

Unclassified**English - Or. English****6 November 2020****STATISTICS AND DATA DIRECTORATE
COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL POLICY****Cancels & replaces the same document of 5 October 2020****Working Party on National Accounts****Draft Annotated Agenda: Meeting of the Working Party on National Accounts****6 November 2020**

The meeting will take place in a virtual format.

Delegates are invited to consult the ONE Community space:
<https://community.oecd.org/community/nationalaccounts> for up to date information; all documents and presentations will be uploaded as they are received.

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JT03468041

Meeting of the Working Party on National Accounts

Friday 6 November 2020, 12:00 – 15:30

Item 1. Opening

12:00 – 12:05

Item 2. Well-being and sustainability

12:05 – 13:30 and 14:00 – 15:25

One of the main criticisms regarding the SNA is that GDP growth falls short of capturing sustainability and broader measures of well-being. The question becomes how the framework of national accounts can support research, policy analysis and decision-making on well-being and sustainability. For that reason, well-being and sustainability is one of the priority areas within the SNA Research Agenda and a dedicated task team, consisting of country experts and representatives of international organisations, is working on guidance notes that will feed into an update of the 2008 SNA. This, amongst others, concerns unpaid household activities; environmental-economic accounting; distribution of household income, consumption, saving and wealth; education and human capital; health and social conditions; and last but not least defining a broader framework. The session will focus on two specific topics, i.e. the compilation of household distributional results and issues related to environmental economic accounts.

Item 2.a. Work of the EG DNA: Results of the third exercise

Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

[Presentation](#)

The Expert Group on Disparities in a National Accounts framework (EG DNA) engaged in a third exercise earlier this year to compile experimental distributional results on income, consumption and savings in line with national accounts' totals, according to the methodology developed by the group. This presentation will show some of the results of this exercise and also highlight the forthcoming publication of these results in an online database of the OECD (OECD.stat). The presentation will also discuss the ongoing work on the development of a centralised approach to derive results for countries that are not participating in the EG DNA and discuss some of the remaining challenges for the group.

Item 2.b. Distributional financial accounts for EU countries

Pierre Sola (European Central Bank)

[Presentation](#)

This presentation will provide an overview of the work on linking micro and macro data on wealth, to arrive at a comprehensive and consistent micro data set that enables a detailed analysis of the distribution of household wealth. In a first step, the results from the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) and national accounts are linked for various financial and non-financial items, taking into account the conceptual differences. As a second step, the gap between the HFCS and national accounts is allocated, mainly to account for the wealthiest households, often not covered in surveys, and possible under-reporting. The missing wealthy are imputed using a Pareto distribution. The methodology has been developed in a flexible manner allowing different combinations of assumptions, which are currently assessed, thus also supporting a better understanding of the underlying dynamics. Furthermore, to increase the frequency of distributional data, since the HFCS is available only every three years, an interpolation approach has been developed to yield quarterly

time series of the adjusted micro data sets. In addition, a methodology for the computation of the euro area aggregates has been developed. The presentation will also describe some results and assess their robustness.

Item 2.c. Distribution of Household Income, Consumption and Wealth, 2019-20 in Australia

Jeff Tyndall (Australian Bureau for Statistics)

[Presentation](#)

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the household survey area was able to run a quarterly survey on income, housing and wealth to capture the impacts of the crisis. The survey area will be producing and publishing some quarterly estimates for 2019-20, which will be used in the area of national accounts to compile some household distributional estimates in line with national accounts. This presentation will shed light on the methodology we plan to use to implement the quarterly survey results into our national account distributional estimates.

Item 2.d. Accounting for natural resources

Peter van de Ven (OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

[Presentation](#)

[SDD/CSSP/WPNA\(2020\)2](#)

[SDD/CSSP/WPNA\(2020\)3](#)

As part of the update of the 2008 SNA, the Task Team on Wellbeing and Sustainability is putting forward a number of proposals related to environmental issues, which may also affect the central framework of national accounts. Apart from the recording of emission permits, which will be discussed under agenda item 2.e, this concerns first and foremost the accounting for natural resources. Proposals have been made, or are in the process of being drafted, in the following areas: (i) more precise recommendations on valuing mineral and energy resources; (ii) an alternative way of recording the economic ownership of natural resources; (iii) accounting for depletion of natural resources as a cost of production; (iv) a clearer delineation between cultivated and non-cultivated biological resources; (v) including a broader range of renewable energy resources, and (vi) possible ways to accounts for damages caused by mining activities. The presentation will provide an overview of the main issues at stake.

Item 2.e. Emission permits: The atmosphere as an asset?

Jim Tebrake (International Monetary Fund)

[Presentation](#)

To slow the increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or eliminate them altogether, countries around the world have introduced or are introducing various policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions. In general, these policies apply a price to a broad set of emissions sources and are aimed at encouraging businesses and individuals to innovate and change their behaviour and therefore reduce the level of GHG emissions. For example, it is rational to conclude that carbon pricing will encourage investment in cleaner energy sources and help countries meet their carbon emissions reduction targets as set out by the Kyoto protocol, Clean Air Act and other initiatives and later in the Paris agreement. As countries adopt various carbon pricing strategies, it is important that the associated transactions (non-financial and financial) and stocks across all sectors are properly accounted in the System of National Accounts (SNA). Extensive discussions regarding the environment had taken place prior to when the 2008 SNA was developed and adopted, as reflected in section Q of Chapter 17. However, the notion of nature being considered as a capital good had not been fully developed. Additionally, emissions trading schemes were in their infancy. This presentation will focus on the proposals to update the SNA to clarify the treatment of emissions trading schemes.

Item 2.f. The enhancement of guidance on accounting for ecosystems

Alessandra Alfieri (United Nations Statistical Division)

[Presentation](#)

In 2012, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA CF), as a set of international standards. In addition, initial guidance was drafted on ways to account for ecosystems: SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA). In the past years, much progress has been made in compiling statistics on ecosystems. Also major efforts have been put into updating, improving and clarifying the guidance provided in SEEA EEA. This has resulted in a completely renewed set of recommendations, which will put forward for global consultation towards the end of this year, and subsequent consideration by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021. The presentation will provide an overview of this major endeavour in arriving at improved guidance in the area of environmental-economic accounting.

Item 3. Closing of the meeting of the OECD Working Party on National Accounts

15:25 – 15:30