

RE: THE ONGOING REVISION/UPDATE OF THE UN 1993 SNA **COMMENTS BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA**

The ongoing revision of the UN System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) is set to change the boundary of production, modify concepts and definitions used in identifying transactors and transactions, and develop improved methodologies for approximating transactions. This will not, however change the nature of the SNA from an integrated set of economic accounts depicting the economy of a nation through the aggregation and categorization of its stock and of the transactions (and revaluations) that give rise to changes in those stocks.

Therefore the inclusion of Chapter 6 Annex and Chapter 20 are quite apt and must be commended. However, we have the following comments for improvement of the revision and the need to accommodate the concerns of “Emerging Markets” of which Nigeria is one.

COMMENTS

- The issue of capital services must be properly addressed to satisfy the compliers in the emerging market and the users of the statistics such as the WTO. The balance sheet of the emerging economy has changed from the period when the capital services were accommodated in the capital stocks. There are very high inflows of capital into the emerging economy and this must be captured in such a way as to reflect its characteristics in the balance sheet.
- However, in a purely subsistence economy where production is equal to consumption, the change of ownership might not be a relevant concept. But for more complex economies, where the producing and consuming units are not the same, the change of ownership concept is of paramount importance.
- Giving value to economic goods through storage production is a sure way of developing statistics on national accounts as all productive activities would be comprehensively enumerated with the economy and is, therefore, a commendable effort.
- It is equally important to point out here that the separation of holding gains from storage production as contained in chapter six-annex would assist in effective calculation of national accounts.
- Finally, the time of recording should be clearly identified in order that the balance sheet records are kept to standards, i.e. both sides of the transactions must be recorded simultaneously.

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