

Minutes

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts Teleconference January 25, 2006

Participants: C. Aspden (OECD); A. Bloem (IMF); D. Glatzel, P. de Rougement (Eurostat); I. Havinga, V. Vu, M. Csizmadia (UNSD); A. Harrison (Editor); C. Carson (Project Manager); B. Hexeberg (World Bank)

The meeting continued its preparations for the forthcoming AEG meeting discussing specific issues as well as matters of procedure.

1 Process to reach final recommendation

Degrees of AEG support for a recommendation: The meeting agreed that if a situation arises in the forthcoming AEG meeting where there is widely differing opinions among the AEG members, the chair will call for “time-out” – allowing the ISWGNA:NA, the Project manager and the Editor to discuss how to deal with the particular case.

Borderline between “new” issues and tidying up recommendation: The meeting confirmed that the door for bringing up new issues was firmly closed. Thus, only issues being brought up due to matters of consistency will be looked at after the earlier defined issues have been dealt with.

2 Specific issues

The ISWGN:NA went over a few specific issues that have evolved since the last ISWGNA:NA meeting.

(i) Leases and Licenses – Report on Canberra II consultation

Some of the ISWGNA:NA members found the paper and the suggested treatment for certain items discussed under the heading “Leases and licenses” to be “work in progress”, and while it was agreed that the issue will be presented and discussed at the AEG meeting a sub-group should be formed that will work through the implications of alternative treatments on the accounts and then report back to the ISWGNA:NA. The time set aside for the sub-group to do the work will be limited to five weeks. The elaborated paper with suggestion for solutions will then be distributed to the AEG for e-consultation. Allowing two weeks for the consultation, the results should be available in time for a possible presentation at the joint UNECE-Eurostat-OECD National Accounts meeting in April.

(ii) Informal Sector

The ISWGN:NA commended the authors of the paper. The Project Manager said that she had been in contact with the ILO, and that they were also happy with the paper and thought it would be a good starting point for working with the ILO and the Delhi-group on the issue. It was agreed to circulate and post the paper on the web as soon as possible.

(iii) Interest under High Inflation

The ISWGN:NA agreed that the note received from the Bureau of Statistics, Israel on the above issue of interest under high inflation should be posted on the web ('country comments') and mentioned during the presentation.

(iv) Refined issue descriptions

Because some more work is needed on the revised issue descriptions to bring them into consistency, it was agreed to use the old description (the ones currently posted on the web) in the short report of the meeting, noting that they are under revision.

As the aim is to use the revised issue descriptions in the full set of recommendations that will go to all countries for consultation, it was agreed that (i) the AEG should be informed that the issue descriptions are currently under review; (ii) the Editor and the Project Manager will work together to bring them into consistency; (iii) the ISWGNA:NA should review and agree on the descriptions; and (iv) the descriptions should be sent to AEG for comment before being adopted.

(v) e-Consultations

The results of the e-consultations showed some disagreement on the suggested treatments among the AEG members for only a few issues. The UNSD was asked to propose some suggestions for amending the agenda to allow for more time to discuss the issues in question. The ISWGNA:NA will consider the suggestions for altering the agenda when meeting on Sunday, January 29.