Regional Seminar on Developing a Programme for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA and Supporting Statistics in Southern Africa

17 – 19 October 2012
Pretoria, South Africa

Agenda

Wednesday 17 October 2012

08:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 10:30  First Session

I.  Opening

Brief opening remarks by the hosts Statistics South Africa and South African Reserve Bank. Also, UNSD and the regional agencies (ECA, AFDB, SADC, COMESA) will add the international and regional perspective to the objective of the seminar in initiating the drafting of the strategic vision and programme of work on the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The opening will also be used to underline the benefits of moving over to the 2008 SNA and supporting short term statistics in a global economy with internal and cross boundary vulnerabilities.

II. Developing a programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics

The institutional process and assessment and reporting tools for the development of a programme of implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics will be set out. Particular attention will be given to the stages in undertaking a system wide consultation, outreach and involvement of the major data producers and users, the coordinating role of the NSO, the required resource mobilisation for the programme and the possible external technical assistance required.

Presentations
UNSD

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 13:00 Second Session

II. Developing a programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics (continued)

Presentations
ECA
III. Country presentations

Each participating country will make a presentation on an overview of the main policy issues and their relationship with the scope and detail of the national accounts framework, as well as an overview of current compilation practices, new requirements by economic activity and institutional sector, and statistical and institutional actions to remedy shortcomings as described in the note prepared by the countries for the meeting.

Presentations
Botswana
Malawi

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Third Session

III. Country presentations (continued)

Presentations
Namibia
South Africa
Swaziland

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Fourth Session

III. Country presentations (continued)

Presentations
Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Thursday 18 October 2012

09:00 – 10:30 First Session

IV. Overview of statistical production process in an integrated economic statistics approach

To facilitate the discussion this session will offer presentations by UNSD, Stats SA and SARB on the application of the integrated economic statistics approach to the statistical production process taking into account the institutional environment and the main elements of the statistical production process such as the statistical business registers, surveys and administrative sources, dissemination and communication methods.

Presentations
UNSD
- Handbook on Integrated economic statistics
Stats SA
  - Business registers

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 13:00 Second Session

IV. Overview of statistical production process in an integrated economic statistics approach (continued)

Presentations
Stats SA
  - Economic Activity Surveys
  - Prices Statistics
  - Labour Statistics

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Third Session

IV. Overview of statistical production process in an integrated economic statistics approach (continued)

Presentations
SARB
  - Expenditure approach
  - Household final consumption
  - Capital stock and consumption of fixed capital

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Fourth Session

IV. Overview of statistical production process in an integrated economic statistics approach (continued)

Presentations
SARB
  - Integrated economic accounts
Stats SA
  - Supply and use tables
Friday 19 October 2012

09:00 – 10:30  First Session

IV.  The scope and detail of the national accounts required for effective policy purposes

This session will be used to present the progressive multiple policy uses of the statistics, accounts and tables of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics with the extended scope and detail as recommended and required by the Minimum Required Data Set (MRDS). The discussion will allow the participants further insight in developing a more articulate outreach programme for the senior policy makers and analysts in their countries.

Presentations
UNSD
  - The policy use of national accounts
  - Harmonisation of GDP estimates
  - 2008 SNA changes from the 1993 SNA
  - MRDS

10:30 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 13:00  Second Session

V.  Discussion on selected issues on SNA implementation

Based on the results of the 2008 SNA implementation questionnaire participants will discuss specific topics and issues related to the conceptual implementation of the 2008 SNA that need to be addressed in the respective countries. UNSD jointly with staff from Statistics South Africa and South African Reserve Bank will make brief presentations to introduce the main issues concerning those topics. The specific topics to covered are: prices, use of government finance statistics, exhaustive coverage of the GDP taking into account the measurement of the informal sector, measurement of financial production (FISIM, insurance, etc.), treatment of changes in inventories, capital stock measure, household consumption expenditure. The relevant conceptual issues related to the change over to the 2008 SNA will be discussed like goods for processing, change over to ISIC Revision 4.

Presentations
UNSD
  - Results from the national accounts implementation survey
Stats SA
  - Exhaustive coverage of GDP (informal sector, production for own final use)

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch
14:00 – 15:30 Third Session

VI. Way forward

This session will allow for reaching a broad agreement on the actions to be taken at the national, sub-regional, regional and international level to ensure that mutually reinforcing actions will advance the formulation and implementation of a multi-year national and sub-regional programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics.

Implementation strategy

VII. Closing