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Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session (see E/2008/24), the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The Commission is requested to adopt the draft of volume 2 of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*. This request, and other points for discussion by the Commission, are set out in section V of the present report.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

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I. Introduction

1. At its thirty-ninth session in 2008, the Statistical Commission:

(a) Adopted, in principle, volume 1 of the updated System of National Accounts (SNA) as the international standard for national accounts statistics;

(b) Recognized that the time required to evaluate volume 1 of the updated SNA as a whole was insufficient, and endorsed the proposal by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) to introduce an additional two-month period, until the end of April 2008, for the completion of its review;

(c) Mandated ISWGNA to proceed with the finalization and publication of volume 1, after approval by the Bureau of the Commission, in pre-edited electronic and print versions, taking into account the substantive observations made during the two-month review period;

(d) Recognized that the official editing of volume 1 would be undertaken as a priority task and noted the plan for its subsequent publication in the official languages of the United Nations;

(e) Requested ISWGNA to take appropriate measures to ensure that volume 2 of the updated SNA was duly completed and submitted for adoption to the Commission at its fortieth session, in accordance with its commitment to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session;

(f) Urged ISWGNA to submit to the Commission at its fortieth session a strategy for implementation of the updated SNA in the context of development cooperation;

(g) Welcomed the proposal contained in the report of ISWGNA to convene a meeting in 2008 for interested countries and other stakeholders to work out the modalities of the creation of a high-level group on national accounts and to report to the Commission at its fortieth session on the outcome of the meeting;

(h) Requested ISWGNA to seek the opinion of Member States during the two-month review period of volume 1 on the title of the updated SNA, based on a balanced consideration of the preferences for the title, and to inform the Bureau of the Commission of its assessment. The Bureau will seek the concurrence of Commission members regarding its decision.

2. Section II of the present report provides information on the outcomes of progress made since the thirty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission and also looks ahead at the work to be done over the next few months, which will end with the publication of the complete, updated SNA following the requested adoption of volume 2 by the Commission. Section III provides an overview of the strategy proposed for the implementation of the updated SNA. Section IV presents a summary of the deliberations of the high-level forum, which considered the future direction of development of the SNA. Points for discussion are contained in section V.

II. Preparation of the updated System of National Accounts

A. Background

3. In 2003, the Statistical Commission called for an update of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA)¹ to bring national accounts into line with the new economic environment, the advances in methodological research and the needs of users. The Commission mandated that the update would not recommend fundamental or comprehensive changes to the 1993 SNA that would impede its implementation, that recommendations for change should consider the feasibility of implementation and that consistency with related manuals should be an important consideration.

4. ISWGNA, which comprises the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank, was asked to organize and coordinate the update project and was assisted in its work by a project manager and editor.

5. The Statistical Commission emphasized the need for the broadest possible involvement of the global statistical community in the update project and endorsed the establishment of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, comprising 20 country experts from all regions of the world, to play a key role in the update. The project website, maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/snarev1.asp>, promotes mandated transparency and wide involvement, especially of national accounts experts. The website provides comprehensive and timely information related to the update, including the work programme, the agreed list of update issues, related papers, the recommendations of the Advisory Expert Group and comments by countries and organizations thereon, and all the draft chapters and comments thereon.

6. The update process followed a coordinated strategy that initially identified a list of 44 substantive issues and 39 matters for clarification, which was endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session. A process of extensive consultations was adopted to identify those issues, with the Advisory Expert Group playing a key role in the process. The Advisory Expert Group met on six occasions, most recently in November 2008, in order to make recommendations on the issues themselves and on the related content to be included in the SNA. In the drafting and review phase, which began in the second half of 2006, the existing text of the 1993 SNA was updated to incorporate the recommendations and clarifications.

B. White cover version of volume 1

7. Volume 1 of the updated SNA was approved in principle by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session, subject to an extended two-month review period (until 30 April 2008), in order to provide countries with the opportunity to make their final comments on the 17 chapters of volume 1. The comments were

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4.

considered by ISWGNA at a meeting in May 2008. The comments from this review were incorporated in the final text of volume 1.

8. In response to the request of the Statistical Commission that the opinion of Member States on the title of the updated SNA be sought (see para. 1 (h) above), countries were invited to choose between “System of National Accounts, 1993, Revision 1” and “System of National Accounts, 2008” (2008 SNA). Of the 58 countries that responded, 40 favoured the latter title and, accordingly, it was approved by the Bureau of the Commission.

9. Following its approval by the Bureau of the Commission on 4 August 2008, the pre-edited white cover version of volume 1 was released by the United Nations Statistics Division in print and online. The official editing of volume 1 at the United Nations has been completed, and only a relatively small number of minor corrections need to be made.

10. Agreement on the codes to be used in the 2008 SNA for distributive transactions and the general government sector could not be reached prior to the release of the pre-edited white cover version of volume 1. As a result, in June 2008 the codes were removed from volume 1 in order to expedite its prepublication release. The codes were discussed by the Advisory Expert Group at its meeting in November 2008, and agreement was reached on the codes to be used in the 2008 SNA. The revised codes will be reinserted into annexes 1 and 2 prior to the release of the final version of the 2008 SNA.

11. At its meetings in November 2008, ISWGNA and the Advisory Expert Group assessed whether the guidance provided in the 2008 SNA was adequate to deal with the actions taken by Governments in response to the current financial crisis. It was concluded that it did, but that some additional text may be needed to clarify treatment in a few cases.

C. Changes required to volume 1

12. In the process of drafting volume 2, and taking into consideration the comments received during its review, several minor errors and issues requiring clarification were discovered in volume 1. In addition, at its meeting in November 2008, the Advisory Expert Group recommended that some additional minor changes to the text in volume 1 that flowed from recent research be incorporated in order to clarify the treatment of those issues. Briefly, the changes required are as follows:

(a) To extend the coverage of standardized guarantees issued by Governments to include other financial instruments as well as loans;

(b) To change the term of the transaction in the use of income account for the “change in pension entitlements” to “adjustment for the change in pension entitlements”;

(c) To change the text to point out that in the financial account, the transaction referred to as “change in pension entitlements” may differ from the transaction referred to as “adjustment for the change in pension entitlements” by the amount of capital transfers relating to pension entitlements;

(d) To make a correction to show that the payment of pensions does not change the net worth of households;

(e) To clarify the term “sponsor” (of a pension scheme) by making an explicit distinction between the initiator and the administrator of a scheme, but pointing out that they can be one and the same (and usually are, within Europe);

(f) To include some additional text clarifying the criteria that determine when changes to pension schemes should be recorded in the core accounts and when they should be recorded in the supplementary table; it will consist of text outlining how to treat negotiated and non-negotiated changes to pensions;

(g) To include some extra text on determining when claims payable under non-life insurance should be treated as capital rather than current transfers;

(h) To incorporate the corrections made by the United Nations editor and whatever typographical errors and inconsistencies that have emerged in the text or tables since the white cover version was widely distributed;

(i) To change, if time permits, the numbers in the tables in order to present more realistic relationships.

13. Details of the substantive changes (that is, excluding editing issues) intended to be made are being provided to the Statistical Commission in a background document.

D. Drafting and review of volume 2

14. There are 12 chapters in volume 2. The table below sets out the chapter headings and the number of comments received on each during the review period.

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of comments</i>
18	Elaborating and presenting the accounts	14
19	Population and labour inputs	21
20	Capital services and the national accounts	27
21	Measuring corporate activity	10
22	The general government and public sectors	20
23	Non-profit institutions	18
24	The households sector	14
25	Informal aspects of the economy	20
26	The rest of the world accounts and links to the balance of payments	18
27	Links to monetary statistics and flow of funds	15
28	Input-output and other matrix-based analyses	14
29	Satellite accounts and other extensions	14

15. Chapter 27 was posted on the SNA update website in December 2006 for comments (numbered as chapter 26 at that time), and chapter 20 was posted in May 2008. The remaining 10 chapters of volume 2 were made available for review and comments between early August and early October 2008. There were 205 sets of comments received on the 12 chapters, which is an average of 17 sets per chapter. As was the case with the comments on volume 1, those on volume 2 were generally thorough and complex, and it is clear that considerable time was spent on examining

the draft chapters in detail and preparing comments. They included helpful editorial suggestions as well as substantive comments that required additions to the draft text in some cases and corrections in others. All comments received are available on the SNA update website. At meetings held in October and November 2008, ISWGNA considered the comments received. Relevant comments have been incorporated into the text of volume 2, which was submitted to the Statistical Commission for its consideration and adoption at the current session.

16. Two annexes have also been produced in conjunction with the chapters. They are annex 3, which provides details of the changes between the 1993 SNA and the 2008 SNA, and annex 4, which presents details of the research agenda that has emerged from the update process. Those annexes were not available for comment prior to the submission of the revised version of volume 2 to the Commission for its consideration in December 2008. A background document that was presented to the Commission provides a summary of comments received on the revised volume 2, including the impact of the comments on the drafts of the annexes.

E. Translation of the System of National Accounts

17. It took about six years before the 1993 SNA was available in all six official languages of the United Nations. In order for the 2008 SNA to be translated as quickly as possible, negotiations have commenced between the Statistics Division and various agencies. The aim is to commence work on translating the English language version of the 2008 SNA into the other five official languages of the United Nations as soon as the final text in English, ready for publication, becomes available. This final version is expected to be available around July 2009. It is foreseen that a glossary of terms used the 2008 SNA would be translated first in order to ensure consistency before the entire text is translated.

F. Final steps

18. One of the directives of the Statistical Commission in reviewing the plans for updating the SNA was to ensure consistency between it and other economic statistical frameworks. In particular, this requirement resulted in very close cooperation with the team working on the update of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* and international investment position, sixth edition. The outcome has been complete consistency between these two important statistical standards. There has also been extensive discussion with those responsible for issuing the *Government Finance Statistics Manual* and the *Money and Finance Statistics Compilation Guide*, published in 2007. With regard to the former, note was taken of any divergence from its text and that of the 2008 SNA, which will serve as input to a revision of the manual.

19. There is still a significant amount of work required to finalize the 2008 SNA. The first step will be to incorporate into volume 2 the changes arising from comments received during the two-month review period up to the time of the current session of the Statistical Commission, plus those arising from any decisions taken by the Statistical Commission. The next step would be to incorporate into volume 1 the changes presented to the Statistical Commission at its current session. The glossary will then have to be finalized and an index prepared. Afterwards, the whole

2008 SNA will need to be thoroughly reread and checked, including for consistency. ISWGNA will have an important role in the final checks. Then volume 2 will be handed over to the United Nations for the official editing process, similar to that on volume 1. Finally, changes arising from the official editing will need to be included in volume 2 and the manuscript prepared for publishing.

20. The timing of the finalization process depends largely on the extent of the comments received on volume 2 during the review between December 2008 and February 2009. Assuming that they are as extensive as those arising from the equivalent review of volume 1, it is likely to take at least four to five weeks to incorporate the comments. The draft will then need to be checked, including for consistency, which will take several weeks before volume 2 can be handed over for official editing. The outcome is that the 2008 SNA is likely to be available for publication, electronic release and submission for translation around July 2009.

III. Strategy for the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*

A. Background

21. At its thirty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission requested ISWGNA to submit a strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA. This section of the report provides a summary of the proposed implementation strategy. A more detailed plan is presented in a separate background document entitled “Implementation strategy for the System of National Accounts, 2008”. At this stage, the background document describes a set of possible actions to be undertaken over the next few years, depending on priorities identified by the Commission as well as available resources. A more precise plan will be developed by ISWGNA in due course, taking into account the comments provided by the Commission.

22. The proposed strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA takes into account, as a point of departure, the different levels of implementation of the SNA in various countries and regions. It is recognized that the detailed strategy should reflect the need for regional and subregional coordination, given the different levels of statistical development between countries.

23. The proposed strategy builds on the results of the regional consultations undertaken by the member organizations of ISWGNA between 2006 and 2008; by elaborating on principles for the implementation; and by reflecting the perspectives of users, producers and those engaged in policy formulation and analysis. Among these events was the conference held in Luxembourg in May 2008,² from which the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts emerged. Those consultations underlined the need for institutional capacity-building to produce source statistics as an integral part of the compilation of national accounts.

² The International Conference on International Outreach and Coordination in National Accounts for Sustainable Growth and Development was jointly organized by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the United Nations Statistics Division, from 6 to 8 May 2008, in Luxembourg.

24. It was agreed that it would be useful to include the following principles, which emerged from the Luxembourg Recommendations, in the implementation strategy for the 2008 SNA: (a) strategic planning; (b) coordination, monitoring and reporting; and (c) improving statistical systems. The rest of this section provides a summary of those principles and describes how ISWGNA envisages applying them through specific instruments and modalities.

B. Objective

25. The 2008 SNA implementation strategy aims to support sound macroeconomic management and evidence-based policy formulation through the sustained compilation and reporting of national accounts and related source data by national, regional and international statistical systems. The 2008 SNA provides an up-to-date benchmark to assess the capacity to produce basic economic and macroeconomic statistics. The efficiency and sustainability of a global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA rest on the establishment of agreed principles for coordinated action at the national, regional and international levels.

C. Strategic planning

26. Strategic planning is a key principle in mobilizing political and financial support for investment in statistics. It is proposed that strategic planning frameworks be used to connect national development objectives with a programme of work for statistical capacity-building. Strategic planning can identify the current strengths and weaknesses of statistical capacity to produce key economic indicators and basic source data, and in consulting users. This approach could also lay out a schedule of tasks to mitigate weaknesses.

27. Best practices of existing initiatives should be used to shape the strategic planning and organizational framework of the implementation of SNA. The manual of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) provides guidance on putting together strategic planning frameworks. NSDS are the most widely used guidelines, and many developing countries already have or are updating their NSDS planning tool. Therefore, countries should review their NSDS to ensure that they incorporate the 2008 SNA implementation needs.

28. The regional commissions, in consultation and cooperation with their (sub)regional development partners, should coordinate this review of the NSDS for the implementation needs of the 2008 SNA and, where necessary, supplement this information with other national and regional assessments. For this review of national strategies and the subsequent formulation of national and regional SNA implementation plans, it is envisaged that existing regional coordination mechanisms, such as statistical committees or working groups, in addition to new steering groups, where needed, will be mobilized, with the regional commissions acting as secretariat. The creation of new coordinating mechanisms should be envisaged only where strictly necessary. Consideration should be given to the broad-based participation of stakeholders in the coordination structures; such consideration should include international organizations, regional development banks and agencies, and other donors and representative recipient countries.

D. Coordination, monitoring and reporting

29. The principle of coordination, monitoring and reporting ensures that international and regional organizations, other donors and recipient countries have clear roles and that their actions are complementary and effective.

30. ISWGNA proposes that a programme information structure be applied in order to facilitate the coordination, monitoring and reporting on the SNA implementation in this multi-stakeholder environment. The proposed information system will be built on the structure of a statistical production process framework based on the well-established *Classification of Statistical Activities* of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to programme and monitor the implementation, and on the IMF data quality assessment framework to evaluate and report on outcomes. Together, those two frameworks will facilitate the development of a coherent information system for programming, monitoring and reporting.

31. An information system that is commonly accepted is in the interest of effective project programming, monitoring and reporting, especially in the SNA context. This is of particular importance in a multi-stakeholder environment.

E. Improving statistical systems

32. The principle of improving statistical systems is undertaken through the strengthening of the national statistical system covering each of the building blocks of the statistical production process.

33. ISWGNA proposes to retain, but refocus, the four modalities used in the SNA implementation strategy for the 1993 SNA by providing training and delivering technical cooperation, preparing manuals and handbooks, and sponsoring research. However, those modalities should focus more than they did in the past on the various stages of the statistical production process that precede the integration of the data into the national accounts, namely, in the collection and processing of basic source data and the institutional context.

34. A proposed extension of the 2008 SNA website (hosted by the United Nations Statistics Division) to include a web-based knowledge base of economic statistics and macroeconomic standards, sourced from and hyperlinked to other relevant organizations, will facilitate easy access to statistical standards, manuals, handbooks, textbooks, compilation guidance and best practices on the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

35. In conjunction with a web-based knowledge base, it is envisaged to mobilize the existing regional knowledge and training networks to take part in an internationally agreed training and teaching programme for the SNA and related macroeconomic standards. Those regional networks, so designated, will be invited to collaborate with ISWGNA in developing and delivering standard training and teaching programmes (including distance learning programmes) on the SNA and related macroeconomic standards.

36. It is recognized that the four well-tested modalities that were used in the past are insufficient for a fully successful implementation of the SNA, as they address only the support provided for implementation. To be fully successful, the implementation strategy should also take into account the responsibility of countries

to take ownership of the implementation process by including them in the development of their national statistical systems. Therefore, an additional element, advocacy, is added to the existing modalities with the aim of stimulating the demand for national accounts data and encouraging the use of the accounts. Advocacy will play an important role in encouraging national support for the acquisition and maintenance of viable economic statistics and national accounts programmes and in communicating the policy relevance of the 2008 SNA. In this regard, the experience gained by PARIS21 will play an important role.

F. Mechanism for coordination, monitoring progress and facilitating cooperation

37. In the multi-stakeholder environment of the SNA implementation strategy, a mechanism is needed in order to coordinate, monitor and report progress at the (sub)regional and international levels. The purpose of this mechanism would be to share information on the development and the execution of the SNA implementation strategy.

38. ISWGNA proposes the establishment of a mechanism, possibly in the form of an inter-agency and intergovernmental advisory group, in order to seek advice on the implementation of the SNA and related macroeconomic standards. In particular, it is proposed that this group comprise representatives of regional coordinating mechanisms who would advise ISWGNA on the maintenance and management of a coherent programme of work in order to implement the 2008 SNA. If those proposals are accepted, ISWGNA would reflect further on the modalities of the mechanisms.

39. The group will advise ISWGNA on the maintenance and management of a coherent programme of work. For the review of national and regional SNA implementation plans, regional coordination mechanisms may wish to establish such advisory groups in order to share information on the development and execution of the SNA implementation strategy at the regional level.

G. Strategy for funding

40. The strategy for funding arrangements for the implementation of the 2008 SNA should be based on a cooperative and partnership model. It should build largely on the existing resources and comparative advantages of all stakeholders and partners. In a collective effort, it is expected that recipient countries would mobilize and scale up their own funds to match their national plans, and international agencies would prioritize funds for the support of the implementation of the 2008 SNA and, to the extent possible, scale up their support. Synergies would be found between the International Comparison Programme, the General Data Dissemination System, the work of PARIS21 and the provision of training and technical assistance, and donors should provide financial support for research towards and implementation of some cross-cutting issues related to the development of tools and drafting of implementation guidance.

IV. High-level forum and the future direction of development of the System of National Accounts

41. At its thirty-ninth session in 2008, the Statistical Commission requested ISWGNA to convene a meeting of a high-level group to examine the future direction of the SNA. The purpose of such a high-level group was to discuss possible future developments of the SNA and procedures related to such developments, taking into consideration the rapid changes in the global economy, changes in economic theory and emerging policy needs.

42. Following up on that request, ISWGNA consulted several heads of statistical offices to discuss the mandate, functions, composition and governance of a high-level group. Afterwards, all Member States were consulted on the agenda of a high-level forum to be organized during 2008, with the involvement of all interested countries. The resulting high-level forum was convened in Washington, D.C., on 17 and 18 November 2008.

43. It was a constructive meeting, which managed to meet its objectives successfully. The participants consisted of senior staff from national statistical offices and international organizations closely associated with the SNA. The high-level forum coincided with the meeting of the Group of Twenty in Washington, D.C., which provided an opportunity for a discussion of the implications of the current world financial crisis for the national accounts.

44. In addition to its main purpose of discussing the future direction of development of the SNA, the high-level forum took into account in its considerations the ability of countries to collect primary data and to maintain a national accounts system. Furthermore, it considered the choice between imputed versus observable transactions when considering the role of satellite accounts vis-à-vis core accounts.

45. The high-level forum confirmed that macroeconomic accounts are at the heart of the economic statistical information system and that they provide a sound basis for articulating economic developments of a globally interconnected nature. The SNA, being fully harmonized with other macroeconomic standards, supports the measurement of interrelationship, the transmission of risk, liquidity and other exposures, through flows and positions both between domestic sectors and with other countries.

46. The importance of a full articulation of the balance sheets was confirmed, irrespective of the stage of development of an economy, with a full integration of the real and financial flow accounts. International agencies, therefore, should advance this understanding in their implementation programmes on the SNA by being in direct communication with the heads of the national statistical agencies in order to prioritize national accounts and related macroeconomic standards in their programmes.

47. The participants of the high-level forum acknowledged the need for a stable set of core accounts, but also emphasized the need for flexibility in producing national accounts statistics that incorporate important emerging features of the economy. Comments suggested that revisions and updates to changes of a non-fundamental nature could occur more frequently, as required and feasible, while changes of a more fundamental nature would be gathered over time and introduced after longer intervals. Fundamental “core” changes could be defined as those

affecting concepts and classifications; for example, of institutional units between sectors or of expenditures between intermediate consumption and final expenditure. Non-fundamental, “non-core” changes could involve questions of scope; for example, the inclusion of household production of services for own consumption within the production boundary.

48. Furthermore, it was emphasized that clear targets for a future update should be set, with a single or a few target objectives, to which a larger array of other objectives could be subordinated. Discussants noted the challenge of prioritizing improvements in the accounts in the face of international comparability requirements and national statistical priorities.

49. Further research on the financial assets classification and subsectoring of the institutional sectors has to be undertaken in the light of the innovations in structured financial products and new risk and liquidity management practices, including the ultimate ownership links with off balance sheet entities. This research will allow for the use of commercial databases, in addition to regulatory or administrative databases, in the compilation of national accounts

50. The requirement of meeting the emerging features of the economy was also reflected in the expressed need to obtain a full articulation of the drivers of growth in the production accounts, thereby strengthening the link between the real and financial accounts. It was suggested that research be extended to incorporate a broader range of knowledge assets in the accounts in order to achieve this goal.

51. Apart from the fact that the SNA should be able to reflect the “real” economic situation during periods of rapid change, such as with the current financial crisis, further research should advance multiple measures of well-being and poverty through the development of social accounts in order to articulate the link between the conventional measures of growth, such as gross domestic product, to the household sector.

52. Apart from the above-mentioned directions of research and confirmation of the need to advance research in environmental accounting, the high-level forum did not suggest significant changes to the directions already set by ISWGNA for the research agenda.

53. Although some suggestions were presented regarding the change of some of the imputations in the national accounts, by considering a purely monetary system versus an elaboration in non-monetary accounts, the high-level forum did not make specific proposals regarding changes to the current recommendations in the SNA.

54. The high-level forum further articulated that an explicit communication strategy should be developed to advance research for official statistics by strengthening the collaborative arrangements with the academic community, the regulatory authorities, the business accounting community and the corporate sector.

55. There were not many comments on governance of future revisions of the SNA. It was considered best to wait until the next revision is contemplated. On the other hand, revisions to “non-core” parts of the SNA, which are made more frequently, may still require earlier, rather than later, consideration of governance of revisions.

56. The forum did not recommend any follow-up meetings, but ISWGNA concluded that the need for another meeting of a high-level group to examine the

future direction of the SNA should be assessed in two to three years' time. A detailed report of the meeting is provided as a separate background document.

V. Points for discussion

57. **The Commission is requested to:**

(a) **Adopt the draft of volume 2 of the 2008 SNA which, combined with volume 1, will provide the international statistical standard for national accounts;**

(b) **Encourage countries to implement the 2008 SNA in their compilation and reporting of national accounts and use the 2008 SNA as the overarching framework for integrating economic and related statistics;**

(c) **Express support for and provide guidance on the proposed implementation strategy for the 2008 SNA;**

(d) **Express its views on the outcome of the meeting of the high-level forum on the future direction of the development of the SNA, held in Washington, D.C., in November 2008.**
