

**Comments on draft SNA chapter:  
Chapter 17: Cross-cutting and other special issues  
Deadline for comments: 1 September 2007  
Send comments to: [sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org)**

Your name:	Joseph WONG
Your country/organization:	Hong Kong, China / Census and Statistics Department
Contact (e.g. email address):	<a href="mailto:jycwong@censtatd.gov.hk">jycwong@censtatd.gov.hk</a>
Submission date:	30 August 2007

This three-part template allows you to record your comments on draft chapter 17 easily and, at the same time, makes it easy for us to use your comments in considering revisions to the draft chapter. You may complete any one, any two, or all of the three parts of the template.

There is no file comparing existing text with draft text for this chapter because the draft is all new text.

Save this template and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address:  
[sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org)

**Part I: General comments**

In the space below, please provide any general comments, such as about the clarity with which the new recommendations were incorporated (30 words or less).

*Comment:*

The inclusion of this new chapter which brings together the special issues to show how they are recorded in the each account of the System is highly appreciated.
---

**Part II: Comments on specific draft paragraphs or passages**

In your review of draft chapter 17, you may wish to devote particular attention to the passages listed below. For ease of reference, we have identified the relevant paragraphs. For each passage, a Word table is provided for you to use in making your comments. There is a row for general comments at the top of the table. Thereafter please use a separate row for each paragraph on which you wish to make detailed comments.

Chapter 17, Part 1: The treatment of insurance and social insurance other than pensions  
Part 1 is based loosely on annex IV of the 1993 SNA, but includes several passages that introduce changes. Some of these are identified below.

1. A refined treatment of non-life insurance is introduced in paragraphs 17.37-17.39 to prevent the variation in claims made each year from affecting output. A different treatment is permissible when the claims are exceptionally large and beyond expectation (17.50). Are these paragraphs clear?

General comment	The paragraphs are generally clear.
17.37	It is mentioned that “.. the formula for the calculation of output should use not actual claims but an adjusted figures.”. “The figure for adjusted claims may be derived statistically based on previous experience of level of claim. Alternatively, an accounting approach may be adopted whereby figures from the accounts of insurance corporations including equalization provisions may be used.” As the adjusted claims are crucial in calculating the output of the insurance corporations and hence the gross domestic product, more detail explanation on how to derive the adjusted claim is required.
17.40-17.50	Different approaches of calculating insurance output are suggested. However, the use of different approaches may result in quite different results and make international comparison difficult. Which one is the more preferred?

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

2. The simplification in the SNA whereby direct insurance and reinsurance transactions were consolidated was seen to be causing errors especially in countries where all reinsurance was carried out with non-resident corporations (as is often the case). Is the description of how and why to treat direct insurance and reinsurance separately sufficiently clear (paragraphs 17.54-17.60)?

General comment	The descriptions are generally clear.
17.54	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

3. A treatment for annuities as a form of life insurance is introduced in Rev. 1. This is desirable in itself and because it is how regular payments in retirement under defined contribution pensions are recorded. Paragraphs 17.90-17.97 describe this treatment. Are the paragraphs clear?

General comment	The paragraphs are generally clear.
17.90	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

Chapter 17, Part 2: The treatment of loan guarantees in the System

Rev. 1 distinguishes three classes of loan guarantees. The first is composed of those guarantees provided by means of a financial derivative (described in chapter 11). The second is composed of the sorts of guarantees where large numbers of very similar guarantees are issued. Another is described as one-off guarantees, where each guarantee is tailored to specific circumstances.

4. The second class is called standardized loan guarantees. A treatment of such guarantees is introduced in paragraphs 17.106-17.111. It resembles the treatment of insurance in several respects. Is the description clear and comprehensive?

General comment	The descriptions are generally clear.
17.106	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

Chapter 17, Part 3: The treatment of pensions in the System

Part 3 describes the treatment of pensions. It does so in some detail, in part because the means by which pensions are provided to persons in retirement varies considerably from country to country.

5. Rev. 1 incorporates a number of changes in the treatment of defined benefit pension schemes. After distinguishing between defined benefit and defined contribution schemes in paragraphs 17.141-17.146, the text describes the transactions recorded for a defined benefit scheme and provides a numerical example. This text begins in paragraph 17.147 and continues through paragraph 17.166. Is the text clear and comprehensive?

General comment	The inclusion of a numerical example facilitates a better understanding of the treatment of defined benefit scheme.
17.147	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

6. Paragraphs 17.183-17.193 describe the proposed supplementary table that gives flexibility to countries not to include all liabilities for pensions in the main accounts while still providing the information for analysts. Is the table clear?

General	The table is useful in delineating the coverage of liabilities in pension schemes.
---------	--

comment	
17.183	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.
Table 17.10	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

Chapter 17, Part 4: The recording of flows associated with financial assets and liabilities  
Part 4 describes the flows associated with financial assets and liabilities more extensively than in annex III of the 1993 SNA text, including the services associated with them.

7. The introduction, paragraphs 17.194-17.204, provides an overview of financial services that is wider than the traditional view of financial intermediation as applied to only deposits and loans. Is this wider perspective on financial services comprehensive and is the material presented in a helpful manner?

General comment	The materials are useful.
17.194	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

8. A new table summarizing the types of flows that relate to each instrument is given in table 17.11, which is introduced in paragraph 17.205. Is this table helpful?

17.205	The table is helpful.
Table 17.11	The table is helpful.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

Chapter 17, Part 5: Contracts, leases and licences

The 1993 SNA did not have a comprehensive, coherent discussion of contracts, leases and licences. Part 5 brings together the material on the subject discussed under several of the 44 agreed Update issues.

9. Paragraphs 17.261-17.269 describes the three kinds of leases, including a description of resource leases, which are introduced in Rev. 1 in paragraph 2.269. Is the description of resource leases clear? Is the greater clarification of the distinction between operating and financial lease clear?

General comment	The distinction between operating and financial lease is clear.
17.261	Click here and start typing.
17.269	More elaboration on resource leases may be required.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

10. Paragraphs 17.301-17.305 describe how to record in balance sheets the benefits for each party corresponding to a shared asset. Are these paragraphs clear?

General comment	The paragraphs are generally clear.
17.301	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

11. Paragraphs 17.306-17.311 describe the treatment of permissions to undertake a specific activity. Is it clear when a permit is to be treated as a tax and when it can simultaneously become an asset?

General comment	The descriptions are generally clear.
17.306	Click here and start typing.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

### **Part III. Other specific comments**

You are welcome to make other comments. Please do so by using Adobe Acrobat Version 6 or 7 to comment directly on the PDF of the draft chapter.

If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Version 6 or 7 and would like to make detailed comments, please send a message to [sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org) requesting a version of the draft chapter that permits you to comment. To optimize your commenting tools, please download Adobe Reader 7.0 for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>