

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

1–3 and 5 March 2022

Item 3 (n) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: National Accounts

Document E/CN.3/2022/18 – Report of the Secretary-National Accounts

Statement provided by:

Stats NZ (New Zealand)

Overview:

The report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, which is submitted to the Commission for discussion. In the report, the Working Group provides information on the progress with the three elements of the work programme for the update of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) namely, the development of guidance notes on the research issues identified for the 2008 SNA update; the outreach initiative to inform national accounts compilers and users about the update process and to collect feedback from them; and the coordination with the update of other economic statistical standards, including balance of payments, classifications and international trade statistics. In addition, the report contains the programme of work of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, and an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level. The Commission is invited to express its views and to provide guidance on the elements of the work programme for updating the 2008 SNA and on the programme of work of the Working Group.

Action Taken by the Statistical Commission:

The Commission is invited:

- (a) To express its views on the progress with the work programme for updating the System of National Accounts 2008, as presented in section II, subsections A, B, C and D;
- (b) To encourage countries to participate in regional outreach seminars, in global consultations on the guidance notes and in the experimentation and testing of guidance notes, as presented in section II, subsection E;
- (c) To take note of the appointment of the lead editor and project manager for the 2008 SNA update, as presented in section II, subsection F;
- (d) To express its views on the work programmes of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, as presented in section III;
- (e) To express its views on the reporting of annual national accounts data, including the changeover to the 2008 SNA

Statement:

Primarily, StatsNZ would like to commend the work done so far on the 2008 SNA update, the efforts to combine with other standard updates such as the Balance of payments updates and commend the group on the appointment of the lead editor and project manager for the 2008 SNA update.

StatsNZ is supportive of the progress made on the updating of the System of National Accounts 2008. To date we have provided feedback on most topics and the guidance notes & questionnaires have been an efficient means of providing input. We support the outreach, experimentation and

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testing approaches that have been used in this consultation process. Stats NZ is pleased that there have been improvements in the number and timeliness of official national accounts data reported by member states, and the increase in member states using the SNA08 framework.

Submitted on:

2/25/2021