

Towards the
2025 SNA

Development of the 2025 SNA Implementation Strategy

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Introduction

- A high-level overview of the proposed strategy for implementing the 2025 SNA has been drafted for AEG consideration
 - It builds on discussion at the October 2023 AEG meeting as well as subsequent discussions with ISWGNA members
- The strategy is still broad brush and further work is required to flesh out the details
 - Consultation with key stakeholders will continue in the coming months
 - This will include consultation with the IMF's BPM update team to ensure that there is a coordinated approach in implementing the 2025 SNA and BPM7
- Global consultation is planned for around September 2024
- An updated version of the strategy will be discussed at the October 2024 AEG meeting
- The strategy will then be finalised for presentation to the 2025 UNSC meeting

Introduction (continued)

- To complement the strategy, a plan that sets out the “how”, “who” and “when” to give effect to the strategy will be developed in the coming months
 - This will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders
- This plan will also be discussed at the October 2024 AEG meeting
- There is the need to organise discussions with organisations who may potentially be able to provide funding support
 - These discussions will be initiated in the coming months

Proposed elements of the implementation strategy

- Core elements
 - Strategic approach
 - Advocacy
 - Training
 - Technical assistance
 - Preparing manuals and handbooks
 - Ongoing research
- Program modalities
 - Planning, monitoring and evaluation
 - Assessment of country preparedness
 - Implementation stages
 - Timing of implementation
 - Coordination and governance

Strategic approach

- The implementation of the 2025 SNA within a country should be built into the strategic plans of the national statistical office (or whatever institution is responsible for compiling the national accounts)
 - The implementation of the 2025 SNA should have strong visibility within the strategic plan, with concrete objectives and timing
- Guidelines such as those for the preparation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) can be helpful
- As the implementation of the 2025 SNA will be a significant undertaking and impact several key stakeholders, it will be recommended that the implementation of the 2025 SNA should act as a catalyst for countries to update their NSDSs (or equivalent)
- Materials should be produced to assist countries in incorporating the implementation of the 2025 SNA into their NSDS
- At the level of UN Regional Commissions, the implementation of the 2025 SNA in member countries should be a key strategic priority

Advocacy

- It is important that key stakeholders are aware of, and support, the implementation of the 2025 SNA
- Countries should be encouraged to develop a communication plan for the implementation of the 2025 SNA to accompany the strategic planning
- It is suggested that advocacy materials be prepared that could be utilised by countries, including guidelines on the best approaches to advocacy
- This should be supported by global and regional outreach efforts, for example by way of conferences of users and producers of national accounts statistics
- Countries will also be encouraged to undertake outreach events to users within their countries
 - Materials to support this could be developed
- To the extent possible, advocacy for the implementation of the 2025 SNA should leverage of relevant global priorities

Training

- Training courses should be developed to aid countries in the implementation of the 2025 SNA
- It is suggested that both in-person and on-line training be developed
- Given recent technological advances and the significant penetration offered by on-line training, the development of on-line training should be prioritised
- On-line training materials should be made widely available through a central repository – such as the proposed Compilers Hub
- In-person training is probably best delivered regionally
 - Both ‘high-level’ and ‘in depth’ training should be provided
- The extent to which there should be joint training on 2025 SNA and BPM7 implementation needs to be investigated
 - At minimum there should be a coordinated approach

Technical cooperation

- It is considered that some countries (particularly those with less developed statistical systems) will require technical assistance to implement the 2025 SNA
- International organisations with on-going technical assistance programs (such as the IMF and World Bank) should be encouraged to incorporate the implementation of the 2025 SNA into these programs, where relevant and appropriate
- Potential donor organisations should be mobilised to provide funding for technical cooperation

Preparing manuals and handbooks

- There is already a concerted program for the development of manuals and handbooks to support the implementation of the 2025 SNA
- This work should be continued throughout the implementation period
- The proposed compilers hub will provide a repository for these materials
- To the extent possible, manuals and handbooks should be translated into languages other than English

Ongoing research

- While the update of the 2008 SNA has been undertaken in a comprehensive manner, there may be residual areas where further work is required to support implementation, or new issues may emerge that require consideration
- There should be provision for this in the implementation strategy and this should be integrated with the broader post-2025 SNA research agenda

Planning, monitoring and evaluation

- Specific plans for the 2025 SNA implementation need to be developed
 - This includes determining targets, milestones and performance metrics, and the assigning of responsibilities
 - The setting of priorities will also be important
- Appropriate mechanisms should be developed for the monitoring and evaluation of the 2025 SNA implementation program
 - Tools such as Results Based Management should be used for monitoring and managing the implementation strategy
- There should be an evaluation of the 2008 SNA implementation to identify lessons learnt to guide planning for the implementation of the 2025 SNA
- A risk analysis also needs to be undertaken
- As part of the planning, the question “what does it mean to be compliant with the 2025 SNA?” needs to be addressed

Assessment of country preparedness

- Countries should be strongly encouraged to self-assess their preparedness for implementing the 2025 SNA
 - This will provide countries with useful information to assist them in their planning for implementation
- It is proposed that an on-line self-assessment tool be developed
 - This would build on existing frameworks such as the alignment with ESS framework developed by the CMTT as part of the SNA update and the IMF's NA Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), which may have to be tweaked for the 2025 SNA
- Countries should be encouraged to make the results of their self-assessment available to the UNSD in order to assist with global planning for the implementation

Implementation stages

- It is suggested that the implementation in countries be broken down into the following stages:
 - Initial planning for the implementation
 - Adaption of existing data sources, business registers and frames, classifications and information technology to support SNA 2025 implementation, and the development of new data sources/methods as necessary
 - Preparation of national accounts estimates on an SNA 2025 basis, including backcasting
- New opportunities for estimating certain national accounts components that may be available due to technological developments and 'big data' should be explored, particularly where it may not be feasible to utilise traditional data sources
- The existing early implementation program will give countries a 'head start' on the implementation work

Timing of implementation

- It is acknowledged that different countries will take different periods of time to implement the 2025 SNA, depending on resource availability, technical skill and national circumstances
 - Also, some countries are yet to transition to SNA 2008. (These countries should be specifically targeted as part of the implementation program, particularly for technical assistance.)
- However, it is proposed that countries be encouraged to implement the 2025 SNA within a reasonable time frame following its adoption by the UNSC, and a target date of 2030 is suggested
- In the case of the European Union, a revised ESA will be developed, and it is likely that EU countries will move to the 2025 SNA in 2029
- While it will probably not be possible to fully coordinate the implementation of the 2025 SNA across all countries, countries should be encouraged to share their implementation plans and discuss where common approaches could be helpful

Timing of implementation (continued)

- Countries should be encouraged to develop estimates on the statistical impact of moving to the 2025 SNA, which will be helpful in communicating the impact of changes to users
- For some time, some countries will be compiling estimates on an SNA 2005 basis, while others will still be compiling them on an SNA 2008 (or earlier) basis
 - Providing information to users on the statistical impact of moving to the 2025 SNA will help them understand the potential extent of differences between national accounts compiled on the basis of different vintages of the SNA
- The timing of the implementation of the SNA in countries will also need to take account of the timing of the implementation of BPM7 as well as updates to ISIC and CPC

Coordination and governance

- It is proposed that the UNSD be given operational responsibility for coordinating the implementation strategy, working closely with the Regional Commissions
- The ISWGNA should have oversight of the implementation strategy
 - The AEG can play a role in advising the ISWGNA
- As the implementation of the 2025 SNA will proceed in parallel with the implementation of BPM7, mechanisms will need to be established to achieve coordination
- There would be regular reporting to the UNSC on progress with the implementation
- The implementation program will require resources, which will need funding
 - This could come from 'core' funds within international organizations or through donor funding
- A successful implementation program should be seen as an investment in ensuring that macroeconomic statistics remain relevant

Questions for AEG

- The AEG is invited to provide feedback on the proposed strategy. In particular, AEG members are asked for their views on the following questions:
 - Is the general approach appropriate, or should it be modified in some way?
 - Is there anything missing?
 - Is there anything that is unclear?
 - Is there anything that causes concern?
 - Are there any aspects that should be the subject of particular focus as work proceeds on finalising the strategy?



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR INTEREST**
