

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (n) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: national accounts

Document E/CN.3/2022/18 – Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Statement provided by:

Germany

Statement:

(a) Express its views on the progress with the update programme of the System of National Accounts 2008, as presented in section II, subsection A, B, C and D;

Generally, we agree to the update programme of the SNA 2008. Especially, we appreciate the process that allows to give feedback to all proposals and additionally offers the possibility of tests for the proposed changes. Of course, participating in tests is only possible if enough resources are available. Therefore, any external support for these tests is welcomed.

Regarding GDP and beyond we want to point out that GDP is the most important macroeconomic indicator and should stay reliable. GDP should always measure the macroeconomic performance in the best way possible. But, we agree that there should be another set of other indicators that provide important information for policymakers about measures “beyond GDP” like for example the SDG.

(b) Encourage countries to participate in the regional outreach seminars, global consultations on the guidance notes, and the experimentation and testing of guidance notes, as presented in section II, subsection E;

Germany is actively taking part in the consultations and discussions about the different guidance notes. Additionally, we plan to take active part in experimentation and testing as far as there are enough resources that allow us to do this.

(c) Take note of the appointment of the lead editor and project manager for the 2008 SNA update, as presented in section II, subsection F;

We appreciate and support the idea of having a lead editor and project manager. The experts of Federal Statistical Office Germany are willing to support the work of the lead editor as so called “supporting editors” on request.

(d) Express its views on the work programmes of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, as presented in section III;

We agree to the proposals.

(e) Express its views on the reporting of annual national accounts data, including the changeover to the 2008 SNA, as presented in section IV.

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We agree to the assessment of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts about the current situation.

Submitted on:

2/17/2022