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The reflection of women's contribution to production in the 1993 SNA

Women will be the subject of the next UN-Conference which will be held in Beijing in September 1995. A statistics publication, *The World's Women 1995*, is one of the conference documents. This book presents statistical summaries of women and men in work, family life, education, health and public life. Similar material relating to countries of the UN/ECE region is presented in the publication *Women and Men in Europe and North America 1995*, which ECE, INSTRAW, Eurostat and Statistics Sweden are jointly producing as a contribution to the conference.

Central framework and satellite accounts

The 1993 revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) has made the System much more flexible to respond to various social concerns such as poverty or gender issues. In order to maintain the links to other statistical standards such as on labour market, governmental, financial, or monetary statistics, the revision of the *central framework* of the SNA concentrated primarily on updating and

Household production

As far as *household production* is concerned, the central framework includes for the first time all production of goods in households, whether sold or not, and services if they are supplied to units other than their producers. This clarification of the production boundary results in the incorporation of quite a few activities in which women are active participants in the production process, such as the production and processing of agricultural, dairy and fishery products, including the production of butter and cheese on the farm, the preservation of meat and fish, the production of flour by milling, weaving, dress making, tailoring, the production of footwear, the production of baskets and mats, pottery, the carrying of water, etc. Personal services for own final consumption within the same house-

As is stated in *The World's Women 1995*, the lack of concrete knowledge about the activities of women has been a major impediment to the formulation of policies and programmes, at both the national and international levels, to achieve equality. Revisions of international statistical standards and methodologies may be one tool to overcome these impediments. The 1993 SNA is one of these tools. Some of its features which are reflecting women's contribution to production are discussed in that publication and some ideas will be summarized below.

clarifying concepts of the previous System. In the *satellite accounts*, however, extended definitions of the production boundary can be applied where the restrictions of being in line with other statistical systems are eased in favour of in-depth analysis of the real magnitude and economic significance of the production of personal services within the household.

hold such as preparing meals, child care, elderly care, house-cleaning, transport and leisure services (except for services produced by employing paid domestic staff) are excluded because of measurement and valuation problems.

Satellite extensions, however, allow for the incorporation of *imputed values* in addition to market values. Much progress has been made in measuring the quantity and value of personal services. *Time-use studies* enable to quantify the amount of time devoted by men and women for these services. The latest results of selected *country studies* of the relative importance of men's and women's contribution to household production are very revealing and some of them are described in *The World's Women 1995*.

European Union

IMF

OECD

United Nations

World Bank

Revised national accounts questionnaire

In order to minimize the burden of response to the new questionnaire, individual countries will receive only one questionnaire in the future, from either UNSD, OECD or Eurostat. To ensure compatibility between the three questionnaires, it has been agreed that the UNSD questionnaire will be a subset of the OECD questionnaire, which in turn will be a subset of a more detailed Eurostat questionnaire.

UNSD has tentative plans to implement its revised questionnaire in 1998 requesting data for the years 1995-1997. Ultimately the United Nations Statistical Commission will decide on the exact date based on the level of progress made by countries in implementing the 1993 SNA. Eurostat and OECD are planning to implement the revised questionnaire in 1999 requesting data for the years 1995-1998. UNSD is currently revising the first draft of the new questionnaire which had been sent for comments to the five UN Regional Commissions. After a third and final meeting between Eurostat, OECD and UNSD scheduled for September 1995, UNSD is planning to send a copy of the new questionnaire to countries so that they can make plans well in advance for implementation.

1993 SNA soon on CD-ROM! Save when you order now!

The book version of the 1993 SNA became a bestseller. Soon, the book version will be also available on CD-ROM. SNA-CD will be a complete electronic version of the 1993 System of National Accounts book publication with a wealth of new electronic functions made possible by this new medium. These will include an easy-to-browse, user-friendly interface, collapsible multi-level table of contents, back of the book index with embedded jumps to referenced paragraphs, pop-up definitions, full-text searches and built-in hot links to spreadsheets. SNA-CD is currently in the beta test phase. It will work under a PC Windows environment and can be installed on a LAN.

SNA-CD will be available for sale at the end of 1995, priced at US\$120. Pre-publication orders may be placed now for a *special price of US\$90*. To place your SNA-CD order, contact UN Publications, 2 UN Plaza, DC2-853, New York, NY 10017, Phone 1-800-253-9446 (in U.S.A. only) or +(212) 963-8302; Fax +(212) 963-3489.

Manuals and handbooks

In the second half of 1995 an **Input-Output Handbook** will be circulated by UNSD for comments.

End of 1995 Eurostat will present its **Handbook on Regional Accounts** and end of 1996 a **Handbook on Quarterly Accounts**.

OECD has completed drafts of manuals on **Inflation Accounting** and on methods of estimating **Value added in Service Activities at Constant Prices** which will be published during 1995.

FAO prepared a handbook on **Economic Accounts for Agriculture** which is now circulated for comments.

IMF will revise two of its manuals. The **Manual on Monetary and Financial Statistics** will be available end 1996; the revision of the **Manual on Government Finance Statistics** may be ready end of 1998.

Meetings and seminars

A workshop on the regional cooperation for the **Implementation of the 1993 SNA** was organized by UNSD in cooperation with the Portuguese Statistical Office in Guinea Bissau from 10 to 21 April 1995. A Portuguese translation of the 1993 SNA was presented at the workshop.

From 1 to 3 May 1995, the first meeting of the **Sub-Group on Social Classifications** was held in Washington, D.C.

OECD and ECE held a joint **Meeting of National Accounts Experts** in Paris from 9 to 12 May 1995.

Eurostat has planned a **Workshop for Central and Eastern European Countries** in Prague, Czech Republic, in October 1995.

The second meeting of the **Expert Group on International Classifications** will be held end of October 1995 in New York.

A regional seminar on the **Implementation of the 1993 SNA** organized by the Central Bank of Venezuela in collaboration with ECLAC will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 13 to 17 November 1995.

Translations of the 1993 SNA

The 1993 SNA will be published in all six official languages of the United Nations. As was already reported in the last SNA News and Notes 1/1995, translations into the other five official languages started as soon as the final English manuscript was ready. The updated publication dates by the United Nations are as follows:

- *Arabic* in early 1996,
- *Chinese* in early 1996,
- *French* in mid 1996,
- *Russian* in early 1996, and
- *Spanish* in mid 1996.

Feature article

The experience of the Dominican Republic in the process of implementing the 1993 SNA

by Olga Diaz Mora

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The national accounts of the Dominican Republic are prepared by the Central Bank. In the beginning of 1993, a project for the 'Modernization of the National Accounts' was initiated, the stated objective of which was twofold:

- (i) to compile a new base year, and
- (ii) to implement the standards of the 1993

SNA.

This project was supported technically by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and was co-financed by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), USAID (US Agency for International Development) and the Central Bank.

The project was designed in three phases: Phase I - also called the pilot phase of the project - lasted approximately nine months. With the help of the micro-computer based compilation methodology developed by UNSD, an adequate accounting framework was established. National staff received 'on the job training' by using the framework for a tentative compilation of 1991 data. The results of this study were presented in a symposium to national users and producers of macroeconomic information.

The focus of phase II (16 months) was to improve the preliminary estimates and to further disaggregate information on certain economic activities, in order to complete the base-year calculations for 1991. The accounting system includes

now an extensive supply and use table (250 products, 31 economic activities), integrated economic accounts for 16 institutional sectors (grouped into five main sectors), ranging from the production account to the financial account, and a cross-classification table. A square input-output table was compiled as an integral part of the system.

The target of phase III is to complete a series of four years (1991-1994) in constant and current prices by the end of the project programme (1996). It is precisely an important feature of the computerized compilation framework that once it has been implemented it facilitates and accelerates the compilation process for subsequent years. It is planned to disseminate the results of the project via an international seminar to be organized in the Dominican Republic in 1996 and through a document entitled "The experience of the Dominican Republic in the process of implementing the 1993 SNA."

Phase III will also mark the beginning of specialized extensions and applications of the national accounts: As the tourism sector represents an important part of the Dominican economy, contacts with the World Tourism Organization have been established in order to elaborate satellite accounts for tourism. Furthermore an extension of the national accounts to include selected environmental concerns is planned. Concerning the analytical use of the newly created national accounts data base, an economic model will be constructed with the technical support of the Institute of Economic Analysis at New York University, in order to analyze various economic scenarios for the future.

The treatment of lotteries in the 1993 SNA

by Kevin W. O'Connor

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The 1993 SNA does not discuss at length the treatment of lotteries as producers of services or the treatment of the profits that are transferred from lotteries to government. The 1993 SNA does make it clear (paragraph 8.97) that the total payment for lottery tickets is composed of two elements, a service charge paid to the lottery organization and the amount of winnings paid. The winnings are treated as direct current transfers between households, with the lottery organization acting, in effect, as an agent. The gross output of the lottery organization is, therefore, the difference between the receipts from sale of lottery tickets and the amount of winnings paid. In the case of lottery tickets on which a tax is paid, the gross output may be measured at basic prices by excluding the tax.

A question has been raised by a number of national compilers as to whether public lotteries should be treated as ordinary public corporations whose payments to government out of operating surplus should be classified as property income, or as fiscal monopolies, in which case the payments to government should be treated as taxes on products (D 214). The 1993 SNA describes fiscal monopolies as public corporations, public quasi-corporations, or government-owned unincorporated enterprises that have been granted a legal monopoly over the production or distribution of a particular kind of good or service in order to raise revenue

and not in order to further the interest of public economic or social policy. As public lotteries are invariably established to raise revenue (although they may not constitute true monopolies), the argument is made that they should be treated as fiscal monopolies.

Treating publicly owned lottery corporations or quasi-corporations as fiscal monopolies rather than ordinary public corporations would reduce value added measured at basic prices and operating surplus of the nonfinancial corporations sector. GDP would not change as the payments to government would be treated as part of taxes less subsidies on products, which must be added to the sum of sectoral value added to arrive at GDP. Taxes on products received by government would increase and property income would decrease. Both primary and disposable income of government would be the same under both treatments.

Comments from national compilers are welcome on the following questions:

- (i) are the public lotteries treated as fiscal monopolies in your country or as ordinary public corporations;
- (ii) do you believe that public lotteries should be treated as fiscal monopolies in national accounts; and
- (iii) if public lotteries are treated as fiscal monopolies, should national statistics on government revenue record transfers of lottery profits as taxes on products?

Editorial note

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