

**16th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
12-14 July 2021, Remote Meeting**

Reference Material: RM.4

Decisions on National Accounts of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its Fifty-second session, 1–3 and 5 March 2021

Documentation

Statistical Commission – Report of the Fifty-second session, also available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/52nd-session/documents/2021-30-FinalReport-E.pdf>

Statistical Commission, fifty-second session
12-14 July 2021
B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council
52/106
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,¹ expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 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 2021 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group;
- (b) Endorsed the work programme for the update of the 2008 SNA and timeline for undertaking technical research, engaging in broad consultations and ensuring overall consistency with the other manuals of the system of economic statistics, but noted that the programme for updating the 2008 SNA is ambitious and will require significant resources from the statistical community;
- (c) Expressed its appreciation for the in-kind contributions and the willingness of some Member States to contribute also financially to the update programme of the 2008 SNA;
- (d) Welcomed the progress made on the preparation and elaboration of guidance on the relevant issues for the update of the 2008 SNA, encouraged Member States to participate in the evaluation process and experimentation and testing of the feasibility of the recommendations of guidance notes, emphasized the need for coordination and collaboration between countries and subregional, regional and international agencies to facilitate the experimentation and testing of the guidance notes, and stressed the importance of providing financial and in-kind support to countries with limited resources;
- (e) Welcomed the work to develop guidance for measuring the digital economy, the informal economy, unpaid household service work, household income and wealth distribution, Islamic finance and global production arrangements, and the alignment of the system of health accounts, stressed that the monitoring and analysis of well-being and sustainability should not compromise, but rather enhance traditional analyses for macroeconomic statistics in extended or supplementary tables and thereby carefully consider the impact on the core accounts of SNA, and supported the work on developing the compilers' hub, digitizing of international statistical and classification standards, and enhancing the communication mechanisms for macroeconomic statistics;
- (f) Noted the need for an adequate statistical infrastructure, including statistical business registers, legal framework and technology infrastructure to implement the proposed recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA;

¹ [E/CN.3/2021/8](#).

(g) Expressed its appreciation for the guidance notes developed by the Working Group on the recording of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) support measures in the national accounts, and encouraged the development of similar guidance on major issues in the future;

(h) Emphasized the need for continued attention devoted to capacity-building and funding for many developing countries to facilitate the implementation of SNA;

(i) Encouraged the continued reporting and evaluation of the availability and scope of official national accounts data reported by Member States, and noted the importance of quality information in support of international comparisons and a global understanding of the world economy.