

Meeting of the ISWGNA Management Group

28 November 2023,

Minutes

Participants:

Paul Schreyer, Chair, (OECD); Mariana Kotzeva and Gallo Guye (Eurostat); Stefan Schweinfest and Herman Smith (UNSD); Bert Kroese and Erich Strassner, (IMF); Haishan Fu (World Bank); Pete Harper (Project manager); and Peter Van De Ven (Lead editor).

1. Status of progress of the SNA update project

- 1.1. Noted the report by the Project Manager which covered the a) status of the guidance notes; b) consolidated list of recommendations for updating the 2008 SNA; c) outcome of the global consultation on the recommendations; d) Glossary of terms and definitions in macro-economic statistics; e) preparing the 2025 SNA; f) early implementation and the development of compilation guidance; g) outreach activities; and h) development of an implementation strategy and key relationships. The report is available at: [Progress reports](#).
- 1.2. Commended the SNA update team for the good progress with the project, including the excellent coordination with the BPM update team and other statistical communities.
- 1.3. Emphasised that, following the conclusion of the research phase of the project, the focus should shift towards the implementation strategy for the 2025 SNA, including advocacy to policymakers and users of the national accounts, striking a good balance between what can be achieved without being revolutionary, but still showing how developments in society and economy is incorporated.

2. Addressing concerns about some of the recommendations

- 2.1. Noted that some countries expressed conceptual and feasibility concerns about some of the recommendations for updating the 2008 SNA and stressed the importance of working directly with countries to address them.
- 2.2. Emphasised the need to better inform countries about the key aspects of the recommendations as well as the role of the forthcoming implementation guidance in addressing concerns about feasibility and cross-country comparability.
- 2.3. Noted that the Project manager and Lead editor will present a response to the global consultation on the recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA at a meeting of the EU Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics; that a detailed response will be provided in the background document of the ISWGNA report to the UNSC; and that the ISWNA member organizations will reach out to countries and policymakers to brief them on the progress with the update project, including the areas where countries still have concerns and the proposals for addressing them.
- 2.4. Reiterated the transparency of the process to arrive at the recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA and that all proposed recommendations will be presented to the Commission for its consideration.

3. ISWGNA reports to the United Nations Statistical Commission

- 3.1. Noted that, due to the constraint on the maximum number of words for official documents of the Commission, two ISWGNA reports have been prepared: the main report and the report on the recommendations for the update of the 2008 SNA. Additional details of these reports, including a response to concerns about some recommendations, will be presented in a background document.
- 3.2. Welcomed the draft reports and proposed to strengthen the language to more explicitly respond to the concerns of countries on some of the recommendations and how they are being addressed; emphasised that the process has been transparent; and that all comments have been taken into account.
- 3.3. Noted that the two reports will be presented as a single item for discussion and decision; and that the reports need to be ready for submission by 19 December.

4. Other matters

- 4.1. Agreed that the next meeting of the ISWGNA will be held on 26 February 2024 at 18:15 EST in New York.