

**Fourth meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts
30 January – 8 February 2006, Frankfurt**

FOR INFORMATION

Consistency: The Process Going Forward

By Carol Carson, Project Manager

Consistency: The Process Going Forward

The Editor's paper "Consistency Issues" is a step into the next phase of the Update and opens discussion on a topic that will be a major focus of efforts during the next eight months. It raises issues about the consistency among recommendations made during the Update and about the consistency between recommendations for change and the text of the 1993 SNA that will remain unchanged.

Today's discussion may lead to resolution of some of the issues raised in the paper. For those that are not resolved, there will be an electronic forum for resolution. UNSD will set up a page on the Project website where the issues will be posted. A moderator will encourage comment and the give-and-take that simulates to the extent possible face-to-face discussion. If consensus emerges in this discussion by end March 2006, that consensus will be taken as the resolution. If no consensus emerges, the issue will be put to the AEG members in a questionnaire-style e-discussion to close in mid-April. The ISWGNA will confirm the resolution or resolve the issue during the last week in April.

The Editor's paper does not cover all the consistency issues that have been identified. Further, when the full set of provisional recommendations are available in a few weeks time, it will provide the basis for identification of others. Several meetings—for example, the Joint National Accounts meetings in April in Geneva and the IARIW meeting in August in Finland—will help identify consistency issues. The issues identified by mid-September will be discussed as described above, and the ISWGNA will confirm the resolution or resolve the issue in early October with the aim of reflecting the outcome in the consolidated recommendations to go to the Statistical Commission for approval in March 2007.

Issues about the consistency of SNA recommendations and the revised *Balance of Payments Manual* will also be dealt with.

In summary, the time table for consistency issues not resolved at the Frankfurt AEG meeting is below:

Already identified consistency issues:

- Electronic discussion through end March
- Questionnaire-style e-discussion if needed, to close by mid-April
- ISWGNA consideration end April

Yet-to-be identified consistency issues:

- Invitations open to the macro accounting community to identify consistency issues as soon as the full set of provisional recommendations is available
- Issues will be discussed as above, with any questionnaire-style e-discussion to close by mid-September
- ISWGNA consideration early October