Seminar on the implementation of the
System of National Accounts 2008 in the Western Asia Region

Jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and
Gulf Cooperation Council
23-26 May 2010, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Provisional Agenda

**Sunday, 23 May 2010**

**Session 1  Opening**

08:30-09:00  Registration

09:00-09:30  Opening of the seminar

UNSD, ESCWA, GCC

Objectives and organization of the seminar
Administrative matters and introduction of participants
Adoption of the agenda

*Arabic translation of the 2008 SNA*

09:30-10:00  Progress with the Arabic translation of the 2008 SNA

ESCWA/UNSD

Discussion
- Agreement and commitment of countries for forming a reference group of National Accounts experts in the region for the peer review of the Arabic translation of the 2008 SNA

10:00-10:30  Coffee break

**Session 2  Main changes in the 2008 SNA**

10:30-12:00  *Overview of main changes in the 2008 SNA including changes relevant to the ESCWA region*

UNSD/ESCWA

Discussion
12:00-12:30  *Coffee break*

**Session 3  Financial crisis – need for high frequency economic indicators**

12:30-14:00  - International initiatives for greater availability of statistics on high frequency economic indicators

- Introducing of the high frequency economic indicators data template

  UNSD

  Discussion

**Monday, 24 May 2010**

**Session 4  Regional assessment and initiatives for improving the scope, detail and quality of the national accounts and supporting economic statistics in the region**

08:30-10:00  *Assessment of the status of National Accounts compilation in the region and initiatives for improving the scope, detail and quality of the national accounts and supporting economic statistics in the region*

  ESCWA/GCC

  Discussion

10:00-10:30  *Coffee break*

**Session 5  2008 SNA implementation strategy**

10:30-12:00  SNA implementation strategy: mandate UNSC, global initiative, scope widened to include basic statistics and institutional environment, principles (strategic planning, coordination and implementation), elements (modalities). ISWGNA to develop tools such Knowledge Base (KB) on normative standards and country practices and KB on training and capacity building, website on 2008 SNA implementation programme, compilation guidance, outreach tools by milestone

  Discussion

12:00-12:30  *Coffee break*
Session 6 2008 SNA implementation strategy – contd.

12:30-14:00 2008 SNA implementation strategy explained

A system wide diagnostic and vision to implementation programme with well developed coordination mechanism covering UNECE domains of economic statistics (2), environment and multi functional statistics (3), methodology of data collection, processing and dissemination (4), institutional strategy (5)

Discussion

Tuesday, 25 May 2010

Session 7  Review of the strategic framework – Overview of diagnostic tool

08:30-10:00
- Assessment of periodicity, timeliness (annual and HFI)
- Registers and census frames (agriculture, economic and population)
- Data sources: use of administrative data

Discussion – way forward

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

Session 8  Overview of diagnostic tool – contd.

10:30-12:00
- Data sources: Use of household (income and expenditure and labor force surveys, case of 1 2 Survey) and enterprise surveys (case of industrial statistics collections: benchmark, annual and infra annual frequency, informal sector coverage, etc.)

- Data integration, linkages, editing, imputations (use of statistical techniques, data validation)

Discussion – way forward

12:00-12:30 Coffee break

Session 9  Breakout Group discussion

12:30-14:00 - Group discussion on way forward on data sources and data integration
Session 10  Overview of diagnostic tool – contd.

08:30-10:00  - Communication and dissemination (communication: websites, etc and dissemination: accessibility and serviceability)

- Organisation and management of statistical organization (pre-requirements: legal environment, national statistical council, statistical agenda, consultations with users (advisory committees; human resource management: training and capacity building programme, national training institute, career planning, management training in change management; ICT management: modernization of ICT environment

Discussion

10:00-10:30  Coffee break

Session 11  Breakout Group discussion

10:30-12:00  Group discussion on way forward on Communication and dissemination; and organisation and management of statistical organization

12:00-12:30  Coffee break

Session 12  Plenary session

12:30-14:00  Report back from break out group discussions
Conclusions and recommendations
Evaluation of the seminar
Closing of the seminar