

Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts Management Group Meeting

16 July 2019, Teleconference

Summary Record

Present: Mariana Kotzeva (Chair), John Verrinder and Veijo Ritola (Eurostat); Louis Marc Ducharme and Gabriel Quiros (IMF); Martine Durand (OECD); Ivo Havinga, Herman Smith, Benson Sim and Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD), Eric Roland Metreau (World Bank).

1. Update on the subgroup activities

The ISWGNA: MG underlined the importance of keeping the SNA relevant for users and demonstrating progress to the UNSC. In this respect, it discussed SNA research agenda activities and welcomed the progress of the work in the subgroups of the ISWGNA Task Force (TF) on the SNA Research Agenda. Each subgroup is working respectively on one of three priority areas (globalization, digitalization as well as well-being and sustainability). All three groups are in the kick-off phase now and are working towards the upcoming meeting of the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts.

The ISWGNA:MG welcomed the work of Eurostat, IMF and OECD in their role as secretariat for the subgroups, UNSD in their role as overall coordinator of the three subgroups, and all members of the three subgroups, and noted the time constraint for the work of the subgroups providing initial draft issue papers/guidance notes for the upcoming AEG meeting in October, emphasizing that their rapid progress will be indispensable for allowing the ISWGNA MG to take an informed decision about the recommendations regarding the update of the SNA to the Commission in March 2020.

The ISWGNA:MG welcomed the planned methodological work of IMF on measuring the informal economy, which is related to issues in the priority area of digitalization.

The ISWGNA:MG requested an update of the work of the three subgroups at the end of October 2019 and suggested testing the proposed solutions to the issues by initiating pilots for the production of experimental data in developing countries.

2. Friends of the Chair Group on the future of economic statistics

The ISWGNA:MG took note of the work of the Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group on the Future of Economic Statistics. Following the outcome of the first meeting of the FOC Group in May 2019, a broad consultation with an agreed list of international and regional governance committees is scheduled on: a) the relevance and responsiveness of economic statistics in a fast changing policy and data landscape and b) the efficiency and effectiveness of the governance of the domain of economic statistics. The FOC Group will meet again in

November 2019, among others, to review the results of the broad consultation and prepare recommendations for the Statistical Commission in 2020.

The final version of the letter to the chairs of the governance committees will be sent by the Chair of the FOC Group as part of the consultation with the members of the FOC Group, which include all members of the ISWGNA. ISWGNA members were requested to provide their comments by 18 July 2019 to draft letter of the FOC Group, if they had not already done so.

3. Options for a possible 2008 SNA update process

The ISWGNA:MG noted the importance of identifying the issues within the priority areas that will affect the core SNA, as well as those involving satellite accounts and those that can be resolved with clarifications/interpretations of the existing SNA. The ISWGNA:MG stressed the importance for the subgroups to utilize the work that has already been done in their respective priority areas.

The ISWGNA:MG noted that the subgroups should be informed that they are : a) to report on issues beyond the core of the SNA in addition to clarifications and interpretations; b) to provide an innovative statistical response to maintain the relevance of the SNA; and c) to explore testing and experimentation of proposed changes and satellite extensions in developing countries and offer an nuanced implementation approach in developing countries taking into account the relevance of the changes and satellite extensions.

4. AEG matters

The ISWGNA:MG welcomed the draft annotated agenda for the next AEG meeting which will be held from 1-3 October in Washington D.C., hosted by the IMF.

The ISWGNA:MG endorsed the two candidates, recommended by the ISWGNA:NA, to fill the two vacancies for Asia and North America.

The ISWGNA:MG took note of two vacant positions for Latin America in the AEG and requested the ISWGNA:NA to collect the CVs for the proposed candidates for assessment.

5. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be decided in due course.