

**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:	2 October 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	<p>The chapter is not clear enough. After the reading, uncertainties on how to identify informal production units and informal jobs are not solved. In particular, it is not clear the distinction between the informal economy and the formal, underground and illegal economy.</p> <p>In the chapter, it is said that informal economy could be present in developed countries too. Nevertheless, it is difficult to recognize informal units of production in the above countries because underground and illegal activities are more recognizable. Some examples of informal activities and types of informal employment in the developed countries are welcome.</p> <p>It is no possible to recognize a unique operational definition of informal economy. If this is not the case, it seems difficult to assist States to collect, analyse and disseminate consistent statistics on the above issue.</p>
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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	Click here and start typing.
25.12	This paragraph doesn't clarify the distinction between informal activities, illegal activities and underground activities. In particular, it is not clear the policy interest in the developed countries to measure the informal economy.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* 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	Click here and start typing.
25.20	We don't understand why to put here the reference to illegal activities. It shouldn't be a characteristic of the informal production units. If yes, could you explain us if you seen informal activities overlapping with illegal activities?
25.23	The criterion of excluding modern occupation from the informal economy is not clear. In particular, it is not clear the criterion of distinguishing occupations with respect to the extent to which the activity is dependent on fixed capital. May you provide some further information?

\* 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	Click here and start typing.
25.26	We don't understand if in this paragraph the non-observed economy is considered as a whole where is possible to recognize the underground economy, the illegal economy and the informal economy or if in the informal economy is possible to identify overlapping with the formal, illegal and underground economy.
*	Click here and start typing.

\* 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	Click here and start typing.
25.31	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.

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

General comment	According to the description of this chapter, informal employment doesn't not coincide with the informal sector. In fact, it is possible to have informal employees in formal activities; if informal employment is not better explained with some examples, this chapter becomes even more confused. .
25.43	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.

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

General comment	Click here and start typing.
25.49	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.

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

General comment	Click here and start typing.
25.52	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.

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

General comment	Click here and start typing.
25.62	Click here and start typing.
25.64	The use of labour force survey or similar household survey for the measurement of informal sector presents some limitations: 1) because many informal activities are characterised by seasonal and other variation over time and data, if referred to a short reference period, are unlikely to be representative of the whole year; 2) the sample size and the design of the survey influence the availability of data by economic activities. All this aspects could be influenced a lot a survey conducted in a developed countries where the phenomenon is less relevant.

\* 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	Click here and start typing.
25.70	Click here and start typing.

### 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	Click here and start typing.
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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>