

## ISWGNA Meeting

01 April 2020

### Minutes

Participants: Ivo Havinga (chair), Herman Smith, Benson Sim and Jonathan Gessendorfer (UNSD); John Verrinder (Eurostat); Peter van de Ven, Jorrit Zwijnenburg, John Mitchell and Nadim Ahmad (OECD); Eric Métreau and Jose Pablo Valdes Martinez (World Bank); Jim Tebrake, Jennifer Ribarsky, David Bailey and Margarida Martins (IMF); Tihomira Dimova, Rami Peltola and Carsten Boldsen (UNECE)

#### 1. Standardized terminology for the update process of statistical standards

The ISWGNA welcomed the note prepared by the IMF on the process and governance terminology for the update of statistical standards in the field of economic statistics. Using a standardized terminology will ease communication about the update and governance process of the standards, both in the cross-cutting areas of work of the various stakeholders and expert groups as well as in communications with the users of the standards. A consistent process and terminology will be particularly important for the cross-cutting work on the SNA, the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM) and other related statistical standards and manuals.

ISWGNA members were requested to provide written comments by 3 April 2020 and the IMF will incorporate all the comments to the extent possible by 10 April.

The revised note will be shared with the relevant stakeholders like the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM), the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) experts, and the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics to liaise with other statistical groups.

#### 2. Joint SNA BPM task teams

The ISWGNA discussed the draft Terms of Reference documents of the joint SNA/BPM Task Teams on the informal economy and on reinvested earnings, and agreed to submit a written response by 10 April 2020. It was emphasized that the joint Task Team on the informal economy should coordinate its work with the work of the ILO on the informal economy to avoid duplication. In addition, the ISWGNA agreed to consider, by 10 April 2020, whether additional joint Task Teams are necessary to ensure harmonization with the SNA and BPM updates.

#### 3. Outline for the SNA update programme

The ISWGNA discussed a draft outline of the SNA update programme that will include the issues for review, governance, consultations, time table, resource requirements, and the alignment with the revision cycles of other major statistical manuals and relevant classifications standards, for the purpose of consistency between the statistical standards. Where appropriate, ISWGNA members will provide written

comments on the document to UNSD by 3 April 2020. UNSD will circulate, by 10 April 2020, the revised draft for further comments.

#### **4. Business continuity**

To address the challenges in the field of statistics that arose with the COVID-19 pandemic, the IMF prepared business continuity notes, the OECD created a secured digital workspace that is intended for countries to discuss challenges and potential solutions, UNECE created wiki space with support materials, and the UNSD created a global website on the COVID-19 response. The ISWGNA agreed to a collective response by its members, and the response to be agile and responsive. In this spirit, the ISWGNA will jointly support and moderate the discussions related to National Accounts on the OECD platform. Also the business continuity notes will be joint notes from all members to be translated to all UN official languages, but considered living documents and to be updated whenever necessary. The OECD digital workspace, the UNSD website, and the business continuity notes being part of the joint response will be communicated by all ISWGNA organizations to their respective constituencies. Where appropriate, ISWGNA members will provide comments on the business continuity notes to the IMF by 3 April 2020, while the OECD will prepare a short note on the OECD platform and share it with the other ISWGNA members by 3 April 2020.

#### **5. Government support measures and next ISWGNA meeting**

The ISWGNA discussed the development of guidance on the recording of government support measures and agreed to schedule another meeting for 3 April 2020, focusing on this topic.

#### **6. Next ISWGNA meeting**

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