

MINUTES

ISWGNA TELECONFERENCE FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Participants

Eurostat: G. Gueye, D. Comini, C. Ravets, M. Van Wersch

IMF: K. Zieschang (Chair and minutes), A Bloem

OECD: C. Aspden, F. Lequiller

UNECE: L. Bratanova

UNSD: I. Havinga, V. Vu, H. Smith

World Bank: B. Hexeberg

1993 SNA Update project: C. Carson (Project Manager), A. Harrison (Editor).

1. Statistical Commission room document on Issue 16

Carol Carson reported that the Management Group (MG) was close to agreement on text for the room document. Also on the Statistical Commission meetings, Carol noted that Rob Edwards, Chair of the Management Group, had suggested that she send her progress report to the Management Group for discussion at a Management Group meeting in New York on Sunday. The progress report and budget also are on the agenda for the Donors' briefing.

2. Progress toward the AEG March 19-23

Carol proposed that the teleconference have a first discussion of adjustments to the drafting and review process for the 1993 SNA, Revision 1 to help bring the project to a successful conclusion, as the process is going more slowly than anticipated with the first tranche of chapters. There was general agreement that adjustments in the process of collating comments, drafting, and reviewing are needed in the interest of completing the work in the available time. Several were discussed.

Ivo Havinga proposed a format for the Issue Summary to guide discussion at the AEG meeting. The draft document on Chapter 9 comprised a text itemization of comments and questions to be posed for AEG discussion, and a tabular listing of comments from the UNSD website. The meeting agreed to provide written comments on the format of the text document, but prescribed that it contain only those issues ISWGNA wants referred to the AEG; that is, relevant to the 44 issues or clarifications included in the FSCR or to newly drafted text. For the AEG's reference, the text document would include a url to a tabular listing of the full set of comments on each discussed chapter on the UNSD website.

The meeting took stock of comment formatting work completed by each international organization; IMF and OECD have submitted their work reorganizing comments; World Bank will submit its contribution February 23. OECD agreed to additionally take on Chapters 6 and 8, and Eurostat additionally agreed to organize comments for Chapter 7. The status of

Chapters 17 and 19 will be updated by UNSD on what versions were sent to the AEG and who commented on them, and the group informed via email.

The group unanimously agreed that Carol would chair the sessions of the AEG meeting in March.

3. Consistency between BPM6 and 1993 SNA, Rev. 1

Daniela Comini reported about five consistency issues emerged from the work of the Task Force on Rest of the World. Three of these (valuable goods bought by travellers, sale of embassy buildings, recording of tax refunds) have been addressed in the revised draft of BPM6 (15 March 2007). Robert Dipplesman at IMF will consider how BPM6 can be fully consistent with the 1993 SNA, Rev. 1 on the remaining two (one of which being to provide greater clarity on the correct classification of activities into goods and services).

4. Task Force on Employer Retirement Schemes: valuation of pension liabilities

Kim Zieschang reported that the TFERS has agreed on valuating pension liabilities either by the Accumulated Benefit Obligation (ABO) or Projected Benefit Obligation (PBO) approach, according to best practice in individual countries. Gallo Gueye noted that member states of the EU would be following PBO, but confirmed that Eurostat has no objection to the proposal that either valuation principle is acceptable. Anne confirmed that this option already has been written into the SNA.

5. Other business

Ivo will coordinate a meeting/teleconference with ISWGNA members present at the Statistical Commission on Wednesday, 28 February at 8.00 am to discuss any matters that need to be addressed immediately as result of the UNSC meeting.

Two ISWGNA meetings are scheduled to address the issues of the March AEG meeting on Sunday March, 18 at 10:30 am and Saturday March 24 at 10:00 am. The venue will be the UNSD conference room, 16th floor, 2 UN Plaza.

The next teleconference will be at 9:30 am Tuesday March 6, 2007 with tentative agenda

- Statistical Commission outcomes on Issue 16, the MG meeting, and the Donor briefing
- Update on preparations for the AEG meeting

6. To-do list

Action	By when	Responsible	Status
Status of Chapters 17 and 19	23 Feb	UNSD	
Comments on the format of the draft AEG document	23 Feb	All	