

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: national accounts

Document E/CN.3/2021/8 – Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Statement provided by:

Senegal

Statement:

Senegal would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter.

ECA, with the support of some partners, has set up capacity building programs on the compilation of Supply and Uses Tables (SUTs) and on the GDP Rebasings. To date 30 countries have started the transition to the 2008 SNA; 20 other countries have planned the transition to the 2008 SNA between 2018 and 2022. Several countries compile and update their supply and use tables (SUTs) each year. Out of 37 countries that compile SUTs, 22 of them do so every year. 27 countries have compiled and released quarterly GDP.

The African Development Bank was selected to be a member of the Joint Communication Task Team (CMTT). The Task Team has the responsibility of mainly discussing the communication issues related to the past version of the system of national accounts (SNA) and how to improve it with the next version of SNA. African countries will closely collaborate with the African Development Bank to ensure that this becomes successful.

Africa proposes integration of African countries and institutions through the process of updating the manuals of statistics. The African Development Bank was given the lead role for the development of the guidance note of the workstream C (compliance framework for the macroeconomic accounting manuals). It will work closely with other members of this workstream to develop a guidance note on the compliance framework to help all countries to measure the degree of their compliance to the new system of national accounts under development. It will consult with all its regional member countries to update the manuals.

a) **On work programme for the updating of the 2008 SNA**

Africa group adheres to this work schedule which covers the period 2020-2025 especially as practical guidance notes will be sent to countries for comments and, where appropriate, experimentation and testing. Thus it will be possible to consult a variety of users and take into account the specificities of the continent. Regular regional and global consultations will be necessary.

Regarding the process of updating the 2008 SNA, the articulation of the different revision cycles of the other manuals with the SNA is much appreciated.

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b) On availability of in-kind and financial support for the update process of the 2008 SNA, including experimentation and testing of guidance notes in countries

Africa group is awaiting the set-up of the multi-donor trust fund that can assist countries with limited statistical capacity to facilitate experimentation and testing of guidance notes. To this end, a prior identification and assessment of countries and needs will be necessary. These guidance notes must be translated into all the working languages of the United Nations and seminars organized to train countries on the use of these notes.

c) On progress in resolving issues related to globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability, and communication

On globalization, the draft Guidance Note on How to Measure Imports and Exports at Invoice (Transactional) Value is ready for global testing. The continent wishes to be well represented for pilot studies.

Regarding digitalization, countries on the continent wish to participate in the compilation of supply and use tables on the digital economy which is currently being tested.

For better monitoring and analysis of well-being and sustainability, including the trade-offs and win-wins between various policy goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, expanded accounts are being studied in the following areas: distribution of household income, consumption, saving and wealth; unpaid household service work; and health and social conditions. The countries of the continent wish to be part of the pilot countries during the experiment phase.

For the measurement of activity in the national accounts, changes in the banking sector, particularly mobile banking, should be taken into account in the discussions.

d) On the work programmes of the Working Group and of the regional commissions

Initiatives are ongoing and led by ECA and AfDB on capacity building program on GDP Rebasing with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

e) On reporting of annual national accounts data, including the changeover to the 2008 SNA.

Countries are encouraged to report their national accounts data on a regular basis and to express their needs for assistance. ECA and AfDB are requested to step up support to countries in the process of adopting international classifications and in GDP Rebasing and moving to the 2008 SNA by organizing consultations or technical assistance missions on site. The initiatives taken should be based on Regional Commissions and sub-regional organizations such as Regional Economic Communities (RECs) which are closer to countries and capable of coordinating actions.

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