

Minutes

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts Teleconference January 11, 2006

Participants: F. Lequiller (OECD); A. Bloem, C. Gorter (IMF); D. Glatzel (Eurostat); I. Havinga, V. Vu, M. Csizmadia (UNSD); A. Harrison (Editor); C. Carson (Project Manager); B. Hexeberg (World Bank)

The final agenda is attached as Annex 1.

1 Forthcoming AEG meeting

(i) Status of issues and papers

All issue papers, with the exception of papers for issues #8 High Inflation; #25 Units; #32 Informal sector; #34 Government transactions with public corporations; #36 Public/private/government sectors delineation; #37 Granting and activation of guarantees; and #41 Merchanting have been posted on the web and distributed to the AEG.

Papers on issues #25 Units and #32 Informal sector are currently being developed, and are expected to be finalized by January 20. As only minor editing remains with regards to the other papers mentioned, they will be posted shortly.

(ii) Status of e-consultation

Due to low response rate on the e-consultation – so far only two AEG members have responded to all or most of the questions – the ISWGNA:NA agreed to send further reminders. A general reminder will be sent by the UNSD immediately, followed up by personal reminders by the chair a week later if needed.

(iii) Agenda

The UNSD will in cooperation with the project manager finalize the detailed agenda, and distribute to the ISWGNA:NA for comments/clearance. The final agenda should be posted on the web and distributed to the AEG by January 20 at the latest.

2 Country consultations

The UNSD informed that the country consultation on the recommendation made at the July 2005 AEG meeting so far has received more responses than previous consultation, and that a few more responses are expected.

It was noted that preliminary result of the country consultations show strong support for all except two recommendations. For issue #16 Government and other non-market producers: Cost of capital of own assets, views are more divided, although a majority is in favor of change. Thus,

the Project Manager and the UNSD agreed to review the responses - including the comments - in order to get a more detailed and comprehensive picture of the views. It was furthermore noted that a revised paper taking into account earlier comments and concerns raised, will be presented at the forthcoming AEG meeting.

Following previously established practice, the UNSD will prepare a paper for the AEG summarizing the outcome of the consultations.

3 Refinement of issue descriptions

The ISWGNA had at its October meeting agreed to review and refine the issue descriptions currently posted on the web. As of today, the majority of the description have been reviewed and refined by the sponsoring institution. Given that the remaining ones will be done as soon as possible, it was agreed that the Editor with assistance from the Project Manager will take the lead in editing the revised descriptions – looking in particular for consistency, style and correctness, before the ISWGNA:NA take the final look.

The final version will be shared with the AEG. The AEG will be invited to make written comments by a specific date (TBD).

4 Process of reaching final decisions

In order to allow for the possibility of internal discussions within the organizations before embarking on it in an ISWGNA:NA meeting, it was agreed to postpone the issue and arrange for a separate teleconference on January 25.

5 Session on the SNA Update at the April 25-28 Joint National Accounts meeting in Geneva

It was agreed that the Program Manager, as organizer of the sessions (altogether 1.5 days is allocated for the SNA Update), would come back to the ISWGNA:NA after the AEG meeting with a draft outline for the session developed. The outline would be prepared in cooperation with the OECD and the IMF. The Program Manager furthermore took on the job to find countries/NSOs that would be willing to contribute papers (issues still to be decided).

The UNSD noted that the issue of illegal and non-observed economy in the SNA could be discussed as part of the agenda for the last day of the meeting rather than as part of the “Update of the SNA” session.

6 Review of Actions from Previous Meeting

All except the following actions were either completed or in the works:

“Ask author of issue paper # 36 to include a reference to specific recommendations received on this issues.” – The Editor informed that this would be done ASAP.

“Submit name on presenters (for detailed agenda) to UNSD” – In order for the UNSD to finalize the detailed agenda, all organizations promised to act on this point ASAP. It follows that the detailed agenda had not yet been finalized either.

7. Upcoming ISWGNA Conference Call and Meetings

In addition to the meeting taking place in conjunction with the AEG meeting in Frankfurt: January 29 (pm); February 4 (pm) and 5; February 7 (pm); and February 9 (am), the ISWGNA:NA agreed to held teleconferences on January 19 and 25.

A meeting is also scheduled for April 24 (day before the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting in Geneva.)

8. Other

Declaration on Underground Economy. OECD who has prepared the declaration informed that all except one organization had agreed on the declaration so far, and that the last organization was also expected to sign off given some editorial changes.

Annex 1

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts Meeting Teleconference December 11, 2005

Agenda

- 1 Forthcoming AEG meeting
- 2 Country consultations
- 3 Refinement of issue descriptions
- 4 Process of reaching final recommendations
- 5 Session on the SNA update at the April 25-28 Joint National Accounts meeting in Geneva
- 6 Review of Actions from Previous Meeting
7. Upcoming ISWGNA Conference Call and Meetings
8. Other

Annex 2**Actions agreed upon**

	Action	By when	By whom
1	(i) Send reminders about e-consultation	ASAP	UNSD
	(ii) Send personal reminders as needed	Week later	Chair
2	Provide list of presenters to UNSD	ASAP	All
3	Report back to UNSD about the number of 1993 SNA (English edition) needed		Eurostat