funds to the forthcoming AEG meeting. It was also noted that the ILO should be informed of the status of issues of particular interest to them.

6 Country consultations

The UNSD informed that the country consultation on the recommendation made at the July 2005 AEG meeting so far has received far more responses than previous consultation.

It was furthermore noted that preliminary results of the country consultations show strong support for all except two recommendations--the recommendations made on issue #16 Government and other non-market producers: Cost of capital of own assets; and #40 Goods sent abroad for processing.

7 Review of Actions from Previous Meeting

All except the following action were completed:

“Prepare a note to the AEG members about possible meetings in 2007.” – UNSD informed that this would be done in January as planned.

8. Upcoming ISWGNA Conference Call and Meetings

A conference call is scheduled for January 11. The ISWGNA will also meet in conjunction with the AEG meeting in Frankfurt: January 29 (pm); February 4 (pm) and 5; February 7 (pm); and February 9 (am). A meeting is also scheduled for April 24 (day before the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting in Geneva.)

9. Other

Eurostat informed that they are out of the English edition of the 1993 SNA. It was agreed that the other ISWGNA organizations would check whether they have additional copies available.

Annex 1

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts Meeting Teleconference November 9, 2005

Agenda

- 1 Issue Papers and E-discussions
- 2 Papers contributed by individuals or groups outside the
- 3 Agenda for the AEG Meeting
- 4 Refinement of issue descriptions
- 5 AEG participation
- 6 Country consultations
- 7 Review of Actions from Previous Meeting
8. Upcoming ISWGNA Conference Call and Meetings
9. Other

Annex 2**Actions agreed upon**

	Action	By when	By whom
1	Distribute for comments template previously used for e-discussions	ASAP	UNSD
2	Draft informational note re issue #32 Informal sector	By Jan 9.	Project Manager, UNSD
3	(i) Ask author of issue paper # 36 to include a reference to recommendations made by Prof. Salamon and Ms. Tice (ii) Reply to Prof. Salamon and Ms. Tice	ASAP	UNSD
4	Submit name on presenters (for detailed agenda) to UNSD	Mid December	All
5	(i) Revise AEG agenda (ii) Develop detailed agenda (including names of presenters and chairs)	End December	UNSD, Program manager, Editor
6	Draft suggestion on how to announce the refinement of issue descriptions	By Jan 9.	UNSD
7	Invite Mr. Ruser to AEG meeting. Inform ILO of the issues on the AEG agenda concerning their area of interest	ASAP	UNSD
8	Check availability of 1993 SNA, English edition	By Jan 9.	All