

**7th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
23-25 April 2012, New York**

Agenda item 4

Handbook on Input Output Table Compilation and Analysis

Project Management Framework

Revision of the UN Handbook on Input Output Table Compilation and Analysis

Background

1. The 2008 System of national accounts recognises input-output framework as an integral tool of the national accounts compilation in a coherent and consistent manner. The input-output framework consists of supply tables, use tables and symmetric input-output tables. The supply and use framework enables detailed analysis of industries and products through a breakdown of the production account, the goods and services account and the generation of income account. These tables show the structure of the costs of production and income generated in the production process, the flow of goods and services produced in the economy and the flow of goods and services with the rest of the world. Besides the supply and use table framework helps in validation of the source data.
2. Recognising the importance of the supply and use tables and the input-output tables, the United Nations has issued handbooks from time to time providing compilation guidance to help countries compile these tables, the last being in 1999. Revision of the international standards for macro-economic accounting and classifications like the 2008 SNA, BPM-6 and ISIC Rev. 4, require that United Nations Handbook of Input Output Table Compilation and Analysis (hereinafter referred to as *UN IO Handbook*) to be revised. Besides, the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics have identified the need to update the Handbook as part of main building blocks of the statistical production process with a particular emphasis of the input-output framework being a statistical tool for data reconciliation and an organisational and management tool for the statistical production process itself.
3. Lack of appropriate data sources and existence of informal sector enterprises pose challenges in countries with less developed statistical systems for exhaustive measurement of economic activities. It is proposed to devote a separate chapter in the revised *UN IO Handbook* to compilation issues of countries with less developed statistical systems. The revised *UN IO Handbook* would also address the issues related to the use of the input-output framework for producing a coherent set of the short-term economic statistics and quarterly national accounts. The proposed outline of the *UN IO Handbook* is provided in the Annex.

Objective of the revised Handbook

4. The objective is to provide guidance for compilation of a set supply tables, use tables and symmetric input-output tables and analysis based on good practices. It should target both developed and less developed statistical systems and take into account existing materials (including the Eurostat's publication Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables , ECA Handbook on Supply and Use Table: Compilation, Application and Practices relevant to Africa.
5. It will clarify typology, concepts of supply, use and import tables, definitions, and valuations and provide practical compilation guidance. It should cover new measurement

areas such as goods for processing, merchanting, physical input output tables and the like. It should also demonstrate the integration between benchmark, annual and quarterly national accounts and short term economic statistics and the integration with sector accounts. Moreover, it should present the update of annual and quarterly tables in current and constant prices. Also it should demonstrate the preparation of symmetric input-output tables and its application in policy applications and the accessibility of supply and use and input-output tables through web dissemination.

6. The initial outline of the Handbook is annexed.

Monitoring and reporting

7. It is proposed to establish a Steering Group that will oversee the drafting of the revised *UN IO Handbook*.

8. The main tasks of the Steering Group will be to establish and monitor a detailed time table of intermediate and final deliverables, create an international working group of reputed input-output table specialists, draft the initial outline, identify contributing authors and report at regular instances on the progress to the ISWGNA. The AEG will be asked to take a final review of the document. It is expected that the Handbook will be submitted to the Statistical Commission in 2014.

9. The actual drafting will be undertaken through contributions of the experts of the international working group. The proposed draft chapters shall be discussed by the working group either electronically or in a face-to-face meeting depending upon the extent and content of the proposed drafts. It is expected that UNSD will convene one international expert meeting in 2013 to review and endorse the draft.

10. To ensure the transparency and the participation of the global statistical community, the progressive drafts of the Handbook will be made available on the UNSD website.

Tentative time table

The following tentative time table has been drawn up:

2012

- Establishment of steering group and international working group
- Finalisation of draft outline
- Drafting of the chapters of the Handbook

2013

- Drafting of chapters of the Handbook
- Progress report to ISWGNA and AEG
- Expert group meeting
- Regional and country consultations

2014

- Presentation of final draft to AEG and ISWGNA

Finalisation of Handbook incorporating comments
Intimation to the Statistical Commission for endorsement

Methods of work

Work will be carried out using e-mail and audio-conferences.

Membership of Steering Group and International Working Group

To be determined.

Annex

Revision of the UN Handbook on Input Output Table Compilation and Analysis

Provisional Table of Contents

Compilation Guidance

Chapter 1: The input-output framework

Chapter 2: Compilation principles and methods

Chapter 3: Supply and use tables as an integrated part of the compilation of national accounts

Chapter 4: The supply table

Chapter 5: The use table

Chapter 6: The valuation matrices

Chapter 7: Import matrices

Chapter 8: Balancing supply and use

Chapter 9: Supply and use tables at constant prices

Chapter 10: Tables linking supply and use tables to sector accounts

Chapter 11: Transformation of supply and use tables to symmetric input-output tables

Chapter 12: Supplementary information and disaggregation of expenditures

Extensions and applications:

Chapter 13: Extended input-output tables as part of satellite systems

Chapter 14: Updating and projecting input-output tables

Chapter 15: Applications

Chapter 16: IO compilation in countries with less developed statistical systems

Chapter 17: Computer programmes, web dissemination methods etc.

Chapter 18: IO as framework for producing coherent short-term statistics and QNA

Chapter 19: Physical IO tables, extensions with employment, capital, energy and environmental matrices and the compilation of standard impact tables.