

**14th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
5-9 October 2020, Virtual Meeting**

Reference Material: RM.4

**Decisions on National Accounts of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its fifty-
first session, 3-6 March 2020**

Documentation

Statistical Commission – Report of the fifty-first session, also available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/2020-37-FinalReport-E.pdf>

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Statistical Commission, fifty-first session
3-6 March 2020

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council
51/106 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 System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2020 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;
- b) Also welcomed the progress of dedicated work streams on resolving the priority issues on the SNA research agenda related to digitalization, globalization, and well-being and sustainability, and expressed support for a broad user-centred consultation, including the United Nations global forum on economic statistics, on the development of SNA;
- c) Endorsed the option of a continuous SNA revision cycle that provides for the drafting of guidance notes on emerging research issues for experimentation by both developed and developing countries with implementation of the new guidance before a major update of SNA, and noted the interest of several Member States in participating in the experimentation and testing of the forthcoming guidance notes;
- d) Requested the Working Group to submit, for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-second session in 2021, a road map for the revision of SNA for adoption by the Commission in 2025, including the resource requirements, taking into account the required alignment of the revision cycles of other major statistical manuals and relevant classifications standards for the purpose of consistency between the manuals and classification standards;
- e) Requested the Working Group to continue to develop practical guidance on such issues as the informal economy and Islamic finance and facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA through manuals, handbooks and guidelines;

- f) Welcomed the establishment of the subgroup on communication by the Working Group to develop more user-friendly terminology, communication about the revision cycle and sharing of research results, and compliance with SNA recommendations;
- g) Acknowledged that the approach for updating SNA, presented in the report, is aligned with the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair group on economic statistics for establishing a more agile and responsive system of economic statistics;
- h) 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, while recognizing the role of the international and regional organizations in continued capacity-building;
- i) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts, 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, and requested the Working Group to continue supporting the implementation of SDMX.