

Mr I Havinga
Chief, Economic Statistics Branch
United Nations

Dear Ivo,

COMMENTS ON 1993 SNA UPDATING ISSUES

The letter STAT 221(1) of 3 March 2008 from the office of the Director of UNSD refers.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues that are currently under consideration in the further development of the System of National Accounts. After consultation with colleagues at the South African Reserve Bank, I would like to respond to your request for comment.

Comments on volume 1 of the updated System of National Accounts

There are no substantive issues that South Africa would like to change in the existing version of Volume 1 as adopted at the 39th session of the UNSC in February 2008. We further welcome the access to the combined electronic version of the updated chapters.

Title of the updated System of National Accounts

South Africa supports the second option, i.e. referring to the updates system of national accounts as “System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA)”. In our view regular users of national accounts will associate easier with “2008” in the nomenclature to indicate the increased relevance of the system; rather than appreciation that the core of the system was maintained during the revisions process, as included in the title of SNA1993 Revision 1.

We will follow the release and subsequent discussions of the draft chapters of Volume 2 with interest.

Kind regards

Dr J Arrow
Statistician General (act)