



CONCEPT NOTE
Seminar on the Implementation of the
System of National Accounts 2008 in the
Latin America and the Caribbean Region

9 to 12 November 2010, Lima, Peru

Background

1. The Implementation Programme for the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics represents a global statistical initiative, which was mandated by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session following the adoption of the 2008 SNA as the international standard for the compilation and dissemination of national accounts.
2. With the 2008 SNA being flexible to accommodate all countries and economies, regardless of their level of statistical development, each country has to review with its users the relevant changes from the 1993 SNA to the 2008 SNA that are applicable to the country and consider its adoption. At the same time, user consultation should revisit the scope, detail and quality of the accounts and supporting economic statistics by taking a view on which socio-economic and financial policies have to be informed by the structural and short-term economic statistics, including annual and quarterly national accounts.
3. Three distinct stages are identified for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics through a multi-year programme, irrespective of the level of statistical development, as follows:
 - (a) Stage I. Review of strategic framework and detailing of national and regional implementation programmes;
 - (b) Stage II. Adaptation of classification frameworks, business registers and frames, surveys, administrative data sources and information technology infrastructure; and
 - (c) Stage III. Application of adapted frameworks and source data, backcasting and changeover to 2008 SNA.
4. The efficiency and sustainability of the implementation of the 2008 SNA rest on the agreed principles of the implementation strategy, namely: (a) strategic planning, (b) coordination, monitoring and reporting; and (c) improving statistical systems. The strategy takes as a starting point the different levels of implementation of the SNA in various countries. It acknowledges the need for coordinated action, not only at the international level but also at regional and sub-regional levels and emphasizes the need for close cooperation with regional commissions and sub-regional organisations.
5. ECLAC, in collaboration with UNSD, is organising a seminar on the implementation of the 2008 SNA. The seminar will be held from 8 to 12 November 2010, hosted by INEI, Peru..

Purpose

6. The purpose of the seminar is to assist the Working Group on National Accounts of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (SCA-WGNA) in formulating the implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics. It is expected that this initiative would lead to a multi-year programme to move the countries over to the 2008 SNA and to establish a minimum common data set of annual and high frequency statistics. This regional programme will be part of the global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics.

Organizers of the seminar

7. This seminar will be jointly organized by ECLAC and UNSD and hosted by INEI, Peru.

Participants

8. Senior managers of economic statistics and national accounts programmes from National Statistical Offices and/or Central Banks of Latin America, able to express a view on the regional and national implementation programmes and representatives from international organizations, such as IMF, the Andean Community, the Central American Monetary Council and the Inter Americana Development Bank.

Organization of the programme

Apart from the introduction to the main objectives of the seminar the programme of the seminar will be organised around seven themes: i) Overview of main changes from the 1993 SNA to the 2008 SNA. ii) The financial crisis and statistical initiatives to meet the challenge. iii) The 2008 SNA implementation strategy. iv) 2008 SNA implementation tools. v) Regional initiatives for improving the scope, detail and quality of the national accounts and supporting economic statistics in the region. vi) The work programme of the SCA-WGNA,

Expected outcome

9. Consensus among participants on the basic characteristics of a regional programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Latin America. The results of the Seminar will be important inputs for the activities of the SCA-WGNA and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Board of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (early 2011). It is expected that the Seminar could reach consensus on:

- a comprehensive, region-wide assessment of countries' current capacity and needs to produce the basic economic statistics and national accounts for policy and decision making;
- a region-wide roadmap to enhance the scope and quality of basic economic statistics and national accounts for improved policy and decision making; and
- a minimum common data set of annual and high frequency statistics;