

Minutes of the ISWGNA meeting
Teleconference

15 February 2012,

Participants:

Kimberly Zieschang (IMF), Manik Shrestha (IMF), Gallo Gueye (Eurostat), Christian Ravets (Eurostat), Leonidas Akritidis (Eurostat), Herman Smith (UNSD), Benson Sim (UNSD), Barbro Hexeberg (Worldbank), Peter van de Ven (OECD), Nadim Ahmad (OECD), György Gyomai (OECD)

Agenda:

1. Emission Permits revisited
2. AEG-meeting
 - a. Organizational issues (new members, financing, etc.)
 - b. Preparation of the meeting
3. Issues related to the UNSC-meeting
4. Any other business

Item 1 - Emission Permits revisited

UNSD reported that the outcome of the consultation with the AEG on the emission permits was submitted for concurrence to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). Despite concerns raised by two members with the result of the consultation, all members of the UNSC concurred with the outcome of the consultation. A draft SNA News and Notes comprising the outcome of the consultation was circulated to the ISWGNA:NA for comments. The aim is to release the SNA News and Notes shortly after the ISWGNA:MG meeting and after notifying the AEG.

Actions:

- ISWGNA members to provide comments on the draft News and Notes article as soon as possible, preferably by 18.00 (GMT) Friday 17th February.
- The final note will be circulated to the ISWGNA MG directly after comments from ISWGNA members have been received, asking for comments by the ISWGNA MG meeting. A cover note will describe the outcome of the UNSC consultation.
- UNSD to circulate the note incorporating ISWGNA MG changes to the AEG

after ISWGNA MG final approval. A cover note will describe the outcome of the UNSC consultation.

Item 2A - Organizational issues (new members, etc.)

OECD reported that there is agreement on the nomination of two new members of the AEG to replace members that have retired.

Actions:

- UNSD to send invitations to the new AEG members (Art Ridgeway and Remigio Echeverria) and invitations to the AEG meeting of the 23-25 April meeting as soon as possible.

Item 2B - Preparation of the meeting

A proposed annotated agenda for the AEG meeting was circulated to the ISWGNA before the teleconference. The ISWGNA agreed to share the responsibility for developing issues papers on the different items as follows.

- Item I: Terms of reference and programme of work for the period up to 2014 OECD (**Peter**)
- Item II Current research issues and the provision of further guidance on the implementation of the 2008 SNA
- Item II (FISIM): OECD (**Nadim**)
- Item II (R&D): Eurostat (**Gallo**)
- Item II (pension liabilities): Eurostat (**Gallo**), to present verbal information under any other business rather than an issues paper, reflecting the on-going discussions in Europe and future plans to address this issue.
- Item II (globalisation): UNECE
- Item II (stability fees): OECD (**Nadim**)
- Item II (other issues): UNSD (**Herman**), and OECD (**Peter**)
- Item III: Review of the SNA research agenda UNSD (**Herman** - to draft a two page cover note focussing on the process and the need to begin a discussion now as a way to identify longer term priorities for the research agenda). **Eurostat, OECD and IMF** will provide brief presentations relating to the various research areas allocated to them in Annex 4 of the 2008 SNA.
- Item IV: Review of compilation guidance drafted by ISWGNA members coordination by **UNSD with assistance from the Worldbank**, input **by all** (to be delivered **by the 9th of March**)
- Item V: The development of training material on the SNA coordination by **UNSD with assistance from the Worldbank**, input **by all** (to be delivered **by the 9th of March**)
- Item VI: Issues related to the implementation of the System of National Accounts UNSD (**Herman**)

- Item VII: Connecting to ongoing work in the broader remits of national accounts OECD (**Peter**) on household sector issues, and Eurostat (**Gallo**) on Stiglitz-report

Action:

- ISWGNA to provide 'issues' papers agreed to above by 15 March for circulation within the ISWGNA. Final versions will be sent to the AEG by 23-30 March.
- UNSD to provide a draft chronological agenda for discussion within the ISWGNA of the timing needed for each item.

Item 3 - Issues related to the UNSC-meeting

At the request of one member of the UNSC, the ISWGNA:NA has reviewed the process for consultations on updating the SNA. The outcome of this review will be submitted to the ISWGNA:MG for consideration.

Action:

- The OECD and the UNSD will propose text for consideration by the ISWGNA:MG. The text should reflect the nature and mechanisms through which internationally reputed national accounts experts are regularly consulted for opinions and views in matters related to the update of the SNA.