

## MINUTES

### ISWGNA NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS TELECONFERENCE JUNE 4, 2007

#### Participants

Eurostat: G. Gueye

IMF: K. Zieschang (Chair), T. Alexander

UNSD: Ivo Havinga

UNECE: T. Dimova

World Bank: B. Hexeberg

1993 SNA Update project: C. Carson (Project Manager), A. Harrison (Editor)

#### 1. Preparation for the ISWGNA Meeting – Geneva, June 13-15, 2007

##### *Draft Agenda*

The Project Manager noted that the main item for discussion at the meeting will be the country comments on the draft chapters. However, she proposed that the discussions on the chapters be interspersed with discussions on other issues. She was uncertain about the possible length of the discussions on the chapters.

The next item on the agenda, in terms of importance, is planning work on the SNA update for remainder of the 2007 calendar year.

##### *Logistics*

The UNECE apprised the meeting of the logistical arrangements for the Geneva meeting of the ISWGNA.

Participants for the meeting will be registered under the Conference of European Statisticians.

#### 2. Status of Chapters Ready for Posting on the Web

The Editor informed the meeting that Chapter 5 is ready to be posted on the web.

Chapter 4 includes comments on auxiliaries to financial corporations and could be posted by next week.

The Editor noted that there was some remaining work to be done on Chapters 6, 8, and 13. She had received some comments from the OECD and there is still a substantial amount of work to go into these chapters. Also, there is some preparatory work to be done on Chapter 15.

Chapter 8 is now on hold until the Geneva meeting.

UNSD informed the meeting that it was in a position to finalize the available parts of Chapter 17 after incorporating the comments from the Editor. The Editor noted that these changes came about in light of the comments from last week's meeting of the ECB/Eurostat pensions task force.

UNSD suggested that the templates incorporate paragraph numbers so as to facilitate the review process. Further, reviewers should be encouraged to comment only on the new text added to the revised versions on not on the complete document.

Three add-ons are needed to complete the following chapters:

Chapter 6 – Insurance

Chapter 7 – Interest

Chapter 8 – Social Assistance and Social Security

UNSD noted that the add-ons were put under Chapter 17 because it was felt that reviewers would not be bothered to return to Chapters 6-8. The Project Manager recommended the add-ons be placed both as addenda to Chapters 6-8 and under Chapter 17.

In summary, the UNSD would be posting Chapters 4, 5, 17. The posting of Chapter 17 would proceed irrespective of whether the other two chapters are ready for posting.

The Project Manager queried whether enough had been done to Part 3 of the template for reviewer comment on the UNSD website. She suggested two options for inserting comments: work with a PDF document or with an MS-Word document. The meeting considered an earlier suggestion to limit the number of comments to, for example, ten for each Chapter but decided to discourage over-editing the existing text through text instructions on the comment template. In addition, UNSD averred that getting people to focus on specific issues would implicitly get them to limit their comments. IMF supported this view.

The IMF had not discussed its position with regard to the 1993 SNA Rev 1's using the definition of capital transfers in the draft of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6). Mr. Zieschang will report to the ISWGNA on IMF's position, after internal discussions with the Statistics Department. The report on this discussion will be added to the agenda for the Geneva ISWGNA meeting.

### **3. Future of IMF-BEA Task Force on Pensions**

The IMF has consulted the co-chair of the Task Force, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), on this subject. The consensus from the chair is that they would not recommend closure of the Task Force until the ECB/Eurostat had finalized the supplementary table on pensions.

The Editor noted that the ECB/Eurostat may be preparing the document for the European Commission's Committee on Monetary, Financial, and Balance of Payments Statistics

(CMFB). The meeting agreed that the IMF/BEA task force should review the ECB/Eurostat proposal, due in early July.

#### 4. 1993 SNA Rev. 1 Implementation Strategy

The IMF has received comments from the Project Manager, the UNSD (Mr. Havinga), OECD (Mr. Aspden), and the World Bank (Ms. Hexeberg) on the draft implementation strategy documents and has revised them accordingly. The ISWGNA Management Group will discuss the package at its meeting June 12. More comments are expected.

#### 5. Other Business

The draft minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2007 have been circulated for comments.

#### 6. To-do List

Action	By when	Responsible	Status
Agenda for Geneva meeting June 13-15	June 7, 2007	Carol Carson	Pending
Produce a draft set of revised SNA codes	June 2007	Kim Zieschang (IMF) François Lequiller (OECD) Christian Ravets (Eurostat)	Pending a list of labels from the Editor
Circulate the “decision tree” for determining the classification of in-kind payments	April 2007	Anne Harrison (Editor)	In discussion
Provide Editor with comments organized by paragraph number within the relevant chapter text (deferring Chapter 26, which is for the second SNA deliverable).	May 2, 2007	ISWGNA organizations	Done for Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Discussion with Editor pending for Chapter 11
Update of the Full Set of Consolidated Recommendations (44 issues document) to incorporate errors and UNSC decisions	May 2, 2007	Editor	Pending
Report to ISWGNA regarding IMF’s position on the SNA Rev 1’s use of the BPM6 definition of capital transfers.	June 13, 2007	Kim Zieschang (IMF)	