



Third Regional Thematic Seminar on System of National Accounts (SNA) Update Programme

Concept Note

Economic, Infrastructure and Agriculture Statistics Section
African Centre for Statistics
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Background

The update of the 2008 SNA is currently underway. Overseen by the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG), the update follows a three-pronged approach: technical research, broad consultation, and ensuring overall consistency with other statistical standards in the system of economic statistics.

Each methodological change has been set out in Guidance Notes (GNs), with technical research driven by dedicated Task Teams (TTs). A new feature of the 2008 SNA update process is the inclusion of an experimental estimation / early implementation component of these GNs, called the Assessment and Experimental Estimates (AEE). Testing will focus on the GNs that require new institutional arrangements, data collection, statistical production structures and statistical infrastructure.

The goal of this series of regional seminars on the 2008 SNA update programme and process is to drive engagement by Member States, ensure they are included in GN discussions, that specific regional challenges are addressed, and to encourage active participation of African countries in the AEE component and phase.

The advantage and benefits for Member States to participate in AEE are significant: (a) the participating countries will be supported financially and technically by a group of international and regional organizations and development partners who have expertise in the related areas; (b) the countries will become a pioneer in the related technical areas, be used as a good case study and example for others to follow; the results and outcomes will provide feedback to the GNs and ultimately to the SNA update; and (c) the timing of countries experimenting together can help produce synergies and overcome challenges, and the successful experiences may create positive spillovers to improve and strengthen the national statistical systems.

The third regional seminar is planned to be held on 6-9 June 2022.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the seminar is to provide a forum for all African countries to be engaged and participate directly in the global SNA update programme by discussing and commenting on

the guidance notes (GNs) and participating in the assessment and experimental estimates (AEE).

The specific objectives of the seminar are:

- To provide an update on the progress of the work to update the SNA and present the proposed outline of the 2025 SNA.
- To develop a good understanding of the GNs in each of the priority areas and thematic topics: Communication, Financial and Payments Systems, Globalization, Well-being and sustainability, and Islamic finance.
- To collect comments, suggestions, and recommendations for changes to GNs based on country and continent-specific experience and challenges; and
- To identify pilot countries based on interest and feasibility for the implementation component of the SNA update process.

Activities

The thematic part of the seminar will be organized into the following five priority areas and thematic topics: communication, financial and payments systems, globalization, well-being and sustainability, and Islamic finance; and each session will be organized as follow:

- An expert to provide an in-depth presentation on the GN including content, scope, and methodology.
- A series of dialogue and Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions for countries and other stakeholders to discuss and comment on each topic; and
- An opportunity for countries to put forward their interest as a pilot for implementing a GN.

Besides, countries will also discuss and exchange with a group of international and regional organizations and development partners on the follow-up participation in the testing and experimental implementation of the 2025 SNA.

Participants

Participants will be invited from agencies in all Members States who are in charge of National Accounts.

Date and Venue

The online seminar is planned for four days and will take place on 6-9 June 2022. It will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation between English and French.

Contact Persons

Issues related to the organization and administrative arrangements of the project, please contact:

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