

United Nations Statistical Commission

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Item 3 (n) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: national accounts

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<i>Statement provided by:</i> USA (United States of America)	
<i>Statement:</i> <p>The United States (U.S.) welcomes and supports the efforts for updating the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position (BPM) manuals. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has been actively involved in related technical research and consultation on the issues. We agree with the research and coordination efforts to retain core SNA measures such as gross domestic product (GDP) and to introduce supplemental measures that go beyond GDP. There is a wealth of companion guidelines to the SNA, such as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) and the System of Health Accounts, that are well-developed and have been proven feasible for a number of countries.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the increased policy need for some of the measures being promoted in the SNA research agenda. For example, policymakers in the U.S. have been interested in more frequent and more timely distributions of personal income, which are contingent on developing source data and methods.</p> <p>There are legal and institutional constraints that will affect the pace of progress in the U.S. for implementing some of the forthcoming SNA recommendations, including our decentralized statistical system. We are navigating this system by working with other U.S. government agencies for source data and expertise, some of whom represent new partnerships for BEA. For example, we're working more with our Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on SEEA-related research. In the past, we've collaborated and consulted with our National Center for Health Statistics and other agencies on measures of spending by disease.</p> <p>Finally, we support the collaborations among the AEG, BOPCOM, and the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. These collaborations will help facilitate the goals of each group to minimize inconsistencies in guidelines while also minimizing burden on the statistical offices from redundancy.</p>	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/25/2022