

Second 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 2008 SNA update will follow a three-pronged approach: technical research, broad consultation, and ensuring overall consistency.

The technical research has been driven by Task Teams (TTs), steered by country members of the AEG while ISWGNA provides the secretariat. Each TT is drafting Guidance Notes (GNs) on issues identified in their research with either the clarification, interpretation or change of the SNA as appropriate. Each GN should clearly identify not only the conceptual implications but the feasibility of implementing the proposed conceptual solutions. The draft GNs will be reviewed by the steering committees, and on clearance will be released for public consultation with a broad set of regional and global users involved.

In parallel with this phase, the Assessment Experimental Estimates (AEE) is to be carried out for an experimental implementation of the new methodological guides developed. Testing will focus GNs that require new institutional arrangements, data collection, statistical production structures and statistical infrastructure. This will include a baseline assessment, experimental estimates, assessment of recommendations and user consultations, and final reporting and collection of results. The selection of countries will depend on a feasibility assessment, countries' interest and should include a wide regional representation, income level and inter-institutional collaboration.

The GNs will then undergo a second review by the committees before final joint endorsement. Finally, the endorsed GN will be checked for international compatibility with other international statistical standards such as BP and GFSM before going to the revised version of the manuals.

A series of regional seminars on the SNA update programme has been organized jointly by ECA and UNSD in Africa to facilitate and support the process and progress of the global SNA update programme and to ensure the continent's inclusion. In June 2021, the first regional seminar was organized to inform and engage member States in Africa the new SNA update process. 47 African countries participated in this seminar, along with some countries from outside the region that were interested. Since then, a volume of GNs have been submitted by TTs to be discussed in the key thematic areas and it is time for countries to carry out the experimental implementation. Thus, ECA and UNSD have organized a second regional seminar to be held on 17-18 November 2021.

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 to foster their participation in the recommendations feasibility assessment and subsequent experimental estimates (AEE).

The specific objectives of the seminar are:

- To develop a good understanding of the GNs in each of the thematic topics: globalization, digitization, wellbeing and sustainability, and the informal economy.
- 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 seminar will be organised into the four themes of globalization, digitization, wellbeing and sustainability and the informal economy; and each session will be conducted such that:

- An expert provides an initial 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
- Provide an opportunity for countries to put forward their interest as a pilot for implementing a given GN or theme.

A survey will be conducted and posted online during the seminar to solicit the interest of countries to be part of the pilot countries for experimental testing of new recommendations. Interested countries are strongly encouraged and most welcome to provide written comments and suggestions. After the selection of the pilot countries for the experimental testing, technical assistance will be organized to help these pilot countries according to the selected topics provided by the UNSD and the ISWGNA.

Participants

Participants will be invited from all members State who are in charge of National Accounts.

Date and Venue

The online seminar is planned for two days and will take place on 17-18 November 2021. It will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation between English and French.

Contact Persons

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

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