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Background document
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**Background document to the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on
National Accounts**

Prepared by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

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Background document to the report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

I. Introduction

1. This background document aims to elaborate further on the issues raised in the main report. Section II of this background document presents the proposed chapter structure for the 2025 SNA and Section III, an assessment of the progress regarding the agreed research agenda and way forward. A summary of activities during 2022 and expected activities in 2023, related to economic statistics and national accounts carried out by the member organizations of the ISWGNA and the regional commissions, is provided in Section IV. Further information on the reporting of annual national accounts data is provided in Section V.

II. Proposed chapter structure for the 2025 SNA

A. Introduction

2. The present section summarizes the proposals for changing the overall structure, the addition, and the deletion of chapters in updating the 2008 SNA, to arrive at the 2025 SNA. In doing so, some more significant changes to the overall content of a limited number of chapters are also discussed. The latter changes do not relate to the adjustments to the conceptual framework as proposed in the various guidance notes. The note has been discussed at the 19th meeting of the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts, held on 20, 26 April and 10 May 2022.

3. All proposals start from the assumption that a physical product like the 2008 SNA, is being envisaged. In this respect, it should be mentioned that it has already been agreed to also compile a digital version of the SNA, the precise content of which still needs to be further elaborated. It is clear, however, that the order and structure of chapters in such a digital version would become less relevant.

4. By way of introduction, it should also be mentioned explicitly that an important goal in redrafting the SNA is to arrive, as far as possible, at maximum alignment with the revised draft of the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM). The planning for the finalisation of both standards is aligned to the extent possible, with the objective to finalise the updated versions for final endorsement in the beginning of 2025. A more detailed time schedule and a process for maximum collaboration have been put in place. It is also envisaged to actively involve stakeholders of other manuals and standards for macro-economic statistics, such as the Government Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM), the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and Compilation Guide (MFSMCG), and the System for Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). In these cases, however, the process is less critical, because the timelines for updating the latter manuals and standards are different from those of the SNA and the BPM.

5. Arriving at a common position on the structure of the 2025 SNA is important as it will help to organise the editing process of the SNA in a clear and transparent way. It was

instrumental in the allocation of work to the members of the editorial team and the planning of the drafting process. In the meantime, annotated outlines for the new and significantly revised chapters have been prepared, for relevant chapters in close concert with the editorial team of BPM7 and put forward for global consultation.

B. Main rationale for the proposals to change the structure of the SNA

1. Introduction

6. This section discusses the main proposals for reordering and restructuring the chapters of the current SNA, including the rationale for these proposals. The section starts with a proposal to introduce an overarching structure of “main headings” to the chapters in the SNA. Such a structure can also be helpful in discussing the allocation of the various chapters. Then a short discussion on how to deal with well-being and sustainability in a much more explicit way is presented. The aim is to explain the link between the system of national accounts, including the macro-economic aggregates that can be derived from this system, and the notions of well-being and sustainability, thus explicitly acknowledging the increasing role of these phenomena in policy and research. This is followed by a proposal for the inclusion of new chapters on digitalisation and globalisation. The structuring of the chapters on supply and use tables, labour and capital services is presented before summarizing some other considerations regarding the order and structure of chapters. The section ends with some more significant content-related changes to the chapters, which have not been addressed in the preceding sub-sections.

2. Introducing an overarching structure to the SNA

7. Although not mentioned explicitly, the 2008 SNA includes a certain grouping of chapters. Including more explicit references to such an overarching structure into “main headings” can be a helpful guide for users to understand the logic of what is addressed in the SNA. Such a grouping of chapters can also help to better frame the discussion on the provisional structure of the 2025 SNA.

8. For the time being, and also taking into accounts the proposals for the structure of the 2025 SNA, it is proposed to include the following main headings, with between brackets the relevant chapters in the 2008 SNA:

- i. Introduction and overview (chapters 1 – 2)
- ii. The main foundations (chapters 3 – 5)
- iii. Structure of the framework and the sequence of economic accounts (chapters 6 – 16, and chapters 18 - 20)
- iv. Cross-cutting issues (chapter 17)
- v. Institutional units and sectors in more detail (chapters 21 – 24, and chapter 26)
- vi. Extended and thematic accounts and tables (chapter 25, and chapters 27 – 29)
- vii. Supplementary material (annexes 1 – 4)

3. Well-being and sustainability

9. Issues around well-being and sustainability have become more prominent in discussing the role and composition of the national accounts, and what the SNA measures or, more importantly, what it does not measure. Guidance notes were developed for five issues on the SNA research agenda related to well-being and sustainability: (i) environmental-economic accounting (various specific guidance notes); (ii) distribution of income, consumption, saving and wealth; (iii) unpaid household activities; (iv) education and human capital; and (v) health and social welfare.

10. As these issues are so critical in the debate on measuring societal progress, and the role of national accounts in this respect, it is proposed to give high prominence to issues related to well-being and sustainability, by including a new chapter on national accounts and measures of well-being and sustainability in the 2025 SNA, directly after Chapter 1, Introduction. Given that one of the popular (if uninformed) criticisms of the SNA is that it has little to say about well-being and (environmental) sustainability, this will significantly contribute to reducing the risk of inadvertently reinforcing the perception that these issues are of relatively minor importance. In doing so, one may need to revise and/or reallocate parts of the current Section G and H of Chapter 1. The new Chapter 2 would start with a more general discussion on the SNA and measures of welfare, or more generally, well-being and (environmental) sustainability, followed by the introduction of a broader framework of national accounts. For more details, reference would be made to two additional chapters on well-being and sustainability, to be presented further down in the 2025 SNA, under the main heading Extended and thematic accounts and tables.

11. The new chapter on well-being (Chapter 34 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) would first and foremost present a consolidated overview of the outcomes included in the guidance notes listed in paragraph 9, excluding the ones on environmental-economic accounting. Importantly, the section should include a comprehensive discussion of the concept of well-being and the alternative approaches and methods to measure it. The main recommendations in the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi reports could be used as a starting point. After the general discussion, the chapter could focus on the potential of including extended accounts to arrive at a better understanding of developments in well-being, and a separate suite of measures for well-being to complement the national accounts aggregates.

12. The new chapter on sustainability (Chapter 35 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) would start with a more general discussion on monitoring sustainability, using the capital approach (economic capital, human capital, social capital, and environmental capital). As such, it would also include cross-references to the Guidance Note on education and human capital. This general discussion is then followed by a description of how one can account for the environment, how the SNA framework accounts for natural resources, including new conceptual developments in the accounting for mineral and energy resources, biological resources, renewable energy resources, emission permits and the like. Importantly, it would also emphasise what is not included in the system of national accounts. Obviously, it should also explain in quite some detail the links between the SNA on the one hand, and SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Ecosystem Accounting on the

other hand, including the ways in which the SEEA systems can address concerns about accounting for environmental sustainability.

13. Some of the above elements are already included in the text of the 2008 SNA Chapter 29, Satellite accounts and other extensions; see Section F, parts 2 – 4. These can now be included, in a revised form, in the new chapter on well-being. As a consequence, it is proposed to present the thematic (satellite) accounts from 2008 SNA Chapter 29 in Chapter 38 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA.

14. Moreover, significant parts on distribution of household income, consumption, saving and wealth are already included in the chapters covering the SNA framework, and more extensively, in the 2008 SNA Chapter 24, The households sector (Chapter 32 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA). Further research is needed on where to address what. Probably, it works best to have a relatively concise section in the new chapter on well-being, with references to more details to be included in existing chapters.

4. Digitalisation and globalisation

15. Digitalisation and globalisation are the two areas which have affected the conceptualisation, the compilation, and the interpretation of the system of national accounts most dramatically. Major developments have taken place in these areas, and lots of additional guidance has been developed since the endorsement of the 2008 SNA. They also constituted two priority areas on the research agenda for the update of the 2008 SNA. It therefore seems warranted to add a separate chapter for each of these two areas, which consolidate the growing understanding of these phenomena, including their impact on the compilation and interpretation of (the main macro-economic indicators derived from) the system of national accounts.

16. The chapter on digitalisation (Chapter 22 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) could focus on the recording of recently emerged phenomena, such as digital intermediary platforms (Uber, Booking.com, AirBNB, etc.), “free” services (Internet, Facebook, Instagram, etc.), crypto assets, the accounting for (the role of) data, e-commerce, and the like. It would also address the compilation of supplementary tables such as digital supply and use tables, to better monitor the impact of the digitalisation of the economy.

17. The chapter on globalisation (Chapter 23 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) could provide a consolidated overview of the newly established guidance on global production arrangements, the role of special purpose entities (SPEs), the impact of the minimisation of the global tax burden, etc. Importantly, it should also deal with the problems one is faced with when interpreting domestic developments, including breaking out transactions and positions of multinational enterprises. The chapter would also include alternative types of analysis such as Global Value Chains, Trade in Value Added and the consolidation of corporate activities using the “nationality” perspective.

18. Given the proposed content of these two chapters, one could argue whether they fit best in the main heading which deals with cross-cutting issues, or an allocation to the main heading on extended and thematic accounts and tables is more warranted. Assuming that

most of the material in these chapters will have a direct relationship with the recording of transactions and positions in the SNA, including the interpretation of the results for main macro-economic indicators, a positioning close to the chapters covering the conceptual framework of the SNA, as part of the main heading on cross-cutting issues, seems to be preferable.

19. Finally, it goes without saying that issues related to digitalisation and globalisation will also affect the guidance provided in the chapter describing the conceptual framework of the SNA. This is not further elaborated in this note.

5. The positioning of the chapters on supply and use tables, labour and capital services

20. One may want to reconsider the positioning of the chapter on supply and use tables. In the 2008 SNA, this topic is dealt with in Chapter 14. The supply and use tables and goods and services account. Looking at the actual practice of compiling national accounts, one could argue that supply and use tables warrant a more prominent place, e.g., immediately after the 2008 SNA Chapter 5, Enterprises, establishments, and industries, just before the current Chapter 6, The production account. Also, from a more conceptual point of view, one could argue in favour of such a restructuring, as supply and use tables provide a more detailed description of the goods and services accounts and the production account, which is also the starting point of institutional sector accounts. The link between industries and institutional sectors would thus become more logical.

21. On the other hand, however, moving supply and use tables would have a negative impact on the logic of the “story-telling” of the whole system, certainly if one takes into account proposals to give more prominence to labour, which are in the 2008 SNA dealt with in Chapter 19, Population and labour inputs.

22. All in all, it is proposed to keep the positioning of supply and use tables as is (chapter 15 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), while repositioning the chapter on population and labour inputs (Chapter 16 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) directly after the chapter on supply and use tables, thereby refocusing the chapter on the compilation of statistics on labour. The relatively minor part on population, currently half a page, could feature more prominently in Section G of Chapter 4 in the 2008 SNA (chapter 5 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), which deals with the household sector. Alternatively, one could also reallocate this to Section C of Chapter 16 of the 2008 SNA (Chapter 19 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), dealing with macro-economic aggregates that can be derived for the SNA; and/or to Chapter 18 of the 2008 SNA (Chapter 20 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), by including a discussion on main aggregates per capita in this chapter. In respect of the latter, it is also proposed to pay more attention to per capita aggregates in the introductory chapters (most probably chapter 3 in the 2025 SNA).

23. In addition to the above, it is proposed to also move the 2008 SNA Chapter 20, Capital Services and the national accounts (Chapter 17 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) upwards, keeping it directly after the chapter on labour accounts. One would thus arrive at a more logical structure of grouping together supply and use tables, labour inputs and

capital inputs, all of which concern tables which primarily focus on breakdowns by industries, instead of institutional sectors. Currently, the chapter on capital services mainly contains a discussion of two topics, one concerning the valuation of non-financial assets, and another one concerning the concept of capital services. The first topic is highly relevant for the SNA framework, even more so if one takes into consideration the discussions, as part of the SNA research agenda, around the valuation principles and methodologies. Here, it is proposed to add the (updated) text on valuation as an annex to one of the chapters describing the structure of the framework and the sequence of economic accounts and restricting the new chapter 17 to capital services per se.

24. Finally, it is proposed to pay more attention to the role of supply and use tables, labour and capital services in the introductory chapters, especially but very succinctly in Section B of Chapter 1, and more extensively in Section D of Chapter 2 in the 2008 SNA (Chapter 3 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA).

6. Other consideration regarding the structure and the order of chapters

25. The order of the 2008 SNA chapters 6 to 13 (chapters 7 to 14 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), dealing with the system of institutional sector accounts, followed by the above chapters on supply and use tables, labour and capital services looks quite logical. Some have argued to put the current Chapter 15, Price and volume measures much more upfront, given the prominence of volume measures in the communication of results from national accounts. It is proposed, however, not to change the position of this chapter, as it would break the “story-telling” of the system as a whole, which basically starts with the current price estimates. On the other hand, it is also clear that much more attention should be paid to volume and price measures in the introductory chapters. Chapter 1 looks like the perfect candidate.

26. In addition, it is proposed to revisit the contents of the chapter on cross-cutting and other special issues (Chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA), and to splitting the current, quite lengthy, chapter into a number of separate chapters. When it comes to revisiting the content, one could question, for example, the value added of Part 4 on the recording of flows associated with financial assets and liabilities. This part could potentially be restricted to certain more problematic topics, such as the treatment of different types of (debt) securities and grouped together with Part 3 on standardized guarantees and Part 6 on employee stock options, thus arriving at one consolidated part on specific issues concerning financial instruments. More generally, one may want to reconsider the addition of other cross-cutting issues. In this respect, the guidance developed for the treatment of Islamic finance is considered a good candidate for addition. All in all, it is proposed to have the following chapters on cross-cutting issues in the 2025 SNA, in addition to the ones on digitalisation and globalisation mentioned in the above:

- *Chapter 24. Insurance and pensions (Part 1 and 2 of chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA, moved downwards)*
- *Chapter 25. Selected issues on financial instruments (Part 3, 4 and 6 of chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA, moved downwards)*
- *Chapter 26. Islamic finance (new chapter)*

- *Chapter 27. Contract, leases, licenses and permits (Part 5 of chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA, moved downwards)*

27. Furthermore, the 2008 SNA includes a chapter on measuring corporate activity (chapter 21 in the 2008 SNA). Several people providing feedback on a previous version of this note have proposed to split this chapter into two, one chapter on non-financial corporations, and another one on financial corporations, mainly because the behaviour, data sources, reporting systems, analysis and research of these two types of corporations differ considerably from each other. In the proposal for the provisional structure of the 2025 SNA, this proposal for a separate chapter on financial corporations has been included; see chapter 29 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA.

28. Related to the previous proposal, one could also question the value added of 2008 SNA Chapter 27, Links to monetary statistics and the flow of funds. As it stands now, the main additional contribution of this chapter relates to the introduction of the concept of “flow of funds”, nowadays often referred to as “from-whom-to-whom” tables. It is proposed to remove the 2008 SNA chapter 27, and to introduce a new chapter 37 on matrix-based presentations of institutional sector accounts. This chapter would broaden the concept of from-whom-to-whom tables beyond financial transactions and positions, to income and capital transactions. It could also deal with new types of analysis on capturing financial risks and vulnerabilities, and the balance sheet approach, as developed by the IMF. The link to monetary and financial statistics could then be further elaborated in the new chapter on financial corporations, and the newly introduced Annex 1 on international standards for macro-economic statistics, and the links with the SNA.

29. Furthermore, in view of the outcomes of the guidance provided by the Communications Task Team, it is proposed to add a new chapter on communication and dissemination. Looking at the current guidance, two topics seem to be highly relevant here: (i) the terminology for revisions of estimates and the status of statistics (official statistics versus experimental estimates), including the various types of additional accounts and tables; and (ii) the assessment of the alignment of a country’s national accounts with the international standards. Other topics on communication aspects may need to be covered as well. For the time being, the chapter has been positioned right after the chapter on elaborating the accounts (chapter 20 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA).

30. Finally, in the structure of chapters proposed below, the 2008 SNA Chapter 25, Informal aspects of the economy will be positioned at the end, instead of directly after the 2008 SNA Chapter 24, The households sector (Chapter 29 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA). The positioning in the 2008 SNA may have been motivated by the fact that, depending on the definition of the informal economy, many of these activities take place within the households sector. However, this certainly is not always the case. Furthermore, the current positioning breaks the logic of discussing the various types of institutional units and sectors: corporations, government, non-profit institutions, households, and (transactions and positions between residents and) non-residents. For these reasons, it is proposed to move the chapter on informal aspects of the economy to the end (Chapter 39 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA).

7. Other substantial changes to the 2008 SNA chapters

31. A limited number of other general observations for changing the 2008 SNA are listed in this sub-section. The first one relates to Chapter 1, Introduction. Apart from the considerations around well-being and sustainability and the proposal to give more prominence to volume and price measures at the start of the SNA, it is proposed to add concise text on the basic identities of the system (to be further elaborated in Chapter 3, The overview of economic accounts in the proposal for the 2025 SNA); to give more attention to net measures than currently included in the 2008 SNA; to provide concise information on the links with other statistical standards and manuals; and also to the links with business and public sector accounting standards. The first two topics would probably lead to the introduction of additional sections, while the latter two topics could be addressed by further extending of the 2008 SNA text of Sections E and F, with appropriate references to more details in the relevant chapters. Finally, it is proposed to conclude this chapter with a concise reader's guide on what to find where in the SNA¹.

32. Secondly, the 2008 SNA provides hardly any guidance on productivity measurement, which is rather surprising given the prominence of indicators related to developments in productivity in policy and research. It is therefore proposed to add a section to the chapter on price and volume measures (Chapter 15 in the 2008 SNA and Chapter 18 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA). The new section could provide a summary on the measurement of labour and multifactor productivity, with references to already available, much more detailed, guidance.

33. Thirdly, it is proposed to add text on balancing the accounts to the 2008 SNA chapter on summarising and integrating the accounts (Chapter 16 in the 2008 SNA and Chapter 19 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA). Whether it is preferable to include this topic in a separate section, or to have it combined with other text at the start of the chapter remains to be seen. The additional text should focus on the main identities in the system of national accounts, and how these identities can be used to arrive at consistent estimates.

34. Fourthly, the current chapter on elaborating and presenting the accounts (Chapter 18 in the 2008 SNA and Chapter 20 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) appears as a mix of topics not covered in other chapters. It is therefore proposed to review the current text quite significantly, and to cover the following topics, in a far more elaborated way than currently done, in this chapter: (i) temporal disaggregation; (ii) territorial disaggregation; and (iii) regular and benchmark revisions, and the compilation of time series data. More generally, when it comes to these topics, it is necessary to pay much more attention to institutional sector accounts. Finally, in line with the proposal for revising the chapter, it is proposed to remove Section C, and include relevant content of this section in the chapter on price and volume measures, and to also remove Section F.

¹ In addition, one may want to consider adding introductory chapters to one or more of the main headings. It is, for example, proposed to have an introductory chapter for the main heading on extended and thematic accounts, but it may be relevant for other heading as well.

35. Fifthly, the 2008 SNA Chapter 29, Satellite accounts and other extensions (to be changed to Chapter 37. Thematic (satellite) accounts in the proposal for the 2025 SNA) also contains a section on functional classifications (Section B). It is proposed to integrate this text in Annex 1 on the classification hierarchies of the SNA (Annex 2 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA). One may also consider more substantial text on functional classifications in the chapters on government and households (Chapters 28 and 30 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), and other chapters, if needed.

36. Finally, it is considered of the utmost importance to include clear text on the relationship between and the consistency of the various international standards for compiling macro-economic statistics. In the current proposal for the provisional structure of the 2025 SNA, this topic will be discussed, succinctly, in chapter 1, while more detailed text will also be included in the various chapters on institutional sectors (MFSMCG, GFSM, and BPM), and the chapter on sustainability (SEEA). In addition, given the importance of showing the interrelationships to producers as well as users, it is proposed to have a separate annex (Annex 1 in the proposal for the 2025 SNA), which will discuss the relationships and the consistency between the various international standards for macro-economic statistics.

C. Proposal for the structure of chapters in the 2025 SNA

37. A consolidated proposals for the provisional structure of the 2025 SNA is presented in Table 1, on the following pages. In the first column of this table, the chapters of the 2008 SNA are shown, while the second column contains the proposal for the chapters in the 2025 SNA. The 2008 SNA order of chapters is used as a starting point.

38. The table also contains a colour coding for the chapters. Chapters highlighted in red refer to new chapters, as compared to the 2008 SNA, while chapters highlighted in green concern significantly revised chapters. As noted before, for each of these chapters, annotated outlines have been drafted and put forward for global consultation.

Table 1. Proposal for the overall structure of the 2025 SNA²

The structure of the 2008 SNA	The proposed structure for the 2025 SNA
	<i>A. Introduction and overview</i>
<i>Chapter 1. Introduction</i>	<i>Chapter 1. Introduction (revised content)</i>
	<i>Chapter 2. National accounts and measures of well-being and (environmental) sustainability (new chapter)</i>
<i>Chapter 2. Overview</i>	<i>Chapter 3. Overview of the integrated framework (revised title)</i>
	<i>B. The main foundations</i>
<i>Chapter 3. Stocks, flows and accounting rules</i>	<i>Chapter 4. Flows, stocks and accounting rules (revised title)</i>
<i>Chapter 4. Institutional units and sectors</i>	<i>Chapter 5. Residence, institutional units and sectors (revised title)</i>
<i>Chapter 5. Enterprises, establishments and industries</i>	<i>Chapter 6. Enterprises, establishments and industries</i>
	<i>C. Structure of the framework and the sequence of economic accounts</i>
<i>Chapter 6. The production account</i>	<i>Chapter 7. Production account</i>
<i>Chapter 7. The distribution of income accounts</i>	<i>Chapter 8. Earned income accounts (revised title³)</i>
<i>Chapter 8. The redistribution of income accounts</i>	<i>Chapter 9. Transfer of income accounts (revised title⁴)</i>
<i>Chapter 9. The use of income accounts</i>	<i>Chapter 10. Use of income accounts</i>
<i>Chapter 10. The capital account</i>	<i>Chapter 11. Capital account</i>
<i>Chapter 11. The financial account</i>	<i>Chapter 12. Financial account</i>
<i>Chapter 12. The other changes in assets account</i>	<i>Chapter 13. Other changes in assets and liabilities accounts (revised title)</i>
<i>Chapter 13. The balance sheet</i>	<i>Chapter 14. Balance sheet</i>
<i>Chapter 14. The supply and use tables and goods and services account</i>	<i>Chapter 15. Supply and use tables (revised title)</i>
	<i>Chapter 16. Labour (chapter 19 in the 2008 SNA, moved upwards, revised title and revised content)</i>
	<i>Chapter 17. Capital services (chapter 20 in the 2008 SNA, moved upwards, revised title and revised content)</i>

² New chapters are highlighted in red, while chapters requiring substantial revisions are highlighted in green.

³ Provisional title, still depending on the outcomes of the recommendations in Guidance Note CM.2 Terminology and Branding of the Economic Accounting Standards”.

⁴ Provisional title, still depending on the outcomes of the recommendations in Guidance Note CM.2 Terminology and Branding of the Economic Accounting Standards”.

The structure of the 2008 SNA	The proposed structure for the 2025 SNA
<i>Chapter 15. Price and volume measures</i>	<i>Chapter 18. Measuring prices, volumes and productivity (revised title and revised content)</i>
<i>Chapter 16. Summarizing and integrating the accounts</i>	<i>Chapter 19. Summarizing, integrating and balancing the accounts (revised title and revised content)</i>
<i>Chapter 17. Cross-cutting and other special issues</i>	[See Chapters 23 - 25 below]
<i>Chapter 18. Elaborating and presenting the accounts</i>	<i>Chapter 20. Elaborating the accounts (moved upwards, revised title and revised content)</i>
	<i>Chapter 21. Communicating and disseminating economic statistics (new chapter)</i>
<i>Chapter 19. Labour accounts and population</i>	[See Chapter 16 above]
<i>Chapter 20. Capital services and the national accounts</i>	[See Chapter 17 above]
	<i>D. Cross-cutting issues</i>
	<i>Chapter 22. Digitalisation (new chapter)</i>
	<i>Chapter 23. Globalisation (new chapter)</i>
	<i>Chapter 24. Insurance and pensions (Parts 1 and 2 of chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA, moved downwards)</i>
	<i>Chapter 25. Selected issues on financial instruments (Parts 3, 4 and 6 of chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA, moved downwards)</i>
	<i>Chapter 26. Islamic finance (new chapter)</i>
	<i>Chapter 27. Contracts, leases, licenses and permits (Part 5 of chapter 17 in the 2008 SNA, moved downwards)</i>
	<i>E. Institutional units and sectors in more detail</i>
<i>Chapter 21. Measuring corporate activity</i>	<i>Chapter 28. Non-financial corporations (revised title and revised content)</i>
	<i>Chapter 29. Financial corporations (new chapter)</i>
<i>Chapter 22. The general government and public sectors</i>	<i>Chapter 30. General government and the public sector (revised title)</i>
<i>Chapter 23. Non-profit institutions</i>	<i>Chapter 31. Non-profit institutions</i>
<i>Chapter 24. The households sector</i>	<i>Chapter 32. Households (revised title and revised content)</i>
<i>Chapter 25. Informal aspects of the economy</i>	[See Chapter 39 below]
<i>Chapter 26. The rest of the world accounts and links to the balance of payments</i>	<i>Chapter 33. Transactions between residents and non-residents (moved upwards, revised title)</i>
	<i>F. Extended and thematic accounts and tables</i>

The structure of the 2008 SNA	The proposed structure for the 2025 SNA
	<i>Chapter 34. Measuring well-being (new chapter)</i>
	<i>Chapter 35. Measuring sustainability of well-being (new chapter)</i>
<i>Chapter 27. Links to monetary statistics and the flow of funds</i>	<i>[See Chapter 37 below]</i>
<i>Chapter 28. Input-output and other matrix based analyses</i>	<i>Chapter 36. Input-output tables (moved upwards, revised title and revised content)</i>
	<i>Chapter 37. From-whom-to-whom tables and related financial analysis (chapter 27 of the 2008 SNA, moved downwards, revised title and revised content)</i>
<i>Chapter 29. Satellite accounts and other extensions</i>	<i>Chapter 38. Thematic accounts (moved upwards, revised title and revised content)</i>
	<i>Chapter 39. Informal activities (moved downwards, revised title)</i>
	<i>G. Supplementary material</i>
	<i>Annex 1. International standards for macro-economic statistics, and the links with the SNA</i>
<i>Annex 1. The classification hierarchies of the SNA and associated codes</i>	<i>Annex 2. The classification hierarchies of the SNA and associated codes (revised content)</i>
<i>Annex 2. The sequence of accounts</i>	<i>Annex 3. The sequence of accounts</i>
<i>Annex 3. Changes from the 1993 System of National Accounts</i>	<i>Annex 4. Changes from the 2008 System of National Accounts (revised title)</i>
<i>Annex 4. Research agenda</i>	<i>Annex 5. Research agenda</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>References</i>
<i>Glossary</i>	<i>Glossary</i>
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III. Assessment of the progress regarding the agreed research agenda and way forward

A. Introduction

39. To advance the Research Agenda of the 2008 SNA, in May 2018, an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) Task Force was established to formulate a way to resolve issues related to globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability, as well as to identify additional research issues outside these three areas in the context of updating the SNA.

40. The Task Force reviewed items on the Research Agenda related to issues under discussion in the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts, the list of issues presented in annex IV to the 2008 SNA, and the Research Agendas related to balance of

payments statistics, government finance statistics, environmental-economic accounting, and trade and business statistics. On the basis of feedback received from the Task Force and the AEG, a consolidated list of SNA research issues was established and grouped according to the following categories: globalization, digitalization, and well-being and sustainability; cross-cutting issues; compilation issues; and the long-term SNA Research Agenda. The long-term SNA research agenda (comprising issues not currently under discussion) was organized in the same categories as in annex IV to the 2008 SNA.

41. At its 13th meeting (Washington D.C, 1 – 3 October 2019), the AEG discussed the consolidated Research Agenda for the update of the 2008 SNA, and concluded the following:

- *Welcomed the consolidated Research Agenda that provides a description of the issues broken down into priority areas, namely globalization; digitalization; wellbeing and sustainability; cross cutting issues; implementation issues; and issues on the long-term SNA Research Agenda.*
- *Recognized the need to build momentum for progress on the work and to establish a work programme with clear objectives and a concomitant time plan for key milestones.*
- *Agreed to finalize the consolidated Research Agenda, and to establish a set of criteria for inclusion of possible additional items, in close collaboration with the ISWGNA and the three subgroups of the Task Force on the SNA Research Agenda.*
- *Stressed the importance of meeting user demands and having a coherent message on resolving the research issues, for which coordination between the three subgroups of the Task Force on the SNA Research Agenda is important.*
- *Noted the need for conceptually correct solutions, taking into consideration feasibility and practical implementation.*
- *Requested the ISWGNA to establish a plan for finalizing the Research Agenda issues which is necessary for the development of a concrete time schedule to address these issues, and to determine the type of update required for the SNA.*

42. The Research Agenda was subsequently put forward to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), at its 51st session on 3 – 6 March 2020; see Annex II of the 2020 UNSC background paper to the ISWGNA report, under the following [link](#), starting at page 31.

43. This section presents an assessment of the progress with resolving issues on the agreed Research Agenda, including proposals for the way forward. To address the issues a series of [Guidance Notes](#) have been being developed. This assessment serves as an element for monitoring the progress with the update of the 2008 SNA and also as an input into arriving at a better appreciation of the potential impact on the editing process of the 2025 SNA. The issues listed below follow the order of the agreed Research Agenda.

44. A related issue is the need to start developing a list of issues that are to be included in the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, to be included in an Annex of the 2025 SNA. However, the development of such a list goes beyond the scope of this assessment exercise. Such a post-2025 SNA Research Agenda can be further elaborated in due course, subject

to AEG approval. However, here it is already proposed that, once the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda has been agreed, the research issues are prioritised, and task teams are established to draft guidance notes on the issue for endorsement by the AEG (and relevant communities for macroeconomic statistics). These guidance notes would then feed into a future update of the SNA, or – if considered feasible – included in partial updates in between more structural and comprehensive updates. More generally, in this way, guidance notes are accumulated between update processes rather than drafting them all in a one or two year period. In order to help with the prioritization process, each of the items on the research agenda could be classified in some way, such as relevance, conceptual change, accounting change, identified user needs, etc.

B. Issues considered to be a priority

1. Globalization

Typology of global production arrangements (issue 1)

45. This issue is covered in Guidance Note C.4 on “Merchanting and factory-less producers; clarifying negative exports in merchanting; merchanting of services” (combined with Guidance Note G.6). In addition, the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) provides additional guidance.

Factory-less goods producers and recording of their transactions (issue 2)

46. This issue is covered in Guidance Note C.4 on “Merchanting and factory-less producers; clarifying negative exports in merchanting; merchanting of services” (combined with Guidance Note G.6). In addition, the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) provides additional guidance.

Merchanting (issue 3)

47. This issue is covered in Guidance Note C.4 on “Merchanting and factory-less producers; clarifying negative exports in merchanting; Merchanting of services” (combined with Guidance Note G.6). In addition, the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) provides additional guidance.

Special Purpose Entities and identifying economic presence and residency (issue 4)

48. This issue is covered in Guidance Note G.4 on “Treatment of special purpose entities and residency”.

Economic ownership of Intellectual Property Products (IPPs) (issue 5)

49. This issue is covered in Guidance Note G.5 on “Economic ownership of intellectual property products: recording of intra MNE transactions”. In addition, the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) provides additional guidance.

CIF/FOB recording of imports and exports (issue 6)

50. This issue is covered in Guidance Note G.1 on “Valuation of imports and exports”.

Price and volume measurement related to globalization (issue 7)

51. This research issue has not been addressed directly in any of the Guidance Notes. Although the 2008 SNA generally only provides a conceptual description on price and volume measurement, it does offer high-level recommendations in some areas. At first glance, the list of categories included in the description of this research issue looks slightly too detailed to be specifically included in the SNA. It may be useful, however, to provide broad conceptual guidance in the updated SNA. This would require some work to get across the specific topics and make sensible high-level recommendations. The editorial team, together with a small number of experts in the field, could possibly drive this, drawing on relevant expertise.

Action point 1 (issue 7)

52. [Provide broad conceptual guidance on price and volume measurement in chapter 18 of the 2025 SNA.](#)

To be implemented by: Editorial team, in cooperation with a small number of experts.

Priority level: 2

53. The obvious place to provide more detailed guidance would be the [Producer Price Index Manual \(PPIM\) 2004](#) and the [Export and Import Price Index Manual \(2009\)](#). The national accounts community could consider to propose an update of these manuals, not only to include new guidance on price and volume measurement related to globalization, but also to include new guidance on digitalization-related products (issue 16). In addition, the proposed compilers hub could also be used to make available any work on progressing this issue over the next few years. Countries and experts could be encouraged to contribute as they are able to.

54. All in all, when it comes to the update of the 2008 SNA, it is proposed not to treat this issue with a high priority.

New data sources needed to measure global production (issue 8)

55. This issue is considered to be less relevant from a conceptual point of view, although various aspects related to this issue have been addressed in Guidance Note G.7 on “Global value chains and trade in value-added”. Relevant compilation guidance may be (further) developed in the context of the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) and other work related to the measurement of global value chains and trade in value added.

Nationality concept / Extension of IIP on a nationality basis (issue 9)

56. This research issue, originally labelled B.1, has been dropped from the list of Guidance Notes by the Balance of Payments Task Team. However, the issue has been mentioned, albeit very succinctly, in Guidance Note G.4. From an SNA-perspective, it may

be less relevant, although it would be good to add some text on the nationality concept in the chapter on globalization and possibly also in the chapter on financial corporations, based on Bank of International Settlements work in this area.

Action point 2 (issue 9)

57. [Add text on nationality concept in chapters 23, 29 and/or 37 of the 2025 SNA](#)

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 2

New methods to measure global production (issue 10)

58. This issue is considered to be less relevant from a conceptual point of view. Relevant compilation guidance may be (further) developed in the context of the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) and other work related to the measurement of global value chains and trade in value added.

Analyzing global value chains and trade in value added amplifies the need of high-quality statistics on global production in national and international accounts statistics (issue 11)

59. This issue is considered to be less relevant from a conceptual point of view, although various aspects related to this issue have been addressed in Guidance Note G.7 on “Global value chains and trade in value-added”. Relevant compilation guidance may be (further) developed in the context of the [UNECE Guide on Measuring Global Production](#) and other work related to the measurement of global value chains and trade in value added. Furthermore, although it is not a research issue, the importance of further progress in the area of data sharing in resolving issues related to globalization should be acknowledged here.

2. Digitalization

Satellite framework for the digital economy (issue 12)

60. This issue is covered in Guidance Note DZ.5 on “Digital Supply and Use Tables”.

Delineation of dual use consumer durables and fixed assets (issue 13)

61. This issue is currently not covered by any of the Guidance Notes, as it is probably more a matter of implementing the required distinction between consumer durables and fixed assets than a conceptual issue. However, in view of the digitalization of the economy, the issue has gained importance. Some general guidance for the partitioning of the relevant assets, e.g. on the basis of time used, could be provided.

Action point 3 (issue 13)

62. [Include text on partitioning of assets in chapters 14, 16 and/or 32 of the 2025 SNA](#)

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority: 2

Free digital products and services (issue 14)

63. This issue is covered in Guidance Notes DZ.3 on “Treatment of “free” digital products in the “core” national accounts” and DZ.4 on “Recording and valuing “free” products in an SNA satellite account”.

The role of data and the SNA asset boundary (issue 15)

64. This issue is covered in Guidance Note DZ.6 on “Recording of data in the national accounts”. Issues related to the accounting for rent still need to be resolved; see issue 31.

Price and volume measures related to digital products (issue 16)

65. This issue is covered in Guidance Note DZ.1 on “Price and volume measurement of goods and services affected by digitalization”. In addition, one may want to consider an update of the various manuals on prices, in particular the [Producer Price Index Manual \(PPIM\) 2004](#), the [Export and Import Price Index Manual \(2009\)](#) and the [Consumer Price Index Manual \(CPIM\)](#); see also issue 7. In respect of the latter manual, it should be noted that this manual has been updated quite recently, in 2020. Here, one may consider, if relevant, an addendum on new developments in the measurement of digital products.

Crypto-assets (issue 17)

66. This issue is covered in Guidance Note F.18 on “Treatment of crypto assets in macroeconomic statistics” (combined with DZ.6). It should be noted, however, that the recording of crypto-assets without a corresponding liability designed to act as a general medium of exchange (CAWLM) and those designed as a medium of exchange within a platform only (CAWLP) still need to be resolved.

Action point 4 (issue 17)

67. [Provide guidance on the recording of crypto-assets without a corresponding liability designed to act as a medium of exchange](#)

To be implemented by: Financial Issues Task Team

Priority: 1

3. Well-being and sustainability

The broader framework for wellbeing and sustainability (issue 18)

68. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.1 on “Enhancing and broadening the SNA framework”.

Distribution of household income, consumption, saving and wealth (issue 19)

69. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.2 on “Distributions of household income, consumption saving and wealth”.

Education and human capital, labour and productivity (issue 20)

70. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.4 on “Labour, education and human capital”. In addition, the UNECE Guide on Measuring Human Capital and UNECE Satellite Account for Education and Training; Compilation Guide provide additional guidance.

Health and social conditions (issue 21)

71. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.5 on “Health and social conditions”.

Unpaid household activities (issue 22)

72. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.3 on “Unpaid household service work”.

Valuation and delineation of natural resources (issue 23)

73. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.10 on “Valuation methods”.

Accounting for depletion (issue 24)

74. This issue is covered in Guidance Notes WS.6 on “Economic ownership and depletion of natural resources” and WS.8 on “Accounting for biological resources”.

Losses (issue 25)

75. This research issue, originally labelled WS.13, has been dropped from the list of Guidance Notes by the Well-being and Sustainability Team. From an SNA perspective, it is considered to be low priority, because it first and foremost relates to physical measures, and has hardly any impact on the accounting in monetary terms. It is proposed to drop this issue altogether from the SNA Research Agenda, unless particular examples come to light that are considered relevant from an SNA perspective.

Accounting for ecosystems (issue 26)

76. From an SNA perspective, this issue is especially relevant when it comes to valuation issues. These valuation issues will be covered in Guidance Note AI.1 on

“Valuation principles and methodologies”. In addition, there are some links with the accounting for biological resources; see Guidance Note WS.8.

4. Other issues considered as a priority

Relationship between the SNA and IASB (issue 27)

77. Currently, some specific topics on the relationship between the system of national accounts and business accounting standards are being addressed in Guidance Notes, such as C.5.1 on “Statistical impact of the change in treatment of operating leases in business accounting” and C.5.2 on “Economic ownership in the context of financial and operating lease transactions pertaining, in particular, to aircrafts”.

78. For the purpose of updating the 2008 SNA, it was agreed to put more attention to the relationship between national accounts and business accounting standards. It is therefore considered important to have a good assessment of the main divergences between the SNA on the one hand, and IAS and IPSAS on the other hand. Such a comparison is available for IPSAS, and it has already been agreed with the IPSAS community to update this assessment. In addition, one would like to include a similar assessment for IAS, although it may be less straightforward, given the more pronounced differences of business accounting standards across countries. Having said that, it should be possible to aim for at least a general discussion of the differences, with specific discussion of those areas where there are likely to be divergences that are potentially significant (e.g., the treatment of holding gains in income). Chapter 21 of the European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010, and the list of differences between IPSAS and IAS could be used as starting points for the latter analysis. Moreover, one could also consider an update of the [UN Handbook on Links between Business Accounting and National Accounts](#), which was endorsed in 2000.

Action point 5 (issue 27)

79. Include text on significant differences between on the one hand the SNA, and on the other hand IPSAS and IAS, to be included in chapters 1, 28, 29 and 30 of the 2025 SNA.

To be implemented by: Editorial team, in cooperation with the IPSAS community

Priority level: 1

Statistical units (issue 28)

80. Quite some work has been done in the area of statistical units, among which a survey on country practices. The issue has also been discussed at the 10th, 11th and 12th meeting of the AEG. At the 12th meeting, the AEG concluded that additional work is needed, among which a consultation on (i) the type of information used to make adjustments to the targeted unit, whether this is based on a full set of information or on some indicator(s), either or not directly collected from survey respondents; and (ii) the

advantages and disadvantages of an integrated analysis of production, income and finance. However, further progress has not been made up to now.

81. The question is how to proceed? One could consider the following two options:

- Conduct a global consultation, based on the latest available documentation, which would need to be updated and completed. The main question would relate to whether or not there is appetite for moving to enterprises as the main statistical unit for both supply and use tables and institutional sector accounts.
- Leave the conceptual guidance in the SNA on establishments and institutional units as is, but provide more information on the practicalities of compiling data for these units.

82. Unless there is strong push to make a change, which does not seem apparent, it is proposed here to go for the second option, while keeping the issue on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda. Keeping it on the agenda is considered important because of the implications for compiling national accounts in a world of a continuously changing landscape for collecting source data.

Trusts (issue 29)

83. Although trusts have been touched upon in Guidance Notes F.1 and F.6, the issue of when, and when not, to treat trusts as separate institutional units, is currently not covered in any of the Guidance Notes. The issue of whether or not an entity should be considered as a separate institutional unit has also popped in the discussion on investment funds (see Guidance Note D.16 on “Treatment of retained earnings”), and pension funds. Having more specific guidance on the treatment of such funds is considered very useful. To move forward, it is proposed that the editorial team collects available guidance, and drafts a short issues note with some more concrete guiding principles for determining when trusts and other types of funds should (not) be consolidated with their owners.

Action point 6 (issue 29)

84. Draft an issues note on when, and when not, to consider trusts and other types of funds as separate institutional units.

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 1

Broadening the fixed asset boundary to include other intellectual property assets (issue 30)

85. This issue is partially covered in Guidance Note G.9 on “Payments for knowledge-based capital”. Other possible extensions, for example relating to architectural and engineering designs, organisational capital and financial product innovation, are not (yet) addressed. It is proposed to keep this issue on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, mainly

because of the continued emphasis on an appropriate accounting for intangible assets, first and foremost, but not only, in the academic research community.

Leases to use or exploit natural resources (issue 31)

86. Leasing of natural resources is being discussed, although often quite implicitly, in the following Guidance Notes:

- WS.6 on “Economic ownership and depletion of natural resources”;
- WS.7 on “Emissions permits: the atmosphere as an asset”;
- WS.8 on “Accounting for biological resources”; and
- DZ.6 on “Recording of data in the national accounts”.

87. It is questionable whether these Guidance Notes will result in a consistent and conceptually based distinction of transactions which are to be recorded as rent, as each of the Guidance Notes look at the issue in relative isolation. However, it has been agreed to prepare a new Guidance Note AI.2 on the “Treatment of rent for the recording of data, marketing assets and biological resources”, which will take a more holistic look at the treatment of rent. In addition, this Guidance Note will address some other ramifications regarding the accounting for rent.

Treatment of Private-Public Partnerships (issue 32)

88. The recording of public-private partnerships is being discussed in Guidance Note D.8 on “Public-private partnerships”. However, the Guidance Note is primarily focusing on the treatment of these units in the context of Foreign Direct Investment. It is proposed here to ask the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) community whether the current guidance in chapter 22 of the 2008 SNA needs to be updated in view of further clarifications and elaborations provided in the [Eurostat Manual on Government Deficit and Debt, and the Guide to the Statistical Treatment of PPPs](#). As public-private partnerships can take many (evolving) forms, and the correct conceptual treatment is dependent on the form, it is important though that the guidance in the SNA remains fairly general, and not too definitive.

Action point 7 (issue 32):

89. Liaise with GFS community to update, if needed, the guidance on the treatment of public-private partnerships in chapter 30 of the 2025 SNA.

To be implemented by: GFS community

Priority level: 2

Harmonization of SNA and BOP (issue 33)

90. One of the main priorities for the update of the 2008 SNA, and also of the BPM6, is to arrive at guidance which is aligned to the extent possible, also when it comes to the concrete editing of the text of both standards. For this purpose, detailed working

arrangements have been established between the editorial team of the SNA-update and the one responsible for the BPM-update.

Islamic finance (issue 34)

91. This issue is covered in Guidance Note IF.1 on “Islamic finance in the System of National Accounts and External Sector Statistics”.

Informal economy (issue 35)

92. This issue is covered in Guidance Note IE.1 on “Statistical framework and classification of informal economy”.

C. Long-term SNA research issues

Final consumption of corporations (issue 36)

93. It is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA, but to keep it on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, not only because the issue of recording sponsorships of cultural and sporting events continue to be relevant and actually become more and more important, but also because the issue may become relevant when it comes to the recording of “free” products.

Measuring the output of government services (issue 37)

94. It is proposed to not consider the issue as such for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. However, it is proposed to draft an issues note, which looks into the possibility of arriving at a more consistent application of the sum-of-costs approach, by always including a return to capital as one of the cost elements, also in the case of non-market output. Another issue regarding the application of the sum-of-costs approach concerns the inclusion of rent, which is being discussed in the context of the new Guidance Note AI.2 on “Treatment of rent for the recording of data, marketing assets and biological resources”; see issue 31.

Action point 8 (issue 37)

95. Draft an issues note on (the consistency in) the application of sum-of-costs approach.

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 1

The treatment of social transfers in kind to the rest of the world (issue 38)

96. Social transfers in kind from/to the rest of the world are very small for most countries. However, in some smaller countries, they can be significant. However, the current guidance, as provided in paragraph 8.145 of the 2008 SNA, provides sufficient

room for including social transfers to non-residents, if considered relevant. Therefore, up to this point in time, re-opening this issue is not considered for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA, although one should note that some discussions are taking place with the BPM community. Furthermore, it is proposed to keep it on the long-term post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, because future developments may show that the assumption of these transfers not being significant cannot be maintained.

Output of central banks: taxes and subsidies on interest rates applied by central banks (issue 39)

97. The treatment of taxes and subsidies applied by central banks is not a priority issue for the update of the 2008 SNA, nor for inclusion in the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda. However, the issue of taxes and subsidies will be touched upon in the forthcoming issues note on concessional lending, which has been agreed as part of the resolution mechanism between the SNA and the BPM in relation to the recommendations in Guidance Note F.15 on “Debt concessionality” (see also issue 55 below). In addition, further guidance on the measurement of output of central banks, as included in the [SNA News and Notes No. 36](#), would need to be included in the 2025 SNA. In respect of the latter, one may also want to see whether it is possible to address the current inconsistency in the treatment of central bank output between the 2008 SNA and ESA 2010.

Action point 9 (issue 39)

98. [Include further guidance on the measurement of output of central banks in chapter 7 of the 2025 SNA, and draft an issues note on the possibility to address the current inconsistencies between the SNA and the ESA.](#)

To be implemented by: Editorial team.

Priority level: 2

The inclusion of international organizations in the SNA (issue 40).

99. It would be good to provide additional guidance on the treatment of international organizations more generally. However, as it does not have a significant impact on national statistics, it is proposed, at least for the time being, to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. One could consider keeping it on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, although one may need to be more specific about the goals of such an inclusion. For sure, one would prefer to rephrase the research issue, as currently included in paragraph A4.22 of the 2008 SNA, by limiting it to the impact of transactions and positions with international organisations which have an impact on national statistics, thus not focusing on arriving at full sets of accounts for international organisations per se.

Clarification of the income concept in the SNA (issue 41)

100. It seems to be too late to try to arrive at a completely different accounting of holding gains and losses. However, one may want to consider adding clarifications to the 2025 SNA on some specific elements, such as the ones mentioned under this issue, i.e. (i) the inclusion of holding gains/losses in the changes in life insurance and annuity technical reserves and the changes in pension entitlements when calculating the implicit service charges for life insurance, annuities and pension funds; and (ii) the inclusion of capital income derived from the investment of an insurer's own funds in the calculation of the value added of insurance corporations.

101. Apart from the above clarifications, it is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. However, although the concept of income will remain a controversial issue, it is proposed to keep it on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, because new ways of accounting for income may become feasible in view of the future compilation of supplementary information on reinvested earnings; see also issue 45. Moreover, it is considered important to keep the door open to academic discussions on the concept of income.

Action point 10 (issue 41)

102. Draft an issues note with more detailed guidance on (i) the inclusion of holding gains/losses in the changes in life insurance and annuity technical reserves and the changes in pension entitlements when calculating the implicit service charges for life insurance, annuities and pension funds; and (ii) the inclusion of capital income derived from the investment of an insurer's own funds in the calculation of the value added of insurance corporations.

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 1

GDP at basic prices (issue 42)

103. It is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. Moreover, it is also proposed to drop it altogether from the long-term SNA Research Agenda, as the usefulness of measuring GDP at basic prices is far from clear, and seems to fly in the face of market prices as underpinning valuation principle of the SNA.

The role of taxes in the SNA (issue 43)

104. It is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. Given its lack of clarity about the merits of this issue, one may also want to consider dropping it altogether from the long-term SNA Research Agenda. On the other hand, one may consider reviewing the guidance in the 2025 SNA on why taxes are treated as income flows.

Life insurance (issue 44)

105. This issue concerns the treatment of holding gains/losses in the calculation of output of life insurance. For a possible follow-up, see issue 41.

Reinvested earnings (issue 45)

106. Guidance note F.2 on “Asymmetric treatment of retained earnings between direct and portfolio investment and potential extension to domestic relationships” contains a discussion on the extension of retained earnings to all investments in shares. Inclusion in the central framework of national accounts did not receive much support, so it is recommended to only include such information in supplementary tables. This issue has a direct relationship with the discussion on Guidance Note D.17 on “Identifying super dividends and establishing the borderline between dividends and withdrawal of equity”. Currently, an issues note, which also includes options for a partial extension of the recording of reinvested earnings to other majority holdings, is in the process of being drafted, as part of the agreed resolution mechanism between the SNA and the BPM.

Accruing interest in the SNA (issue 46)

107. As the opinions on the debtor versus the creditor approach for recording interest does not seem to have shifted dramatically in recent years, starting a discussion now on such a controversial and far-reaching issue looks quite counterproductive, and so it is not considered for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. However, given its importance from a theoretical/conceptual point of view, it is proposed to keep it on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda.

Calculation of FISIM (issue 47)

108. The already agreed clarifications on the measurement of FISIM will be reflected in the 2025 SNA; see the minutes of the 8th and 10th meetings of the AEG. The same holds for the recommendations endorsed by the AEG on the measurement of FISIM in periods of negative interest rates; see the minutes of the 11th meeting of the AEG, and the additional guidance provided in [SNA News and Notes No. 39/40](#).

109. Regarding the possible exclusion of credit default risk from the calculation of FISIM, the Task Force on FISIM concluded the following: *“The Task Force has concluded that there is conceptual merit in excluding credit default risk from FISIM. At present many countries will not be in a position to do this in a way that ensures reasonable comparability across most countries. However, a number of countries have demonstrated that it is feasible, in their cases, to produce meaningful results and these countries have developed plans to estimate FISIM on this basis. The recommendation of the Task Force therefore is that research continues in this area, both within the FISIM Task Force and within national agencies, to develop methods and data that can support estimation in the future. Recognizing that these improvements will take some time to materialize, the Task Force recommends that, in the interim, in the interest of maintaining international comparability,*

those countries that exclude credit default risk from their FISIM estimates, should also provide supplementary estimates that include credit default risk to international agencies.”

110. At its 10th Meeting (Paris, 13 – 15 April 2016), the AEG “*agreed that the Task Force on FISIM could revisit the conceptual merits of either excluding or including credit default risk in the calculation of FISIM, and in the case of the exclusion of credit default risk developing practical methods that could support such exclusion*”. This can be interpreted as an inclination towards the exclusion of credit default risk on conceptual grounds, with reservations related to the practical implementation of such an exclusion. Three options for the way forward could be considered:

- Express the conceptual merits of excluding credit default risk from the calculation of FISIM, with reservations around the practical implementation, in line with the above conclusions of the Task Force.
- Express the conceptual merits of excluding credit default risk from the calculation of FISIM, and look for countries who would be willing to participate in an early implementation exercise.
- Include a discussion on the treatment of various risk elements in the calculation of FISIM, without expressing any conceptual preference.

111. It is proposed to pursue option 2, and see whether a number of countries are willing to participate in an early implementation exercise. If, due to resource constraints, such an exercise shows not to be feasible, it is proposed to go for the first option, in which case the editorial team could come up with concrete proposals for changing the current guidance in the SNA.

High inflation (issue 48)

112. The issue of accounting under conditions of high inflation is highly relevant in a considerable number of countries, and goes beyond the treatment of interest to which this research issue mainly refers. Moreover, high inflation has become more relevant in quite a number of countries as well. Therefore, it would be good to include agreed guidance on the treatment of interest under conditions of high inflation in the 2025 SNA. In addition, it is proposed to include a summary of the main recommendations on how to deal with situations of high inflation, with reference to the guidance in the [Manual on National Accounting under Conditions of High Inflation](#).

Action point 11 (issue 48)

113. *Include, in a concise way, already existing guidance on accounting under conditions of high inflation in chapter 20, and possibly other chapters, of the 2025 SNA.*

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 2

The measurement of neutral and real holding gains and losses (issue 49)

114. It is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA, but to keep it on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, because the relevance of this distinction may increase under conditions of high inflation.

Income arising from assets (issue 50)

115. It is proposed to not consider the issue of financial resources contributing to capital services for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA, and to also drop it from the long-term SNA Research Agenda. Having said that, one could add some clarifications on the relationship between work-in-progress and non-produced assets on the one hand, and the measurement of capital services on the other hand, in line with past discussions by the AEG. A proposal to this effect could be elaborated by the editorial team.

Action point 12 (issue 50)

116. [Add clarifications on the relationship between work-in-progress and non-produced assets on the one hand, and the measurement of capital services on the other hand](#)

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 2

Issues arising from a financial crisis (issue 51)

117. [SNA News and Notes No. 29](#) contains a first evaluation of the adequacy of the guidance provided in the 2008 SNA in addressing the main issues arising from the financial crisis. Furthermore, some other issues related to the financial crisis have already been addressed in Guidance Notes F.1 on “More disaggregated definition of the financial sector and financial instruments” (e.g., non-bank financial intermediation) and F.6 “Capturing Non-Bank Financial Intermediation in the System of National Accounts and the External Sector Statistics”. Also the monitoring of financial risks and vulnerabilities by the use of from-whom-to-whom tables will receive much more attention in chapter 37 of the 2025 SNA. Other issues like the one on including/excluding credit default risk in the calculation of FISIM are covered under issue 47. Therefore, one could conclude that this issue is resolved, or will be covered under issue 47.

Recognition of social security entitlements as liabilities (issue 52)

118. Three main issues are at stake here:
- Whether or not to include, in the 2025 SNA, a supplementary table on household retirement resources, in addition to the table 17.10 on pension liabilities.
 - Adding clarifications on the treatment of the flows between a defined pension benefit fund and its sponsor in the 2025 SNA. This issue has already been resolved, and agreed by the AEG in its 11th meeting; see also the additional guidance provided in [SNA News and Notes No. 39/40](#).

- The treatment of (unfunded) employment-related pension schemes which are intertwined with social security schemes. This is the most contentious issue, and further discussed below.

119. Concerning the latter issue, the AEG concluded, at its 10th meeting, the following, after discussing the [document on the recording of pension entitlements](#):

- *Agreed that more practical examples – from a broad range of countries - of completing the supplementary pensions table should be analysed to assess what criteria are being used to differentiate between employer related pension funds and social security schemes.*
- *Agreed that – based on this practical experience – further guidance should be developed in the short term on the distinction between social security and employment-related schemes to determine which schemes should be recorded in the central framework.*
- *Recognized that there are valid arguments for using the asset boundary to determine when liabilities should be recognized and recorded in the core accounts, and agreed that guidance applying the principles governing the SNA asset boundary should be considered over the longer term.*

120. Unfortunately, since then no substantial progress has been made in this area, which leaves us with the question what to do at this stage. It is considered quite important to arrive at more clarity, as the current SNA guidance is ambiguous in some respects, differs from the guidance provided in other standards for macro-economic statistics, and leads to problems of international comparability. As a minimum, these ambiguities and inconsistencies in the current guidance should be resolved to the extent possible. However, although one would like to arrive at stricter and clearer guidance, it is not considered feasible to resolve the issue of recognizing, in the central framework, entitlements related to unfunded social security schemes. This latter issue will continue to feature on the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda.

121. It is proposed that the editorial team, together with a limited number of specialists in the field, will draft an issues note on the resolution of the current ambiguities and inconsistencies, in line with past recommendations from the AEG to provide more guidance on the distinction between social security and employment-related schemes. In this respect, it is also proposed to have another look at the current guidance on constructive liabilities in paragraphs 3.34 and 3.40 of the 2008 SNA, which is inconsistent with the non-recognition of entitlements related to unfunded social security schemes.

122. Moreover, an explicit decision is required on the way forward regarding the non-recognition of entitlements related to social security schemes, and pursuing work, or not, on the inclusion of a supplementary table on household retirement resources.

Action point 13 (issue 52)

123. Draft an issues note on the resolution of the current ambiguities and inconsistencies regarding the recording of social security and employment-related schemes, and on the current guidance for constructive liabilities in paragraphs 3.34 and 3.40 of the 2008 SNA.

To be implemented by: Editorial team, in cooperation with a small number of specialists

Priority level: 1

Wider use of fair value for loans (issue 53)

124. This issue is covered in Guidance Note F.9 on “Valuation of loans (fair value)”.

Provisions (issue 54)

125. This issue is covered in the Guidance Note WS.9 on “Recording of provisions”.

Debt concessionality (issue 55)

126. This issue is partly covered in Guidance Note F.15 on “Debt concessionality”. However, the relevant Guidance Note mainly deals with international loans provided by international organizations and governments. The proposed recommendation to treat the concessional element as a capital transfer at inception generated some discussion, because it would lead to a deviation from the general principle of valuing loans at nominal value, and to an inconsistent treatment of concessional loans more broadly. The issue is now being considered in a broader context, as part of the agreed resolution mechanism between the SNA and the BPM.

Equity valuation and its implications (issue 56)

127. This issue is covered in Guidance Note D.2 on “Valuation of unlisted equity in direct investment”.

Reverse transactions (issue 57)

128. This issue is covered in Guidance Note F.3 on “Reverse transactions”.

Tradable emission permits (issue 58)

129. This issue is covered in Guidance Note WS.7 on “Emissions permits: the atmosphere as an asset”.

Costs of ownership transfer of valuables and non-produced assets (issue 59)

130. It is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA, and to also drop it from the long-term SNA Research Agenda. Instead, it is proposed to

add some non-contentious clarifications on the treatment of costs of ownership transfer for different types of assets.

Action point 14 (issue 59)

131. Add clarifications on the treatment of costs of ownership transfer for different types of assets, first and foremost in chapters 11 and 14 of the 2025 SNA.

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 2

Distinction between current maintenance and capital repairs (issue 60)

132. It is proposed to not consider this issue for inclusion in the update of the 2008 SNA. It is also proposed to drop this issue from the long-term Research Agenda altogether, as the current distinction seems to make more sense than considering all maintenance costs as adding to gross fixed capital formation. However, as the guidance in the 2008 SNA seems to refer first and foremost to physical assets, it may be useful to add some clarifications in the 2025 SNA, so that it also applies to intellectual property products in the 2025 SNA. The editorial team could look into possible clarifications.

Action point 15 (issue 60)

133. Add clarifications on the distinction between maintenance and capital repairs for intangible assets in chapters 7 of the 2025 SNA.

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 3

Transfer of ownership of an asset during its life (issue 61)

134. At least from a conceptual point of view, an alternative treatment, recognizing the transfer of the underlying asset at the end of the lease period, seems to be warranted and could be clarified. The editorial team could develop a short issues note for consideration by the AEG

Action point 16 (issue 61)

135. Draft issues note on a possible alternative treatment of the transfer of leased assets at the end of the lease period.

To be implemented by: Editorial team

Priority level: 3

D. Summary

136. This section includes an assessment of the agreed SNA Research Agenda for the update of the 2008 SNA. Most issues have been addressed in the Guidance Notes, which have been finalised, or which are in the process of being finalised. However, for a number of issues, further actions are required for the update of the SNA. For the outstanding issues on the long-term SNA research agenda it is proposed to either transfer them to the post-2025 SNA Research Agenda, or to drop them from the SNA Research Agenda altogether.

IV. Summary of activities during 2022 and expected activities in 2023 related to economic statistics and national accounts carried out by the member organizations of the ISWGNA and the regional commissions

137. The table below summarizes the activities related to economic statistics by the Member organizations of the ISWGNA and the UN Regional Commissions conducted in 2022 and planned for 2023.

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
1. Statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As usual, Eurostat held two meetings of the Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics (DMES), the Balance of Payments Working Group and the National Accounts Working Group. All EU, EFTA and candidate countries are represented in these groups. In addition, two meetings with the candidate countries only are held each year. With the lifting of the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2022 Eurostat organized some of these meetings in person, for the first time since 2020, while others were still held virtually. • In support of the ongoing work to update the SNA, Eurostat, in cooperation with the UNSD, organized a “Global Conference on Macroeconomic statistics for the future”, that brought together high-level users and producers of macroeconomic statistics to discuss the expected changes that will be introduced in the next edition of the SNA. • The DMES Task Force on fixed assets and estimation of consumption of fixed capital under ESA 2010 (TF FIXCAP), which aims at improving cross-country consistency in the compilation of capital stock and consumption of fixed capital, completed its mandate to propose a set of improvement recommendations. The aim is to introduce these changes and further improvements with the next coordinated benchmark revision of national accounts and balance of payments statistics in 2024, for which preparations have started. • Following the publication of additional labour and capital productivity indicators at the end of 2021, which completed the work of a dedicated Task Force, Eurostat organized a workshop in

Organization	<p data-bbox="548 195 1235 226">Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.</p> <p data-bbox="589 233 1469 667">March 2022 and contributed presentations to EU and World KLEMS events. Work to improve employment estimates started and a seminar is planned in March 2023. There were regular meetings of the expert groups on Quarterly National Accounts, Regional accounts, Pensions, Disparities in National Accounts (with the OECD), Financial Accounts and non-financial Sector Accounts (with the European Central Bank). The “Integrated Global Accounts Expert Group” (IGA EG), created by merging and refocusing the previous IGA Task Force and Supply-and-Use Input-Output Tables Technical Group, held in 2022 its second and third meetings, where new developments for the EU IC-SUIOT (FIGARO tables) were presented and discussed.</p> <ul data-bbox="557 674 1469 1873" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="557 674 1469 926">• Furthermore, in the GNI domain there were two GNI Expert Group meetings and three meetings of the GNI Sub-Group on Exhaustiveness. The Sub-Group produced its final report on the Area 3 “Non-collected VAT and exhaustiveness adjustments”. Eurostat plans to publish in 2023 a “Guide on theoretical VAT. Practical guidelines for enhanced comparability across countries”, that is one of the results of this work. <li data-bbox="557 932 1469 1367">• Following the second workshop to discuss the recommendations on the reconciliation of vertical discrepancies, Eurostat and the ECB finalized and published in spring 2022, on their respective websites, the report on developing a common approach to improve vertical consistency¹. As a follow up of the publication of the report, Eurostat and the ECB, after consultation with the Expert Group on Sector Accounts (Eurostat), the Task Force on Annual Financial Accounts (Eurostat) and the Working Group on Financial Accounts and Government Finance Statistics (ECB), have developed a template on national reconciliation practices for the financial and non-financial accounts by institutional sector which is currently sent to Member States for completion. <li data-bbox="557 1373 1469 1738">• In the context of the European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS), Eurostat organized a course on Macroeconomic and Financial statistics for German universities, in cooperation with the European Central Bank and the University of Trier. The traditional training courses for European participants on national accounts and on balance of payments were organized again after the disruption in the previous years caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eurostat continued to receive additional voluntary data from EU Member States to improve data availability under the G-20 Data Gaps agenda as well as for macro-economic policymaking. <li data-bbox="557 1745 1469 1873">• Eurostat and the European Statistical System (ESS) are now working to implement the strategy to address statistical issues arising from economic globalization. This strategy brings several ESS initiatives together into a systematic approach, with the aim of
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<p>Organization</p>	<p>Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.</p> <p>addressing issues such confidentiality, data access and communication. The European Network of Multinational Enterprise Groups coordinators (MNEnet), created in 2021, also incorporates the "Early Warning System" (EWS) since 2022. The MNEnet promotes the creation of national Large Cases Units or similar organizational structures as well as the exchange of methodological information on large and complex MNE groups across countries. In 2022, two MNEnet meetings took place. In addition, a methodological expert table focusing on the Intellectual Property Products (IPP) took place in September. In 2022, Eurostat produced guidance on the statistical recording of Ukrainians refugees fleeing their country as a consequence of the Russian conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, the legislative process to amend the Transmission Programme of ESA 2010, i.e. the data that the EU Member States are expected to transmit to Eurostat, to better align it to evolving user needs is in its final stage. The updated transmission programme will be introduced in 2024, in line with the harmonized benchmark revision process in the EU.
<p>2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMF’s capacity development (CD) activities focus on improving the quality of national accounts in member countries. This includes implementing the latest national accounting concepts and methods, compiling quarterly accounts, sectoral accounts, and developing high-frequency indicators of economic activity. In 2022, the IMF delivered 197 technical assistance activities in national accounts to over 90 countries. While CD delivery continued remotely using various digital technologies, in person-based delivery resumed in the latter half of 2022. The IMF staffs full-time national account experts in eleven Regional Capacity Development Centers (RCDCs) who provide and arrange CD services to over 100 member countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South Asia. • During 2022, the IMF Statistics Department also continued the development of its online national accounts and prices training program with the launch of a course on the Consumer Price Index. Courses on Quarterly National Accounts and the Producer Price Index as well as Export and Import Price Indexes are to be launched in 2023. CD delivery under the Data for Decisions (D4D) Fund—initiated in 2018 by the IMF and its partners—entered its fifth year in 2022. The D4D Fund is expected to provide about US \$33 million over seven years for targeted technical assistance and training and to develop the online learning curriculum on economic statistics. D4D Fund beneficiaries are mainly low- and lower middle-income countries. Mainly through RCDCs and D4D-funded initiatives, the IMF also delivered over 30 regional courses and

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<p>workshops, including in new national accounts-linked areas such as digitalization and climate change indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMF hosted in 2022, its 10th Statistical Forum which explored the measurement of intangible capital to better support investment policy, taxation policy, and macroeconomic analysis. In addition, the Spanish version of the IMF’s Quarterly National Accounts Manual (2017) will be published in 2023.
3. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	<p>During 2022 the following meetings were organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Expert Group on Disparities in a National Accounts framework (EG DNA), 15-16 June 2022 • 6th meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Measuring GDP in a Digitalized Economy, 8 July 2022 • OECD Working Party on Financial Statistics, 24 October 2022 • OECD Conference on National Economic and Financial Accounts (CNEFA), 25-27 October 2022 • OECD Working Party on National Accounts, 28 October 2022 • Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Extended Supply and Use Tables (EG ESUT), 14-15 November 2022 <p>During 2023 the following meetings are expected to be organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th OECD/UNECE Seminar on Implementation of the SEEA, 13-15 March 2023 • Meeting of the Expert Group on Disparities in a National Accounts framework (EG DNA), Q2 2023 • 7th meeting of the Informal Advisory Group on Measuring GDP in a Digitalized Economy, Q2 2023 • Meetings of the new Expert Group on Distribution of Household Wealth (EG DHW), Q2 and Q3 2023 • OECD Working Party on Financial Statistics, 6 November 2023 • OECD Conference on National Economic and Financial Accounts (CNEFA), 7-9 November 2023 • OECD Working Party on National Accounts, 10 November 2023 • Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Extended Supply and Use Tables (EG ESUT), November 2023 <p>During 2022 the following OECD papers were published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Statistics Working Paper 2022/03 (with UK Office for National Statistics): International comparisons of the measurement of non-market output during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 February 2022

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Statistics Working Paper 2022/04: CO₂ Emissions from air transport: A near-real-time global database for policy analysis, 8 March 2022 • OECD Digital Economy Papers No. 345, December 2022: Measuring the Value of Data and Data Flows <p>During 2023 the following OECD publications are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Working Paper on estimating carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from maritime transport - A contribution to the compilation of global air emission accounts according to the SEEA • OECD Working Paper presenting high-level indicators from the Digital Supply and Use Tables • OECD Working Paper presenting results from a centralised approach to compile distributional results on household income, consumption and saving consistent with national accounts • OECD Handbook on compiling Digital Supply and Use Tables • OECD Handbook on compiling distributional results on household income, consumption and saving consistent with national accounts • Preliminary guidelines on compiling distributional results on household wealth consistent with national accounts.
4. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	<p>Supporting the global update of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third regional thematic webinar held: on 6-9 June 2022 jointly with UNSD, signed up 231 participants and partners via Teleconference, 32.5% were female. The goal of this series of regional seminars on the 2008 SNA update programme and process is to drive engagement by the Member States, ensure they are included in Guidance Note (GN) discussions, that specific regional challenges are addressed, to encourage active participation of African countries in the Assessment and Experimental Estimates (AEE) component and phase. The third webinar was focused on five priority areas and thematic topics: communication, financial and payments systems, globalization, well-being and sustainability, and Islamic finance. • One hybrid event was organized prior to StatCom VIII on 22 October 2022 in the ECA compound on The Beyond GDP Initiative. The purpose was to inform the broader network in Africa. <p>Implementation of 2008 SNA:</p>

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting countries on GDP updating and rebasing (Eswatini, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Senegal). According to the Progress Since 2020, 15 Member States have started the process of transition to the 2008 SNA at different stages: some have already published preliminary results (Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, and Tunisia), and others are still at the stage of collecting and processing source data (Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, and Sierra Leone). <p>Africa SUT-TiVA capacity building and technical assistance project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint initiative of ECA, OECD, and WTO started in 2019, the project has enabled the inclusion of five African countries (namely Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Nigeria, and Senegal) into the OECD TiVA database, with the view to producing trade in value added (TiVA) indicators and reports for these countries while supporting them improve the quality of their economic statistics. • Building on the achievement of the African SUTs-TiVA project, ECA has begun to set up an inter-country Input-Output Table (IOT) in Africa with the aim to support regional economic and trade analyses and policies such as the AfCFTA and the continent’s industrialization and structural transformation. <p>Development of City GDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECA started an initiative on measuring city GDP in Africa in 2017 and has been providing technical support to six pilot cities of Accra (Ghana), Yaoundé (Cameroon), Harare (Zimbabwe), Kigali (Rwanda), Lusaka (Zambia), and Maseru (Lesotho) on the estimation of their city GDP. An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) was organized on 16 June 2022 for an in-depth review of the draft report on city GDP estimation, drawing on the lessons, good practices, approaches, and methodologies used in the pilot cities to ensure its quality, relevance, and practicality at the city and sub-national level. • The initiative aims at strengthening countries in measuring city GDP and its contribution to the national economy. The Expert Group Meeting brought together 78 participants including national account experts from 34 African countries and it was an effective event in enhancing the visibility of the city GDP initiative and increased buy-in and scaling up of the project to more African cities.

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<p data-bbox="553 235 943 266">Price Watch Centre (PWC):</p> <ul data-bbox="553 310 1458 1228" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="553 310 1458 451">• ECA PWC has become an important high-level policy dialogue and deliberation tool on current and emerging issues related to price developments based on data and statistics as well as economic analyses by ECA. <li data-bbox="553 457 1458 674">• ECA organized two policy dialogue webinars for Ministers of Finance of African member States respectively on “Optimizing the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through the cost of transport in Africa” on 7th April 2022, and the “Impact of the Russia Ukraine crisis on commodity and food prices in Africa” on 21st July 2022. <li data-bbox="553 680 1458 896">• During the first webinar, the analysis of available data and estimations helped shed light on the cost dimension of transport in Africa and feed into the discussion on the role of the sector in optimizing the benefits of AfCFTA. The webinar brought together 56 participants and partners, including the Ministers of Finance and Budget. <li data-bbox="553 903 1458 1150">• The second webinar gave an overview of the latest consumer, food and commodity price movements and their link to the crisis, and enabled dialogue among high officials of Member States on solutions to envisage to build the resilience of African countries in challenging contexts. The webinar was attended by 171 participants (among which, 4 ministers), representing government institutions and academia in 36 African countries. <li data-bbox="553 1157 1458 1228">• The web interface of the PWC has been regularly updated featuring the latest price developments on key issues. <p data-bbox="553 1268 922 1299"><u>Activities planned for 2023</u></p> <ul data-bbox="553 1346 1458 1894" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="553 1346 1458 1486">• ECA will continue supporting the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians’ initiatives on going beyond GDP, and to the global SNA update programme, providing training seminars and technical assistance. <li data-bbox="553 1493 1458 1598">• ECA will update and analyze continental price statistics and support countries to adopt alternative methods and techniques for CPI data collection. <li data-bbox="553 1604 1458 1787">• Support will also be provided to the UN regional hub on data science and to national statistics offices on data science projects for the modernization of collection, compilation, analysis, dissemination, development, and improvement of databases on agriculture statistics and energy statistics. <li data-bbox="553 1793 1458 1894">• The ECA Price Watch Centre for Africa will continue to update its interface with the latest price developments and plans to conduct further studies in 2023.

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Project on SUT-TiVA will continue to finalize the process with pilot countries jointly with OECD and WTO.
5. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)	<p>During 2022 the following activities were completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts, in collaboration with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; online sessions on 17, 19, 23 and 25 May 2022 (see https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/362758) • ECE//IMF/UNSD Special Session on compilation of Supply and Use Tables for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South East Europe countries; Online on 3 - 5 October 2022 (see https://unece.org/info/events/event/363361) • ECE/EFTA/Eurostat/ECB/IMF Workshop on Financial Accounts for EFTA Partner Countries and the countries benefitting from the European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA); 14-16 November 2022, Brussels, Belgium (see https://unece.org/info/events/event/369893) • Update of the Online Inventory of Satellite Accounts to be found here: https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SAOI/Satellite+Accounts+-+Online+Inventory+Home • ECE together with EFTA completed the global assessment of the national statistical system of Turkmenistan (to be posted at: https://unece.org/statistics/statistical-capacity-development) • Consultation of the SNA Update guidance notes in the UNECE region with a particular focus on the EECCA and SEE countries, including the translation in Russian of key documents. <p>During 2023 the following meetings are expected to be organized and activities completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts, in consultation with the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; 25-27 April 2023, Geneva, Switzerland (see https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/373321) • ECE/EFTA Workshop on the implementation of the 2008 SNA for EFTA Partner countries in collaboration with other partner organisations, second half of 2023, 3 days in a programme country • ECE/Eurostat/EFTA seminar on Large Cases Units; one day online seminar during the second half of 2023 • Update of the Online Inventory of Satellite Accounts to be found here: https://statswiki.unece.org/display/SAOI/Satellite+Accounts+-+Online+Inventory+Home • ECE together with EFTA and Eurostat will conduct global assessment of the national statistical system of Kazakhstan

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of the SNA Update guidance notes in the UNECE region with a particular focus on the EECCA and SEE countries, including the translation in Russian of key documents.
6. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	<p>During 2022 the following activities were organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seminar “Beyond GDP: statistical challenges of measuring development” was held in August 2022. This was a side-event of Twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The seminar addressed the various statistical challenges related to the improvement of GDP measurement and the production of complementary indicators to account for economic, social, and environmental development. Agenda and presentations area available in the following link: https://www.cepal.org/en/events/seminar-beyond-gdp-statistical-challenges-measuring-development • The “Annual Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America and Caribbean countries” was held virtually in October 2022 and was attended by more than 216 participants from 30 countries, experts, and international organizations. The following topics were discussed: progress in the SNA 2025 update process and the future of economic statistics, SNA status in Latin America and the Caribbean impact of COVID-19 quarantine, emerging topics new measurement challenges such as measuring digital economy and ecosystem accounts, and status of the implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP). Agenda and presentations are available in the following link: https://www.cepal.org/en/events/national-accounts-annual-seminar-latin-america-and-caribbean-2022-emerging-issues-and-new • Activities in the framework of the new round of the International Comparison Programme have included workshops and technical assistance on national accounts data requirements during 2022. • Technical assistance activities were carried out for 6 countries in the region in terms of quarterly national accounts, input-output matrix, change of reference year of national accounts, institutional sector accounts, and estimates of subnational economic activity statistics. <p>Expected activities in 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America and Caribbean countries is planned to be in September 2023.

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities in the framework of the new rounds of the International Comparison Programme will include workshops and technical assistance on national accounts data requirements during 2023. • Develop activities related to the subnational economic activity statistics, economic surveys, distributional national accounts, satellite accounts, and input-output matrix. • Upon request of member countries, ECLAC will continue providing technical assistance services on national accounts and price statistics through the Regional Programme for Technical Cooperation.
7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	<p>During 2022, the following activities were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative meeting of the Network of Economic Statisticians with the Regional Steering Group for the Improvement of Economic Statisticians in Asia and the Pacific on 21 November 2022. • 12th Meeting of the Steering Group of the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in the Asia and Pacific Region. <p>This meeting was convened on 22 November 2022 to share information on economic statistics development in the region and associated challenges, to review progress in implementing the SGRPES 2022 work plan and finally to discuss the implications of the Committee decisions and agree on specific actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stats Café webinar on the use and application of input and output tables in policy making <p>The webinar was organized 21 March 2022 to demonstrate the process of compiling Input-Output Tables and their application in policy making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-learning course on Statistical Business Register 26 September-11 November 2022 organised by SIAP • Technical assistance was given to the Lao Statistics Bureau to compile import and export price indices throughout 2022 virtually. This work is still on going. • Workshop on measurement of Illicit Financial Flows in Asia and the Pacific 7-8 December 2022, Bangkok, Thailand. <p>The workshop was organised to disseminate results of the measurement of illicit financial flows in six Asia-Pacific countries. While the goal is to measure SDG indicators, results of this work</p>

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	are expected to have an impact on how national accounts and balance of payments of the countries involved are compiled.
8. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	<p>During 2022, the following activities were organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCC-Stat-ESCWA Workshop on the Statistical treatment of Islamic finance in national accounts and external sector statistics 14-17 March 2022 <p>The workshop was organized to strengthen the capacity of National Statistical Offices and Banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and to share experiences and initiatives regarding adopting specific areas for the 2008 SNA update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond GDP Webinar: Priorities in measuring wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainability in African and Arab Countries and findings of the Network’s Beyond GDP Sprint. <p>This virtual meeting held on 1 December 2022, was organized by the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians in collaboration with UNESCWA and UNECA and UNSD. This Beyond GDP webinar was part of the Network consultations on regional statistical program priorities and initiatives to identify and promote collaboration and networking for economic, socio-demographic, and environment statistics, indicators, and accounts for the multidimensional measurement of sustainable development. The recording is available on YouTube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islamic Finance Subregional Webinar. This webinar was organized on 06 December 2022 in collaboration with GCC Stat, UNSD, Islamic Finance Task Team and ESCAP <p>Main publications and tools include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply and use tables methodological guide- Application in selected Arab countries- Part 1 and 2. <p>This study provides an overview on the compilation of the SUTs and expands on the case of SUTs compilation in Morocco and the State of Palestine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESCWA quarterly inflation tool

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	<p>Released in June 2022, this tool provides the expected inflationary resulting from the impact of the Ukraine-Russia war in the Arab region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of new purchasing power parities for the Arab region Real sizes of Arab economies. • Study on measuring international digital trade in the Arab region
9. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)	<p>UNSD’s activities focused on the operationalisation of the outreach programme of the update of the 2008 SNA thorough a series regional (web) seminar to (a) inform and keep countries updated on the process of updating the 2008 SNA; (b) foster global consultation on the guidance notes; (c) collect feedback from countries and regions on their thematic priorities; and (d) explore possible volunteer countries and liaise with them for an early implementation of the new recommendations in the form of experimental estimates.</p> <p>For this purpose, the below (web) seminars were organised in collaboration with the regional commissions, AEG/ISWGNA and task teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Workshop on the Update of the System of National Accounts, 2008 6-8 September 2022, Kunming, China <p>Organized in the collaboration with ESCAP and the People’s Republic of China, the goal of this workshop was to drive Member States engagement to ensure that they are included in guidance notes discussion and specific regional challenges are addressed, and to encourage active participation of countries in the Assessment and Experimental Estimates component. The workshop was organized in a hybrid format, with local participants attending the workshop in-person and overseas participants attending it remotely. It was conducted in English and Chinese with simultaneous interpretation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Regional Thematic Seminar on System of National Accounts (SNA) update program, 6-9 June 2022 <p>This workshop was jointly organized with ECA to provide a forum for all African countries to be engaged and participate directly in the global SNA update Programme by discussing and commenting on the guidance notes and participating in the assessment and experimental estimates. This online seminar took place on 6-9 June 2022 and was attended by national accountants from agencies in</p>

Organization	<p>Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.</p> <p>ECA Members States. It was conducted with simultaneous interpretation in English and French.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical treatment of Islamic finance in national accounts and external sector statistics, 14-16 March 2022 <p>The workshop aimed at strengthening human and institutional capacities of NSOs, and Bankers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries through the transfer and exchange of experiences and providing support to Member States in implementing the international recommendations of the Guidance note developed by the Islamic Finance Task Team on Statistical Treatment of Islamic Finance in National Accounts and External Sector Statistics. It was organized jointly with ESCWA and GCC and was held both in Arabic and English, with simultaneous interpretation.</p> <p>UNSD also organized a workshop that fosters collaboration and data sharing between private and public sector stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation to address data demands for statistical analysis in times of crisis 13 September 2022, Istanbul, Turkey <p>The workshop aimed to review successful examples of how statistical offices have adjusted to the constraints of Covid taking advantage of technological advances and to discuss how statistical offices, research institutes, and data owners can collaborate in this area in a mutually beneficial to advance collection and processing of statistics to inform policy analysis. It was jointly organized with ESCWA, the Faculty of Economics of Marmara University, the KOF Swiss Economic Institute and the Turkish Statistical Institute.</p> <p>During 2023, UNSD will continue its support to countries, in collaboration with the AEG/ISWGNA, task teams and regional commissions, in the early implementation of the recommendations of the guidance notes and developing experimental estimates. The aim is to continue involving countries from different levels of statistical development and ensure broad geographic representation.</p>
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Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
10. World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Bank continued to provide needs-oriented technical assistance and support to countries and regional institutions to build statistical capacity in 2022, focusing on the quality and breadth of national accounts estimates, enhanced estimation methods and compliance to SNA standards. In support of these objectives, client countries also benefited from capacity building for business registers and economic surveys, via streamlined tools and processes. • Technical assistance was undertaken via on-the-ground and remote missions in Angola, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia, the Turkish Cypriote community, Vietnam, and Yemen in 2022. Planned activities for 2023 include the continued implementation of streamlined business statistics processes, along with national accounts technical support and organization, training seminars, courses and other initiatives in Honduras, LAO PDR, Nepal, and Sao Tome and Principe, among others. • In support of broader outreach efforts on the SNA update, the World Bank participated in seminars hosted by the UN and contributed to guidelines on SNA implementation for partner countries from the East African Community Secretariat. Outreach activities also included the organization of a training program on advanced topics in national accounts, focusing on emerging SNA guidance, at the biennial conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) in Luxembourg in August 2022. The program included sessions on globalization, digitalization, household distributions and environmental-economic accounting. • In line with the advancement of new SNA standards for Wellbeing and Sustainability and efforts to advance implementation of national accounts distributions for the household sector, the World Bank continues to support this work via the next phase of the IMF-led Data Gaps Initiative (DGI). In collaboration with the OECD and the European Central Bank, ongoing support to the initiative will be provided throughout the coming year. • In collaboration with its Changing Wealth of Nations program, the World Bank contributed SNA guidance on renewable energy assets under the Wellbeing and Sustainability Task Team, endorsed in 2022 by the Advisory Expert Group. The World Bank’s experience in compiling cross national measures of comprehensive wealth is expected to inform the experimentation and advance implementation testing phases of the SNA update moving forward. • Via its Global Data Facility (GDF), the World Bank managed funding for the 2008 SNA update, including the work of the lead editor, project manager and 5 supporting editors on the editorial

Organization	Meetings, training seminars, courses, handbooks, etc.
	team commenced work in 2022. Ongoing oversight of the work plan and activities of SNA consultants is provided by the ISWGNA, while the World Bank and UNSD will continue to support its effective management and governance throughout 2023 and subsequent phases of the update project.

V. United Nations national accounts questionnaire over the reporting periods 2018–2022

138. In accordance with a request from the United Nations Statistical Commission, the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, regularly evaluates the conceptual compliance of official national accounts data, reported by Member States to the UNSD, with the recommendations of the System of National Accounts.

139. The assessment summarized in this present section is based on replies to the United Nations National Accounts Questionnaire (UN-NAQ) for the last five reporting periods, i.e. 2017 to 2021 submitted by July 2022. The data are either reported directly to the UNSD or through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) or through the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

140. Considering the responses in any of the last five reporting periods (2017 to 2021), 95 per cent of the Member States (184 countries) reported national accounts data to the UNSD⁵, which include all developed countries and 94 per cent of developing countries.

141. The overall number of 184 Member States reporting in the current reporting period is 1 less than what was received in the previous reporting period (2016 to 2020), although the composition of the countries differs; this number is in line with the responses UNSD received prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

142. An analysis, at the regional level, of the reporting by developing countries shows that 97 per cent of Latin American and Caribbean countries reported national accounts data, followed by 94 per cent of African countries, 93 per cent of Asian countries, and 83 per cent of Oceanic countries. In the 2021 reporting period, seven⁶ Member States submitted national accounts data according to the 2008 SNA for the first time.

⁵ The 9 Member States that have not submitted data in the last five reporting periods are Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Gabon, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkmenistan; DPRK and Eritrea have never submitted data in the NAQ.

⁶ Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Chad, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles and Tunisia implemented the 2008 SNA.

143. Reported data shows that 97 per cent of Member States (188 countries) have implemented the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA up to the 2021 reporting period. Of those, 123 Member States have submitted national accounts data compiled according to the 2008 SNA. All developed economies and 138 of the 143 (97 per cent) developing countries have reported national accounts data according to the 1993 SNA or 2008 SNA methodology.

144. Specifically, 52 (96 per cent) African countries; 33 (100 per cent) Latin American and Caribbean countries; 41 (93 per cent) Asian countries; and 12 (100 per cent) Oceanic countries have implemented the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA. The rate of implementation the 1993 SNA or the 2008 SNA by the least developed countries (LDC), landlocked developing countries (LLDC), and small island developing states (SIDS) have been progressing significantly, and stood at with 93 per cent, 100 per cent and 100 per cent respectively in 2021.

145. The scope of national accounts data reported is evaluated against a standard “Minimum Requirement Data Set” (MRDS)⁷, adopted at the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission in 2001, and against the “milestone”⁸ measure, adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission in 1997.

146. A total of 135 Member States (70 per cent) provided six or more tables of the MRDS and 95 Member States (49 per cent) provided seven of the MRDS. No Member States in Oceania were able to provide the complete set of tables which satisfies the MRDS tables, and only 31 per cent of Member States in the Caribbean provide the complete set of tables which satisfies the MRDS; similarly, less than 25 per cent of LDCs and SIDS submit data in full compliance with the MRDS.

⁷ The MRDS is defined in the reports of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to the Statistical Commission; documents E/CN.3/2001/7 and E/CN.3/2011/6

⁸ The milestone methodology is described in the reports of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to the Statistical Commission; documents E/CN.3/1997/12 and E/CN.3/2011/6.