

Mr. Chair,

Speaking from the Chair of the Federated States of Micronesia, I also speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Island UN member countries national statistical offices.

We acknowledge the research work done by the group on issues related to the practical implementation and the clarification and interpretation of the 2008 SNA and, and like to see this continue.

We also welcome and support the Intersecretariat Working Group's consultations with a broad spectrum of national accounts users, researchers and representatives of academia, to ensure that new issues seen as important from a user perspective are also considered.

Mr. Chair – we also support the development of compilation guidance on the concepts and recommendations of the 2008 SNA. Manuals, handbooks and guidance notes strengthen statistical capacity for compiling national accounts.

In the Pacific, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is taking a lead in this, in close collaboration with other technical partners; the latest such manual was the *Pacific Business Register Development Guide*, a collaborative effort with the Australian Bureau of Statistics which was released in February 2014.

Mr. Chair – with respect to the scope, timeliness and exhaustive measurement of national accounts compilation, the larger Pacific Island national statistical offices have opted to choose to adopt a *gradual approach* to implementing the 2008 SNA, and hence have only introduced some of the 2008 SNA recommendations to date. The smaller ones, Mr. Chair, I am afraid will take some time to complete a changeover to the 2008 SNA, due to severe human resource constraints in their National Statistical Offices (despite available *technical assistance and training opportunities*).

Thank you Mr. Chair