SNA Update Report

Towards the 2025 SNA

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Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts 29 – 31 March 2023

Progress of Guidance Notes

65 Guidance Notes

- 47 are finalized or are in the process of being finalized
- For a further 14 GNs, global consultation has been completed
 - 2 need to be circulated for final endorsement
 - 10 will be discussed at this meeting (some with BOPCOM)
 - For 5, the results of the global consultation will be discussed
 - For another 5, the results of phase 1 testing will be discussed
 - 2 are undergoing phase 1 testing
- 1 GN requires user consultation this has been discussed at the AEG/BOPCOM meeting
- 3 GNs are yet to undergo Global Consultation
 - 2 discussed at this meeting (some with BOPCOM)

The progress on GNs remains very good and we are aiming to have all GNs finalized by the middle of 2023

Key engagement activities since last AEG meeting

- OECD Conference on National Economic and Financial Accounts in October 2022, which had a significant focus on issues related to the update of the SNA
- Eurostat/UNSD Conference on Macroeconomic Statistics for the Future in November 2023
 - The conference brought together around 170 high-profile participants from all the regions of the world, who supported the direction of the work relating to the update of the SNA and BPM
- Discussion on progress of the update of the SNA at the March 2023 United Nations Statistical Commission meeting
 - The meeting was generally very appreciative of the progress that has been made
- Many ongoing discussions with the BPM Update Team
- Ongoing discussions with GFS and MFS communities, particularly in regard to progressing the action points arising from the October 2022 AEG meeting

Annotaated Outlines

- 13 Annotated Outlines (AOs) of chapters were circulated for Global Consultation in December 2022/January 2023
 - These AOs had been discussed by the AEG at the October 2022 meeting
 - Feedback from the consultation was very positive
 - Summaries of the feedback from the global consultation have been prepared, along with the proposed response to the feedback
 - These summaries will be provided to the AEG for its consideration
- Three further AOs have been prepared relating to joint SNA/BPM chapters
 - Two are currently undergoing global consultation (chapters 4
 'Flows, stocks and accounting rules' and 5 'Residence,
 institutional units and sectors)
 - One (chapter 39 'Informal activities) will undergo global consultation shortly
 - AEG was consulted on these AOs prior to global consultation
 - Following global consultation, summaries of feedback along with the proposed response will be prepared and provided to the AEG for its consideration

Action Items Arising from the October 2023 AEG meeting

- There were several action items arising from the October 2023
 AEG meeting
 - These were action points derived from the assessment of the SNA Research Agenda, action points arising from the master-log of changes, and some other action points that arose during the meeting
- Six of these action items were designated 'major action items"
 - Issues Notes have been prepared for four of these which will be discussed at this AEG meeting
 - A.6: Treatment of trusts and other types of funds as separate institutional units
 - A.8: Consistency in the application of the sum-of-costs approach
 - A.9: Consistency in measuring the output of central banks
 - A.10: Treatment of holding gains/losses and capital income in the measurement of insurance output
 - Issues Notes for the remaining two will be prepared in the next few months for AEG consideration
 - A.13: Address the current ambiguities and inconsistencies regarding the recording of social security and employmentrelated schemes, and the current guidance for constructive liabilities
 - C.2: Treatment of (services derived from) the atmosphere

Action Items Arising from the October 2023 AEG meeting

- A separate note has been prepared that provides recommendations to resolve the minor action items
- At the AEG meeting, discussion will focus on
 - A.12 Work-in-progress, transfer of ownership and capital services
 - B.10 Recording of non-life insurance claims in the case of losses of capital assets
- AEG will be invited to provide written comments on the recommendations to resolve the remaining minor action items

Glossary

- A Glossary of Terms and Definitions is being prepared
- The initial work involved identifying and recording terms and definitions in the SNA, BPM, GFS, MFS, SEEA, IPSASB, IASB and BIS
- The next step involves confronting differences and proposing common terms and definitions to develop a common glossary
 - The CMTT prepared an initial version, which has been handed over to the SNA editorial team
 - The SNA editorial team is reviewing the work of the CMTT and will then provide an updated version for consultation with the BPM editorial team
- This will then be discussed with key stakeholders, and then with AEG/BOPCOM (likely around August 2023)
- Global Consultation will follow around September/October 2023
- AEG/BOPCOM endorsement will be sought toward the end of 2023
- A separate note on progress with the Glossary has been provided for information for the AEG meeting

Testing

- A two-phased approach for this has been agreed
- The first phase relates to testing needed to finalize recommendations in certain guidance notes
 - 11 GNs were in this phase
 - Testing has been completed for eight GNs
 - Testing for the remaining GNs will be completed in the next few months
- The second phase relates to early implementation and will assist countries in implementing the 2025 SNA
 - This phase will be conducted during 2023-2025
 - Work is progressing on developing detail plans for this testing

Implementation guidance and manuals

- To support implementation of the 2025 SNA, a list of all Guidance Notes that (a) involve additional data items or tables or (b) otherwise involve changes where it is considered that compilation guidance has been prepared
- For each of the GNs on the list, existing guidance that is available and the currently known plans for providing implementation guidance are shown
- Work is underway to identify gaps and to develop work plans to fill these gaps
- The current list has been provided for information for the AEG meeting
- When the list is updated to reflect plans for preparing additional guidance materials, it will be circulated to the AEG for its consideration
- Following this, the list will be made available more broadly so that countries are aware of the plans
- A list of of additional data items/tables that will be included in the updated SNA has also been prepared
 - This too has been provided for information for the AEG meeting
- This work will form part of a broader exercise on planning for the implementation of the 2025 SNA
- As these plans are developed the AEG will be consulted

Preparing the 2025 SNA

- Drafting of the chapters for the 2025 SNA has commenced
- The initial focus of the drafting work will be on chapters that are new or substantially revised, building on the AOs
- Other 'joint' BPM/SNA chapters will also be developed early on
- A high-level timetable for the drafting of these chapters (including global consultation) has been developed
- A generic process for updating each chapter has been prepared in consultation with the BPM update team
- Lead reviewers have been identified for each of the chapters
- A note containing the high-level timetable, the lead reviewers and the generic process has been provided for information for the AEG meeting
 - AEG members will be provided with the opportunity to provide written feedback

Preparing the 2025 SNA

- A consolidated list of recommendations for the updated SNA, based on the master log of changes, will be prepared in the next few months
- Consultation on this list will occur in mid 2023
 - This consultation will focus on issues of consistency and understandability
 - The consolidated list of recommendations is due to be approved by UNSC in early 2024
- In the second half of 2023 and into early 2024, draft chapters will be circulated for general consultation, in tranches
 - Chapters where there are only minimal changes will not be circulated at this stage
- In mid 2024 the complete draft of the 2025 SNA will be circulated for global consultation
- The AEG/ISWGNA will 'sign off' on the updated SNA around October 2024 in anticipation of approval by UNSC in early 2025