

**Comments on draft SNA chapter:  
Chapter 25: Informal aspects of the economy**

**Deadline for comments: 30 September 2008  
Send comments to: [sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org)**

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Submission date:	September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008

This template allows you to record your comments on draft SNA chapter 25 “Informal aspects of the economy” 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 or all parts of the template.

There is no file comparing existing text with draft text for this chapter because there is no equivalent chapter in the 1993 SNA.

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. This may cover e.g. the structure of the chapter, issues missing and (lack of) consistency with other chapters of the 2008 SNA.

*General comments:*

General comment	See comments below.
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## Part II: Comments on specific draft paragraphs and sections

All comments on specific draft paragraphs are welcome. They can be about e.g. scope, content and clarity. Proposing a concrete alternative text or table is also possible. For the paragraphs in separate sections, separate forms are used for providing and collecting comments (see below).

### A. Introduction (paragraphs 25.1-25.13)

General comment	
25.12	The statement in the Para “production in the informal economy appears in different ways in different countries. When the motivation is a pure survival strategy or a desire for flexible work arrangements, it is likely to be encouraged. However when the motivation is to avoid taxes and regulation, or engage in illegal activities, efforts are likely to be made to curtail them” is confusing. Does the informal economy include illegal activities? According to UN publication <i>Non-observed Economy in National Accounts</i> , 2003 (page 2, Para3) informal economy is a subset of non-observed economy. It says The <b>non-observed economy</b> includes the following activities: “underground, informal( those undertaken by households for their use), illegal and other activities omitted due to deficiencies in the basic data”
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\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

### B. Characteristics of units in the informal economy (paragraphs 25.14-25.23)

General comment	
25. 20	Illegal activity is presented as one of the characteristics feature of informal economy when illegal activity is a separate category from the informal economy. ( see the definition of non-observed economy cited above)
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\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

### C. The non-observed economy (paragraphs 25.24-25.30)

General comment	
25.26 & 25.30	The statement “The non-observed economy overlaps with, but is not the same as, the informal economy” is inconsistent with the definition of non-observed economy cited above. The author has referenced this publication in Para 25-30.

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

**D. The informal sector as defined by the ILO (paragraphs 25.31-25.42)**

General comment	
25.31	The ILO concept of the informal sector is presented in Para 25.9 and again in D “the informal sector as defined by the ILO”. For clarity merge the two.
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\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

**E. Informal employment (paragraphs 25.43-25.48)**

General comment	
25.43	
*	

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

**F. Work of the Delhi Group (paragraphs 25.49-25.51)**

General comment	As the updated version of the informal economy is supposed to draw on work by the Delhi Group, by ILO, UNECE, IMF, OECD, this section should be relegated to an appendix. (See issue 44 in the <i>Full Set of Consolidated Recommendations</i> by the AEG).
25.49	
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\* Insert rows in this Word table for each paragraph on which you wish to comment.

**G. Deriving data on the informal economy from the SNA accounts (paragraphs 25.52-25.61)**

General comment	
25.52	
*	

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

**H. Approaches to measuring activities undertaken in the informal economy (paragraphs 25.62-25.69)**

General comment	
25.62	
*	

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

**I. Studies and handbooks on the informal sector (paragraph 25.70)**

General comment	
25.70	

### Part III. Other specific comments

You are welcome to make other specific comments. To assist you in doing so, the following points are provided as a guide to the types of points on which you might wish to comment. Note, though, that you are not restricted to commenting on only these points.

1. Is the description of the non-observed economy (NOE) and “exhaustiveness” sufficient given the existence of manuals devoted to the subject?
2. Is the concept of the “informal sector” as defined by the ILO clear?
3. Is the definition of informal employment clear and sufficient?
4. Are the suggestions in section G to identify the units of interest sufficiently clear?
5. Do you have any comments on the data collections descriptions in section H?
6. Are there any other references you think should be added to the last section?

*Specific comments:*

Specific comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. yes</li><li>2. See comments above.</li><li>3. Yes</li><li>4. Yes</li><li>5. No</li><li>6. No</li></ol>
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You are also welcome to comment directly on the PDF file of the draft chapter. Please do so by using Adobe Acrobat Version 6 or 7.

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>