

Call for suggestions to improve the clarity of the 1993 SNA

by

The Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Considerable progress has been made in the programme for updating the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) over the last twelve months. With the assistance of the Advisory Experts Group on National Accounts (AEG), the ISWGNA has identified 44 issues for possible substantive change and a number of other issues for clarification. Agreement on some issues has been reached already, and good progress has been made with many of the others. In this process, the ISWGNA has received and is taking into consideration comments from the national statistical offices and central banks of 39 countries. This, together with the wide involvement in the work of the task forces developing issue proposals and the discussions of issue proposals at various international fora, reflects the widespread international commitment to a successful outcome.

The ISWGNA now invites suggestions from the international community for improving the clarity of the 1993 SNA. Suggestions should be made exclusively for the following purposes:

- using more user friendly terminology in the 1993 SNA;
- amending wording errors and apparent contradictions in different parts of the SNA; and
- rewording text that has been found to be confusing, unclear or ambiguous.

It is important to emphasize that there should be no conceptual issues concealed within the suggestions, given that the ISWGNA has decided that the list of issues for possible substantive change can not be expanded. This decision was made in the light of the need to complete the deliberation of proposals for substantive change by the end of 2005.

Suggestions that fit the above criteria should be sent to Ms. Magdolna Csizmadia of the UNSD no later than 31 December 2005 by email (csizmadia@un.org), or by fax: 1-212-963-1374.

The UNSD will consolidate the suggestions and, after review by the ISWGNA (and if necessary, also by the AEG), forward them to the editor for incorporation in the 1993 SNA Rev.1.