

Minutes

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts Teleconference March 1, 2006

Participants: C. Aspden, J.-P. Dupuis (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)

1 Reports of the AEG meeting

Short report: The short report has been distributed to the AEG and posted on the web, for AEG comments by March 1. The Editor informed that she would revise the report accordingly, so that the final report could be posted for general access by mid March.

Long report: The Editor informed that she had received a draft of the long report from the Rapporteur, but that some work remained before the report could be released. The ISWGNE:NA noted that finalizing the long report would have lower priority than preparing the consolidated recommendations.

Consolidated recommendations: The AEG agreed that the consolidated recommendations should have priority with the Editor, as the plan is to send these recommendations for country consultation early April. As with regards to the length of this report and the degree of details that should be included, it was agreed that the Editor would draft text for a few issues, and seek comments from the ISWGN:NA. It was noted, however, that a total of 50 pages seemed reasonable, as it would allow about one page per issue – less for some, more for others. A timetable for the evolution of this report to the end of the year submission to the UN Statistical Commission 2007 will be determined later.

Translation of reports: The ISWGNA:NA had earlier opted for translation of the short report into Spanish and French, to increase participation in the country consultation. However, as the consolidated recommendations of all four AEG meetings will go for country consultation together with the outcome of the latest AEG meeting, it was agreed that a better solution would be to opt for translation of the consolidated recommendations. Statistics Canada has already offered to translate the report into Russian (and into French and Spanish as needed).

2 Leases & licenses; government permits

Following up on the outcome of the AEG meeting, the secretariat of the Canberra II Group (OECD) had developed examples relating to the suggested treatments of leases and licenses. The OECD informed that these would be distributed to the ISWGNA:NA for review shortly.

The IMF informed that they had developed a more broad based paper, setting out criteria for how to account for the full range of leases & licenses, and government permits in the national accounts. The idea behind having a more broad based paper was to make sure the suggested treatments for the different sorts of leases, licenses and permits are internally consistent. The paper will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Task Force for Harmonization of Public

Sector Accounting (TFHPSA), and the considerations coming out of the TFHPSA will be reported back to the ISWGNA:NA. The ISWGNA:NA noted that this paper should be in line with the partial recommendations already reached by the AEG. It was also asked that the paper be shared with the ISWGNA:NA when distributed to the TFHPSA members.

3 Follow ups from AEG meeting

The ISWGNA reviewed the list of issues identified in the short report as in need of further work. It was noted that a reminder should be distributed together with the revised short report to those AEG members that had volunteered to make further contributions on some of the issues.

With regards to consistency issues, it was noted that the first step would be to establish an environment for electronic discussion groups on the Update web-site. It was furthermore noted that each issue should be dealt with separately although under a common umbrella. The UNSD, Editor and Program Manager will work on the development of these discussion groups, and report back to the meeting at a later stage.

4 Progress report of the Project Manager

The meeting noted that the report had been cleared by the ISWGNA:MG, and that it would be distributed as a room document at the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) and posted on the Update web site.

5 SNA News and Notes

For the spring issues of the SNA News and Notes, the following articles were suggested:

- 1993 SNA Update: Selected issues with recommendations from latest AEG meeting (UNSD)
- Declaration on estimates of the underground economy (OECD/ISWGNA)
- Statistical developments in Cuba (NSO Cuba)
- Notice on accessibility of materials related to the Update on the UNSD web site

The deadline for contributions will be mid-April. All ISWGNA organizations were asked to submit information on forthcoming events (seminars and training courses) and new manuals (in progress or finalized).

6 Other

Joint OECD/Eurostat/UN-ECE meeting on National Accounts, Geneva, April 2006: The ISWGNA:NA reviewed the agenda for the 1.5 day session on the Update, and agreed on some changes. The possibility of extending the session on pension schemes was mentioned. The Program Manager noted that she would revise and distribute the revised agenda, as well as ask the UN-ECE about the possibility for extending the time allocated for discussion of the above mentioned issue.

Calendar: The Program Manager reminded the ISWGN:NA that feedback on and input to the calendar on updating related events were welcome by cob March 5.

6 Next meeting

In addition to the meeting taking place in Geneva, April 24, a teleconference was tentatively agreed for March 17.

Annex 1

Actions Agreed upon

	Action	By when	Responsible
1	Revise the short report and distribute to AEG with reminder to volunteers	ASAP	Editor
2	Supply examples of consolidated recommendations	By March 15	Editor
3	Distribute paper on leases, licenses and permits to ISWGNA	ASAP	IMF
4	Prepare EDGs for consistency issues		UNSD, Editor and Project Manager
5	Provide input to SNA News and Notes	By mid April	All
6	Revise agenda for the Update session at the NA meeting in Geneva	ASAP	Project Manager