

## MINUTES

### ISWGNA NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS MEETING MAY 24, 2007

#### Participants

Eurostat: C. Ravets, R. Bachalán

IMF: K. Zieschang (Chair), C. Gorter, L. Rivas

OECD: F. Lequiller

UNSD: Ivo Havinga, V. Vu

UNECE: L. Bratanova, T. Dimova

World Bank: B. Hexeberg

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

#### 1 Progress on chapter comments

The Editor noted that three chapters were ready for posting: Chapters 4, 5, and 17. Chapter 8 was pending a final decision on the form of the “decision tree” allowing the classification of social benefits.

On Chapter 4, the meeting discussed whether the institutional sector classification should identify a category for government-controlled non-profit institutions (NPIs). IMF argued against creation of this category. The existing manual on NPIs excludes government controlled NPIs from general government, and the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 considers a more important distinction within general government: between budgetary and extra-budgetary units. UNSD argued for a clarification, based on the Netherlands’ treatment of state supported religious schools as part of general government.

The meeting agreed that an “of which” category would be included for NPIs within general government.

On Chapter 5, the meeting agreed to post the chapter.

On Chapter 17, the Editor noted changes in the sections on insurance, pensions, financial services, and contracts, leases, and licenses. She proposed post these completed components of the chapter be posted for comment. These newly drafted components have implications for chapters 6 (insurance), 7 (interest), and 8 (social assistance). The meeting agreed to post this new material as annexes to the current versions of these chapters, and then update them.

On Chapter 8, the Editor added the “decision tree” proposed and approved at the AEG meeting, along with explanatory text. The meeting agreed this modification could simply be posted with email to the AEG on the ISWGNA’s decision. The Editor and Peter Harper proposed that the definition of capital transfers used in this chapter be updated to the definition in the new Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6). IMF planned to discuss the point in an internal meeting May 30, but favored the proposal to maintain consistency with the BPM6. OECD questioned the necessity of this revision of old text.

Agency classification of comments received on their respective chapters progressed as follows:

Eurostat completed classification on Chapters 7 and 10, producing a few questions for discussion in Geneva.

OECD would be discussing the classification of comments on Chapter 8 with the Editor to determine possible items for discussion in Geneva.

World Bank would be discussing the classification of comments on Chapter 12 with the Editor to determine possible items for discussion in Geneva.

IMF would be submitting classification of comments on Chapter 11, then discussing with the editor to determine possible items for discussion in Geneva (there were nearly 500 comments on this chapter to classify).

The UNSD and the Project Manager noted completion of a new comment form directing comment to new text, identifying paragraph numbers and focusing on the 44 issues and 39 clarifications.

## **2 Agenda for meeting in Geneva June 13-15**

The Project Manager noted that the comment classifications would determine most of the agenda for the Geneva meeting.

On meeting logistics, UNECE noted members should register for the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) at the UN security gate; the ISWGNA meeting will be arranged in parallel with that meeting. The meeting agreed to start the meeting at 9 am with a break for the Project Manager to make a scheduled presentation to the CES meeting. Although the 60 day comment deadline might intersect with the late summer holiday period, the meeting decided to stay on schedule in view of the December 16 deliverable date for the first part of the 1993 SNA.

The Editor proposed Chapters 15 and 16 for the agenda.

It was noted the ISWGNA Management Group would meet on June 12 to discuss, inter alia, the 1993 SNA, Rev. 1 implementation strategy, and that this should be on the agenda.

## **3 Revised codes for Rev. 1**

IMF distributed an early sketch of new codes and a backward compatibility table with old codes. The Editor noted she would be providing updated labels for transactions/other flows, balancing items, and assets that would make further progress on this possible.

## **4 ISWGNA and the national accounts data structure definition for SDMX**

IMF noted for the information of the meeting that the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange consortium needed various custodial groups for statistical standards, such as the national accounts, to approve code lists for the SDMX data structure definitions (DSDs) used for electronic transmission of these data. Completed DSDs include the external statistics DSD. Also noted was the pilot DSD for national accounts from the OECD's National Accounts Worldwide Exchange (NAWWE) project, that IMF also is testing with selected reporters of national accounts data.

## **5 Next meeting**

The meeting decided to have its next teleconference on June 4, 2007 at 9:30 am Eastern U.S. daylight time.

## **6 To-do list**

<b>Action</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
Produce a draft set of revised SNA codes	June 2007	Kim Zieschang (IMF) François Lequiller (OECD) Christian Ravets (Eurostat)	Pending a list of labels from the Editor
Circulate the “decision tree” for determining the classification of in-kind payments	April 2007	Anne Harrison (Editor)	In discussion
Revised comments template for the UNSD website	May 2007	Carol Carson (Project Manager)	Done
Better placement of e-discussions record on UNSD website	March 2007	Ivo Havinga (UNSD)	Done
Provide Editor with comments organized by paragraph number within the relevant chapter text (deferring Chapter 26, which is for the second SNA deliverable).	May 2, 2007	ISWGNA organizations	Done for Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13. Pending for Chapter 11
Update of the Full Set of Consolidated Recommendations (44 issues document) to incorporate errors and UNSC decisions	May 2, 2007	Editor	Pending