

Report on the Outcome of the Global Consultation on the Draft 2025 SNA

2025 SNA Chapter 1: Introduction

54 comments were received from 22 respondents.

Question 1 – Have the agreed recommendations been reflected appropriately?

No substantive issues were raised.

No additional issues requiring changes to the current text were raised.

Question 2 – Is the material in the chapter clear?

No substantive issues were raised.

Five minor additional issues were raised which are considered relevant for inclusion:

- Paragraph 1.10: It is proposed to add after the second sentence: “These include measures such as net national income (NNI), net national saving, household disposable income, either or not adjusted for social transfers in kind, and household final consumption.”
- Paragraph 1.21: It is proposed to add a sentence explaining what is meant by “integrated framework of national accounts,” as this is the first reference to this.
- Paragraph 1.68: It is proposed to change “unworkable” to “uneconomic” in the last sentence.
- Paragraph 1.46: It is proposed to make the following changes (changes highlighted by underlining): “What is left over is generally available to be lent in the form of acquiring financial assets or reducing financial liabilities ~~the net acquisition of financial assets (i.e., the acquisition of financial assets less the incurrence of financial liabilities)~~. If ~~the value of~~ an economy’s acquisition of non-financial assets is greater than its saving, ~~then the economy is it will~~ generally be a net borrower and it will need to incur financial liabilities or reduce its financial assets ~~as the incurrence of financial liabilities must exceed the acquisition of financial assets to fund the acquisition of the non-financial assets. Thus~~ More formally, net...” Also, in the second last sentence “net” will be added before “incurrence of financial liabilities” and “acquisition of financial assets”, noting that “net” is used in this context in other parts of the 2025 SNA (e.g., paragraph 12.18).
- Paragraph 1.65: It is proposed to change “completely uncultivated” to “non-cultivated” to be consistent with other parts of the SNA.
- Paragraph 1.66: It is proposed to re-write the last two sentences as follows: “For example, rainfall and other ecosystem services such as pollination may be vital to the agricultural production of a country, but they are not processes of production whose output is explicitly recorded in GDP notwithstanding the fact that the outputs to which these processes contribute, such as crops, are recorded in GDP. As explained in chapter 35, for the measurement of sustainability of well-being, the compilation of complementary accounts covering ecosystem services according to the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting is encouraged.”

Question 3 – Are there any errors in the chapter, or inconsistencies within this chapter or with other chapters?

No substantive issues were raised.

Three minor additional issues were raised which are considered relevant for inclusion:

- Paragraph 1.9: It is proposed to amend the last sentence as follows (changes highlighted by underlining): "This has occurred notwithstanding the routine advice of compilers of national accounts that there are limitations in using GDP and similar measures of aggregate economic performance as measures of wellbeing ~~GDP and similar measures of aggregate economic performance cannot and should not be considered a direct measure of well-being, economic or general~~", to be consistent with chapter 2.
- Paragraph 1.45: It is proposed to also mention the adjustment for pension entitlements in the second sentence when explaining how to derive savings.
- Paragraph 1.68: It is proposed to insert in the third sentence "unpredictable" before "losses" to be consistent with paragraph 7.267.

Question 4 – Are there any other concerns?

No substantive issues were raised.

Three minor additional issues were raised which are considered relevant for inclusion:

- Paragraph 1.68: It is proposed to mention that ecosystem assets are excluded from the asset boundary applied in the integrated framework of the SNA.
- Paragraph 1.101: It is proposed to explain that "satellite accounts" was the term previously used to describe thematic and extended accounts.
- Paragraph 1.77: It is proposed that a reference be added to paragraph 1.101, as paragraph 1.77 is the first reference to extended and thematic accounts, and these are described in paragraph 1.101.

Disagreement with agreed recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA – provided for information only

Two respondents disagreed with including a return to capital for valuing the output of non-market producers.

One respondent disagreed with including depletion as a transaction.

Substantive concerns with 2008 SNA text unaffected by agreed recommendations – provided for information only

No respondents expressed concerns with 2008 SNA text that was unaffected by the agreed recommendations for the update.

Other points for reflection:

Some respondents made additional comments or suggestions which will be considered during the editing process of the manual:

- Should the SNA refer to specific versions of manuals, or should there be a more generic reference given that these manuals may be subject to updating?

- The use of terms such as “exchange values” should be checked for consistency and appropriateness.
- The use of the terms “welfare” and “well-being” should be checked for consistency and appropriateness.
- The use of terms “cultivated” and “non-cultivated” are used and explanations of how biological resources are treated should be checked for consistency.
- The use of the term “integrated framework of national accounts” should be checked for consistency. Note: this has already been done.
- Consistency in the referencing of chapters (i.e., whether to include chapter titles as well as the chapter number).