

**9th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
8-10 September 2014, Washington DC**

Agenda item: 1.1

Implementation of the 2008 SNA

Introduction

The global initiative for the implementation of the 2008 SNA, endorsed by the UNSC, is based on an integrated statistics approach. With the adoption of this approach, the programme on the implementation of the SNA has broadened its scope beyond the production of macroeconomic accounts to the whole statistical production process of basic statistics and aspects of the institutional environment to facilitate the regular and sustained compilation of the accounts. The ISWGNA reports annually to the Statistical Commission on the activities of the ISWGNA and the AEG to facilitate the implementation of the SNA and addressing issues on the SNA research agenda.

Documentation provided

An abstract of the report of the forty-fifth session of the Commission reflection its decision on National Accounts.

The report of the ISWGNA to the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

Main issues to be discussed

The AEG is requested to provide guidance on the activities of the ISWGNA and the AEG.

**Statistical Commission
Report on the forty-fifth session¹
(4-7 March 2014)**

National accounts Decision 45/104

The Statistical Commission:

- a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts², and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Working Group over the past year.
- b) Endorsed the programme of work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, appreciated the priority given to addressing issues emerging from the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*³ (2008 SNA), urged the Working Group to expedite resolving such issues, and requested the Working Group to report on the outcomes to the Commission in due course;
- c) Expressed appreciation for the activities undertaken by international organizations, regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries providing technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics;
- d) Appreciated the progress on the completion of a number of manuals, handbooks and guidelines that facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, urged the Working Group to expedite the development of the handbooks and guidelines within a stipulated timeline, and requested that these materials be made available in all the official languages of the United Nations;
- e) Requested the Working Group, the regional commissions and other international and regional organizations to harmonize the collection, validation and dissemination of the data collected from countries to avoid unnecessary duplication, taking into consideration the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange data transmission mechanism;
- f) Welcomed the report prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, in consultation with the Advisory Expert Group, selected countries and the Working Group, on ways to scale up the coordination, the advocacy and the resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA at the national level;
- g) Recognized that to scale up the coordination, the advocacy and the resources for the implementation of the 2008 SNA at the national level requires an integrated statistics approach, adopted by the Commission for the global initiative on the implementation of the

¹ E/2014/24 E/CN.3/2014/35 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-Report-E.pdf>

² E/CN.3/2014/5 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-5-SNA-E.pdf>

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

2008 SNA and supporting statistics and building on, and in support of, the ongoing regional statistical capacity development programmes;

h) Confirmed that the scope of a capacity-building programme on integrated statistics and its ramifications for coordination and global governance mechanisms of such a programme extends beyond the remit of the mandate of the Working Group;

i) Expressed the significant need for technical assistance to many developing countries in adopting an integrated statistics programme in support of the implementation of the 2008 SNA, in this context requested the development of an integrated business statistics programme and related guidelines on programme management;

j) Recognized that countries should take ownership of the required actions for strengthening the statistical production process, institutional arrangements, and a communication strategy with users, to facilitate the compilation of the required scope and detail of economic statistics and national accounts, based on country priorities for evidence based policymaking;

k) Supported the formation of a “friends of the chair” group to work out the modalities for establishing a harmonized integrated statistics programme, focusing on overcoming national issues in producing internationally comparable macroeconomic accounts, taking into consideration existing statistical capacity development programmes in close collaboration with the regional commissions and other international and regional organizations.