

**13th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
Washington, D.C., USA, 01-03 October 2019**

Reference Material: RM.4

Decisions on National Accounts of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its Fiftieth session, 5-8 March 2019

Documentation

Statistical Commission – Report of the Fiftieth session, also available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/2019-8-NationalAccounts-E.pdf>

Statistical Commission, fiftieth session
5–8 March 2019
B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council
50/108 National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,12 expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Working Group, the regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2019 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;
- (b) Also welcomed the establishment of dedicated work streams to review the relevance of the 2008 SNA for measuring new economic and social developments (digitalization, globalization and well-being and sustainability), expressed support for a broad user-centred consultation on the development of SNA, and requested the Working Group to report back to the Commission at its fifty-first session and to submit, for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-first session, a way forward in updating SNA;
- (c) Requested the Working Group to continue to develop practical guidance on such issues as the informal economy, Islamic finance and facilitating the implementation of the 2008 SNA through manuals, handbooks and guidelines, and welcomed the progress with the programme of work to create a collaborative environment of trusted tools, methods, learning materials and partners for statistical capacity-building targeting the least developed countries, small island developing States and fragile States with the aim of ensuring that no country is left behind;
- (d) Expressed concern that there are still a relatively large number of Member States that do not comply with the minimum required scope and detail of national accounts data, and urged those countries with a low level of compliance to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts;
- (e) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts and recognized that the implementation of the SDMX protocols by countries will facilitate data transmission and thereby significantly reduce the response burden in submitting data to international organizations