

TASK TEAM ON WELLBEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

PROGRESS UPDATE



Catherine Van Rompaey

15th Meeting of the Advisory Expert
Group on National Accounts

April 8, 2021

Wellbeing and sustainability task team

Co-chairs: Catherine Van Rompaey (World Bank) and Carol Coy (Statistical Institute of Jamaica) **Secretariat:** Peter van de Ven, Jorrit Zwijnenburg, Virginie Elgrably (OECD)

Six area groups:

1. A Broader SNA framework for Wellbeing and Sustainability

➤ Catherine Van Rompaey, World Bank

2. Distributions of household income, consumption saving and wealth

➤ Amanda Seneviratne, Australian Bureau of Statistics

3. Unpaid household service work

➤ Chris Payne, UK Office for National Statistics

4. Labour, education and human capital

➤ Michael Smedes, Australian Bureau of Statistics

5. Health and social conditions

➤ Dylan Rassier, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

6. Environmental-economic accounting – *multiple guidance notes on specific issues*

➤ Joe St-Lawrence, Statistics Canada

Status of guidance notes

Last meeting of AEG in October

Proposed guidance

- Distributions of household income, consumption, saving and wealth
- Unpaid household service work
- Health and social conditions
- Economic ownership and depletion of natural resources

➤ *Incorporated feedback, drafted revised guidance*

Initial discussions

- Accounting for biological resources
- Emissions permits: the atmosphere as an asset

➤ *More developed versions in progress for later presentation to AEG*

Status of guidance notes

Presented to AEG today

- Labour accounts, education and human capital
- Emissions in the national accounts

Environmental-economic accounting

In progress:

- Accounting for biological resources
- Provisions
- Valuation methods
- Renewable energy resources

Under consideration:

- SEEA classifications
- Recording of losses
- Distinction between tax and service transaction

Impacts by domain: overview

Distributions for the household sector

Increased granularity within the central framework; slightly adapted alternative concepts and classifications to facilitate micro-macro linkages.

Households' unpaid service work

Extended alternative concepts as a complement to traditional measures; new granularity in time units and demographics.

Health and social conditions

Increased prominence of the health care sector, rethink of existing classifications and increased detail; minor conceptual adjustments; refinement of real measures.

Labour, education and human capital:

New labour accounts in physical units, new detail on education and training, extended alternative human capital assets.

Impacts by domain: overview

Environmental-economic accounting:

Ownership and depletion of natural resources

Increased emphasis on new depletion-adjusted net measures, sectored according to SNA economic ownership principles.

Biological resources

Rethink of SNA production and asset concepts, for example for cultivated assets, to better align with the SEEA.

Treatment of emissions permits

Consideration of the atmosphere as an asset, with implications for both the SNA and the SEEA.

In progress: Broader framework

Better specifying and integrating outputs from individual domains

- Assessment of new classification breakdowns
 - Discussion note drafted to identify links between 5 subdomains
 - Working on visual diagram to summarize overall impacts
- More detailed information on proposed outputs and specific SNA impacts requested from task team leads
 - Analysis in process, follow up meeting targeted for later this month

Working on terms/language in relation to impacts

- *Impacts on core accounts/central framework*
- *Extended/alternative concepts*
- *Supplementary tables*

Does the AEG agree?

1. *The four revised guidance notes can be sent for global consultation*

- Distributions of household income, consumption, saving and wealth
 - Unpaid household service work
 - Health and social conditions
 - Economic ownership and depletion of natural resources
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- Additional comments helpful, but not fundamental, response low
 - Propose to seek input on work underway, relevance, feasibility, required infrastructure and statistical capacity

2. *Extensive testing is not required in these cases*

- Well-developed guidance available in satellite account frameworks
- Extensive practical experience in compilation
 - Must assess suitability/priority in countries with limited capacity