

## UNSD - Regional Commissions Coordination meeting

### Implementation programmes for the integrated economic and environmental statistics – 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, trade statistics and environmental economic accounting

Venue: United Nations Headquarters Building UNDC 2 – Room 1949  
Saturday, 25 February 2012 from 2pm to 5pm

#### Agenda

##### 1. Introduction

The objective of the meeting is to foster coordination between UNSD and the regional commission on their programmes in integrated economic statistics and environmental accounts. It is foreseen that this collaboration would strengthen our individual work programmes and also ensure that our programmes are build on a common approach.

##### 2. The implementation programme of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics

###### 2.1. Guidelines for developing a *statement of strategy* for strengthening an economic statistics programme for implementing the 2008 SNA.

Countries are encouraged to develop their implementation programmes for the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics within the framework of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). A *statement of strategy*, taking into account the national and regional policy needs, is an important step to establish a road map for developing the required scope, detail and quality of national accounts needed for assessing economic progress.

A draft paper on this topic will be discussed in this session with the purpose to establish a common view on the guidelines.

Inputs:

Draft paper prepared by UNSD

###### 2.2. Regional and national strategies of implementation.

Regional commissions have started to assist countries in formulating the *statement of strategy* in accordance with Stage 1 of the global strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. Determining the common tools and meetings in sharing country practices are needed to build momentum for accelerating progress for Stage 1 of the global strategy to the Statistical Commission in 2013.

Regional practices in formulating the *statement of strategy* will be discussed in this session.

Inputs:

Regional practices in assessing the national statistical production process for supporting an integrated economic statistics programme. Country assessments, like those for Bhutan (ESCAP), Ukraine (UNECE), Cameroon, etc. (ECA) and initiatives from other regions.

### 2.3. Methodological work.

The global initiative for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics calls for developing methodological guidance. UNSD and regional commissions have initiated the development of a number of manuals, handbooks and guidance documents for the national accounts and supporting economic statistics in the next biennial 2012-13

The coordination of such methodological work will be discussed in this session, for example to set up an integrated presentation such as that of the ECE database on statistical activities.

#### Inputs:

Global manufacturing – ECE

Business registers – ECE

Supply and Use handbook – ECA

Informal sector – ECA

I/O handbook UNSD

Initiatives in other regions

### 2.4. Knowledge base on training material.

Insufficient training to national accountants and economic statisticians has been identified as one of the key impediments to the successful implementation of the SNA and economic statistics programmes by countries with less developed statistical systems. The 2008 SNA implementation programme, as endorsed by the Commission, therefore, gives greater emphasis to training and capacity building to meet the challenges of national accounts and economic statistics programmes in countries with less advanced statistical systems to strengthen institutional capacity building and the statistical production process.

In this session a number of initiatives to provide training and training material, and in some regions also the coordinating training activities, are in progress will be discussed and opportunities for coordination identified.

#### Inputs:

Knowledgebase on training material – UNSD

SIAP activities – ESCAP

Working Group to develop a strategy for the coordination of statistical training in Asia-Pacific – ESCAP

Initiatives in other regions

### 2.5. Other related work on economic statistics

In this session the related work on economic statistics carried out by the regional commissions will be discussed.

#### Inputs:

Regional commissions to present initiative in their respective regions

### 2.6. Activities of the ISWGNA and the AEG

UNSD will inform the regional commissions about the work programme of the ISWGNA and the AEG.

### **3. International trade and tourism statistics**

New developments in trade statistics are evident from the opening segment of a recent OECD meeting paper.

“At the June 2011 meeting of the OECD Statistics Committee, Delegates supported a proposal by the Statistics Directorate, the Directorate for Science Technology and Industry, and the Trade and Agriculture Directorate, to construct estimates and a framework for the measurement of trade in value-added financed by discretionary funding (for 2011-2012) from the OECD Secretary-General through his Special Allocation Fund. Despite the short-term nature of the funding, the intention, subject to the success of the project, is to seek more secure funding arrangements in the future: The objective is that trade in value-added statistics and their related counterparts, such as global value-chains, become a core statistical output of the OECD, recognising the fact that globalisation continues apace, and the statistics needed to measure it need to keep pace.”

Such developments should bring the UNSD and the Regional Commissions closer together to work collectively on these issues of trade statistics, which are no longer just confined to merchandise trade statistics or balance of payments, but concern business registers, trade by industry statistics, short term economic indicators and the construction of input-output tables.

Engagement of the regional commissions in the integration of international trade statistics with economic statistics in methodological work and national advocacy will be discussed.

### **4. Environmental Economic Accounts**

- 4.1. The SEEA Central Framework is being submitted for the Statistical Commission adoption as an international statistical standard. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA) is developing an implementation strategy for the SEEA including the development of a minimum set of accounts and table to inform specific policies.
- 4.2. In addition the implementation strategy, the UNCEEAA has put considerable efforts in the promotion of the SEEA and several promotion materials have been developed including the briefing note on the Monitoring Framework for Water prepared jointly with the World Water Assessment Programme and the notes prepared for Rio+20.
- 4.3. In the area of water statistics and accounts, UNSD, with the assistance of an editorial board, is in the process of developing a compilers guide which will provide countries guidelines on the institutional arrangements and data compilation for water statistics and accounts.
- 4.4. In the area of energy accounts, the SEEA-Energy is in the process of being completed. Further, the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual will include a part to assist in the compilation of energy accounts.

Inputs:

UNSD to present current activities in the SEEA implementation and future plans.

Regional Commissions to present their current initiatives and future plans.

### **5. Conclusions and the way forward**