

MINUTES

ISWGNA NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS MEETING MARCH 18, 2007

Participants

Eurostat: C. Ravets

IMF: K. Zieschang (Chair), A. Bloem

OECD: F. Lequiller

UNSD: Ivo Havinga, V. Vu

UNECE: T. Dimova

World Bank: B. Hexeberg

1993 SNA Update project: C. Carson (Project Manager), A. Harrison (Editor),

P. McCarthy (raconteur).

1 Preparation for the AEG meeting

Topics discussed included

- a review of the meeting documents in the binders that UNSD prepared,
- discussion of Carol's guidelines for chairpersons and presenters,
- time allocations for agenda items, preparation of the report of the meeting on a flow basis, with participant review of the previous day's proceedings, and
- conditional arrangements for ISWGNA:NA members to meet during the week should issues arise.

2 Longer term topics

Adjustments to the drafting, comment, and review process

The meeting agreed that time constraints on completing the drafting process for the revised core framework of the *1993 SNA, Rev. 1* necessitated

- Merging the existing "eagle eye" review undertaken prior to posting chapter drafts on the UN website with the substantive review undertaken after collection of comments. By implication, the ISWGNA will post draft chapters directly to the website for comment and subject to a single technical and substantive edit after comment is collected.
- Producing an "editor-friendly" organization of comments. The meeting agreed to attach comments to paragraphs in .pdf versions of the chapters, and revise the comment web forms on the UN website for newly posted chapters to focus contributed comments on the 44 issues, with reference to the relevant paragraph numbers in the text up for comment.

The Statistical Commission's decision to break the deliverables for the 1993 SNA, Rev. 1 into two components.

The meeting considered a logical break point for the two components of the manual and discussed several proposals. ISWGNA:NA agreed to come to a decision on the chapter composition of the two parts in its next meeting to convene immediately after the AEG.

The subject of codes came up in this discussion, revisiting an earlier decision to defer assignment of revised transaction, asset, and balancing item codes until after the text is final. There was some basis for concern that waiting this long could cause an unnecessarily extensive revision of the existing SNA coding structure, which already is built into a number of databases and a pilot electronic data transmission protocol. The ISWGNA:NA agreed to table this for discussion at its post-AEG meeting.

Pending substantive issues

The meeting agreed that the Statistical Commission decision earlier in the month had effectively come to resolution on recommendations concerning the five issues of the consolidated list of 44 on which achieving consensus had been difficult.

3 Other business

None.

4 Next meeting

The meeting decided to have its next conference on March 24 at 9:30 am Eastern U.S. time.

5 To-do list

Action	By when	Responsible	Status
None, pending the outcome of the AEG meeting			