

ISWGNA Management Group Meeting

Monday, 6 March 2017, UN Premises

Summary Record

Louis Marc Ducharme (Chair, IMF) opened the meeting.

Present: Silke Stapel (Eurostat), Claudia Dziobek, (IMF), Martine Durand (OECD), Paul Schreyer (OECD), Ivo Havinga (UNSD), Herman Smith (UNSD), Ilaria DiMatteo (UNSD), Grant Cameron (World Bank), and Barbro Hexeberg (World Bank).

1. Introduction of the ISWGNA report to the UNSC

ISWGNA Members discussed and agreed on the statement to the UNSC.

2. Side Event on Globalization

The final arrangement for the side event on globalization were discussed and agreed. Information on the side event is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/side-events/>

3. Next AEG meeting, December 2017, New York

The ISWGNA:MG identified a number of topics for discussion at the next AEG meeting in December 2017, such as globalization, digital economy, pension issues, statistical units, Islamic Banking and satellite accounts.

It was noted that a number of handbooks are being developed on various satellite accounts. It was agreed that the AEG should discuss and provide guidance on the implementation of these satellite accounts.

It was agreed to circulate, by the end of May, the annotated agenda of the next AEG meeting to the ISWGNA:MG for comments.

4. ISWGNA Task Forces on Statistical Units and on Islamic Banking

ISWGNA:MG took note of the status of the Task Forces on Statistical Units and on Islamic Banking.

Some 80 nominations were received for the Units Task Force. The composition of the Task Force will be determined based on the CVs of the candidates, replies to a questionnaire on national practices in the application of statistical units and the possible need for a breakdown of issues to be discussed in sub-group.

The due date for nominations for the Task Force on Islamic Banking is 10 March. IMF expressed its interest in participating in the Task Force and offered to facilitate extending the invitation to additional relevant contacts.

UNSD to circulate the Terms of Reference of the Task forces to the ISWGNA:MG.

5. AEG membership

The ISWGNA:MG took note that Mr. Erich Strassner (BEA), has accepted the invitation to become a member of the AEG. He is replacing Mr. Brent Moulton (BEA).

The ISWGNA:MG discussed possible candidates for the two AEG vacancies, following the retirement of Michael Davies (Australia) and Ashish Kumar (India). It was agreed to actively work to identify suitable candidates by the end of May.

6. ISWGNA-sponsored E-learning course.

There was a broad support for developing an ISWGNA-sponsored E-learning course on national accounts based on existing training material available from the ISWGNA members, regional commissions and other global partners. It was agreed that the development of e-learning modules by ISWGNA members, such as UNSD and IMF, should be coordinated. UNSD to prepare a concept note taking into consideration the various training materials available and the scope of the e-learning courses for further consideration by the ISWGNA.

7. ISWGNA-sponsored national accounts compilation software

The ISWGNA:MG discussed the proposal to develop an ISWGNA-sponsored open source national accounts compilation software in order to assist countries in the compilation of the national accounts. Although the Group expressed concerns about the sustainability of the software and the technical specifications, it recognized the potential benefits of such software. UNSD to prepare a concept note taking into consideration the sustainability of the software for further consideration by the ISWGNA.

8. AEG consultations on pensions and negative interest rates

The ISWGNA:MG took note of the status of two AEG consultations on pensions and negative interest rates.

9. Any other business

The ISWGNA:MG noted that the Chairmanship will pass to Eurostat at the end of the 49th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2018.