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Twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 8-10 April 2025
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session

Organised as an in-person meeting at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, 8-10 April 2025.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

1. The meeting is organised following decisions of the Conference of European Statisticians (ECE/CES/2024/16 and ECE/CES/2024/16/Add.1) and of the twenty-third session of the Group of Experts on National Accounts (ECE/CES/GE.20/2024/2).

2. The meeting is organised by the UNECE Steering Group on National Accounts and with support from the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), United National Statistical Division (UNSD) and World Bank (WB).

2. Towards the 2025 System of National Accounts

(a) Overview

3. This agenda item is organised by UNSD and the System of National Accounts (SNA) Update Team, and includes contributions by the SNA Editor and Project Manager, Statistics Canada, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom (ONS UK) and a supporting paper by Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat). It presents the results from the global consultation on the 2025 System of National Accounts (2025 SNA), with a focus on issues that received the most comments, and the outcomes of the 56th UN Statistical Commission. Particular attention is paid to developing a global implementation strategy and country-specific implementation plans, as well as strategies for mobilizing resources by effectively communicating the importance of the SNA update to policymakers.

4. *Canada's scoping exercise on 2025 SNA implementation* presents the preparations of Statistics Canada for the implementation of 2025 SNA. This initiative involves engaging both internal partners and external stakeholders to evaluate the feasibility of estimating and integrating SNA 2025 components, while assessing their potential impacts on key users. As Canada has not fully aligned with 2008 SNA, the exercise also aims to identify elements from 2008 SNA that could be incorporated during this transition. The presentation outlines the scoping process, highlight priority components for implementation, and details the long-term communication strategy designed to support these changes.

5. *The implementation of the 2025 SNA in Mexico* discusses INEGI approach to adopting the new framework as part of its upcoming base-year update for national accounts. This transition, set to begin in 2025 and conclude in 2028 with the publication of the benchmark revision, aims to align Mexico's national data with international standards. By implementing 2025 SNA, INEGI provides a more comprehensive view of critical sectors, such as digital services and natural assets, while prioritizing changes in the areas of globalization, digitalization, informal economy, distributional accounts, communication and classification systems.

6. *Managing the change implementation for 2025 SNA and Balance of Payments Manual, 7th edition (BPM7): the UK experience* by ONS UK examines the adoption of Microsoft Power BI as a key tool for supporting the management, visualization, and reporting of national accounts and balance of payments (BoP) data in compliance with the updated SNA and BoP standards. This presentation discusses how Power BI enables the streamlined integration of data sources, dynamic dashboard creation, and advanced analytics, offering a scalable solution that enhances efficiency and accessibility. Key functionalities of Power BI, such as data reconciliation, periodic updates, and compliance tracking, are highlighted to demonstrate its role in facilitating timely and accurate reporting. A live demonstration presents specific Power BI dashboards and data visualizations and data input into the tool. The aim is to underscore the importance of adopting

adaptable technologies that can be used as essential tools in the ongoing modernization of national accounts.

7. *The national accounts estimation pathfinder project using enterprise statistics and advanced methods* by Statistics Canada presents the development of a model to compile, adjust, and analyse components of the core accounts in preparation for 2025 SNA. Built using Python and R, the system is designed to be transparent, transferable, and applicable across the national accounts framework. By harmonizing the ingestion of survey data, the project aims to eliminate duplication of effort, improve estimation processes, and facilitate reconciliation between SNA users of the same source data. Initial efforts focus on the ingestion of enterprise statistics from the quarterly survey of financial statements to compile estimates for financial industries, with plans to incorporate the annual survey of capital and repair expenditures next. This presentation gives an overview of the project, the challenges faced, lessons learned, and future plans for advancing national accounts compilation through this pathfinder.

8. The supporting paper *Preparing for the implementation of 2025 SNA in Russian statistical practice* outlines Rosstat's roadmap for implementing the 2025 SNA framework. The paper discusses the incorporation of key conceptual changes, including the recognition of data as an asset and the measurement of the output of central banks. The adoption of 2025 SNA has been prioritized as a key initiative for the development of state statistics in the Russian Federation through 2030.

(b) Communicating transition to the 2025 System of National Accounts

9. This agenda item, organized by the SNA Support Editor, Communication Task Team Lead and Statistics Netherlands, highlights the significant impact of terminology and presentation of macroeconomic statistics on the way data are interpreted and used by governments, researchers, students, businesses, media and citizens. Within the 2025 SNA and BPM7, a new feature is a separate chapter providing common standards, guidance and principles for communication of macroeconomic statistics. Particular attention is paid to measuring alignment to the new standards, which will help users to better interpret the data and asses international comparability during the transition period. The session also presents the Collaborative Compilers Hub developed by IMF to serve as central repository of SNA guidance materials and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practice and discussions in the area of macroeconomic statistics.

(c) Digitalization

10. This agenda item is organized by Eurostat, IMF and ONS UK and includes contributions from National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) of France, Bank of Italy, National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). It focuses on the practical implementation of the digitalization elements introduced in the 2025 SNA. It particularly showcases country experiences on development of digital supply and use table (SUT) and digital economy thematic accounts, measuring digital intermediation platforms and recording of crypto assets. The session aims at sharing and spreading knowledge on these features, thus helping the convergence towards common practices.

11. *Sharing economy and accommodation productivity in the national accounts by INSEE* presents France's experience in implementing the 2025 SNA recommendations on digital intermediation platforms, focusing on peer-to-peer short-term accommodation. These recommendations have led to revisions and revaluations in national accounts that impacted value added in the housing and accommodation sectors and gross domestic product (GDP). The rapid growth of the sharing economy and peer-to-peer accommodation, particularly via online platforms, represents a major phenomenon in France, the largest European market with over 160 million nights booked on such platforms in 2023. This presentation explores how these activities are reflected in the national accounts of France, highlighting gaps in the current methodology. A more comprehensive approach, based on diverse data sources, indicates potential revisions to GDP, gross national income (GNI) and labour productivity trends in the accommodation industry, with productivity in 2022 estimated to increase by 15%. INSEE shares insights into its methods

and the challenges encountered, offering valuable lessons for other countries where this activity has significant economic weight.

12. *Measuring the state and evolution of digitalization in Kazakhstan* by ADB presents the approaches used to assess the progress of digitalization and its contribution to the Kazakh economy. In addition to employing the standard digital supply and use tables (dSUTs) method, the paper also describes the value flow method developed by ADB to analyse digitalization through the SNA framework. Preliminary results from both approaches are discussed, alongside challenges in producing SNA-based statistics on digitalization. The presentation concludes by outlining the next steps for implementing the 2025 SNA recommendations related to digitalization in Kazakhstan.

13. *Official statistics on tokenized financial instruments: A challenge for the compilers* by the Bank of Italy explores the growing role of asset tokenization, a key application of distributed ledger technology in finance. This innovation promises investment and debt opportunities, offering significantly faster transactions and lower costs. However, monitoring tokenized instruments requires detailed, harmonized statistics, which are currently inadequate due to the limited global regulation and the lack of centralized trading and settlement systems. As these instruments are not yet classified in national macroeconomic statistics, supervisory authorities, in particular central banks, face challenges in supporting monetary policy decisions, micro and macro prudential supervision, customer protection and the management and supervision of payment systems. Despite the relatively small size of the phenomenon, rapid developments suggest that large-scale innovations could potentially be close. This presentation outlines the characteristics and information gaps in digitalized financial instruments, proposes approaches for addressing these gaps, and offers practical suggestions how to mitigate the risks of losing track of critical data in a rapidly digitalizing market.

14. The session will also include a introduce the challenges posed by the large scale operations in cryptocurrencies in Georgia.

(d) Well-being and sustainability

15. The agenda item is organized by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and World Bank and includes contributions from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Central Bank of Armenia, Central Bank of Costa Rica and ADB, and a supporting paper from Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia (Armstat). It focuses on the implementation of 2025 SNA recommendations pertaining to well-being and sustainability, zooming in on those that directly affect the main sequence of accounts, like distributional accounts and accounting for depletion, renewable energy resources and other forms of natural capital.

16. *Distributional accounts: ABS experience* discusses the ABS journey in producing estimates of the distribution of household income, consumption and wealth, starting with its first release in 2013. Since then, in other five releases, the ABS has made continuous improvements in data quality, methods, and reducing micro-macro gaps. A major challenge in this work is the availability and quality of microdata sources, which currently constrain the ABS ability to meet 2025 SNA recommendations. Delays in the household expenditure survey, due to costs and concerns over respondent burden and data quality, have prompted the redesign of household surveys and exploration of administrative data use. Investments in statistical infrastructure and data assets are helping to better link administrative data for research and policy insights. This presentation provides an overview of ABS experience, focusing on alternative data sources and the key challenges.

17. *Household distributional results on income, consumption, and saving* by the Central Bank of Armenia discusses efforts to harmonize national accounts and well-being statistics, bridging the gap between micro and macro level. Traditional macroeconomic indicators do not reflect disparities among different household types, making the development of household distributional accounts crucial for understanding how the benefits of economic growth and employment are

distributed. Methodological notes of the OECD-Eurostat Expert Group on Disparities in a National Accounts Framework have been used for finding the solution to these issues in Armenia. This presentation presents an update of the steps taken to compile adjusted indicators for household distributional accounts, using national accounts, the Household Integrated Living Conditions Survey (HILCS), and administrative data. Given the challenges posed by data limitations and large gaps between micro and macro aggregates, the work begins by calculating distributional results for wages and salaries, and filling in missing values for income and consumption. The next steps involve finding additional microdata sources, aligning them with national accounts totals, and clustering households into groups.

18. *Valuing nature's powerhouse: A monetary account of Costa Rica's renewable energy resources* presents a pioneering effort by the Central Bank of Costa Rica to value the renewable energy assets within the SNA 2025 framework. Using methodologies from the OECD Handbook on Measuring Natural Capital, the study estimates the monetary value of Costa Rica's renewable energy resources, including hydro, geothermal, wind, solar, and biomass. It presents the economic contribution of these assets in a monetary account format by using data from national accounts on electricity production, disaggregated by energy source. This work offers a valuable reference for other countries aiming to quantify the economic value of their renewable energy resources.

19. *The use of environmentally extended multi-regional input-output tables (EE-MRIO) to study climate change issues* introduces ADB work to enhance climate change statistics of member economies. These tables establish a consistent link between output and emissions, capture a broader scope of emissions along supply chains, and enable carbon footprint accounting from multiple perspectives—producers, purchasers, products, and processes. By illustrating how economic activities drive climate change, the paper highlights the evolving role of national statistics offices as producers of both economic and environmental data. Integrating national reporting into regionally linked input-output tables improves data quality and comparability, enhancing the ability to track and mitigate environmental pressures from global value chains.

20. The supporting paper *Experience of calculating the regional GDP of Armenia* by Armstat will highlight the importance of compilation of regional accounts in shaping regional development policy. The paper will detail the steps involved in implementing regional accounts, addressing challenges related to data sources and estimation methods. It will also cover the scope of Armenia's regional statistics, the classifications used, and the publication formats available as dynamic series since 2015.

(e) Globalisation

21. This agenda item, organized by IMF and ADB, includes contributions by Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis), National Institute of Statistics of Italy (ISTAT), National Statistics Institute (INE) of Spain, ONS UK and ADB. Globalization has significantly impacted the methods used to compile traditional statistical measures. It also has created the need for complementary metrics and additional breakdowns to better understand the functioning and interconnectedness of economies. To address these statistical challenges, it is important to implement harmonized methodologies that enable comprehensive data collection and enhance international comparability. In response, the 2025 SNA includes a new chapter on globalization. This session focuses on the exchange of country experiences from the early implementation of key recommendations in the chapter.

22. *The Frankenstein experiment: compiling Italian extended IOTs and grafting them onto Figaro by ISTAT* outlines the results of a pilot study on the development of an extended supply and use and input-output table (eSUIOT) framework and its application to represent Italian international trade relationships using inter-countries input-output tables. The pilot study consists of three steps: 1) Micro-foundation of the eSUIOT by acquiring and processing firm-level data to define the roles of different types of business units in relation to national accounts aggregates, such as output, intermediate costs, compensation of employees, and international trade. This permits to breakdown of each of the 64 industries in the Italian national accounts into 48 types of business units according to size, governance status, and international trade involvement. 2)

Compilation of extended input-output tables (eIOTs) for the Italian economy through a top-down approach. Following consistency checks, the aggregate IOTs developed into an extended framework with 3,072 items (64 industries × 48 types of firms). This framework also provides a country-specific breakdown of imports and exports for Italy's primary trading partners. 3) Grafting Italian eIOTs onto Figaro tables to enable an extended representation of Italy's trade relationships with other countries and allowing for more detailed global value chain (GVC) indicators and a more granular analysis of the impact of trade relationships on the Italian business system.

23. *The use of multi-regional input-output tables framework to discern the state and evolution of globalization* details how the framework, developed by the ADB, can be used to produce statistics and analysis related to globalization by applying standard and modern analytical methods. The paper studies the impact of critical events, such as the global financial crisis and the COVID -19 pandemic. It also covers selected economies in Central and West Asia detailing the economic impact of current geopolitical issues and concludes by outlining ADB plans to update the framework in alignment with the 2025 SNA recommendations.

24. *Globalisation in UK National Accounts: Barriers and Opportunities* describes the steps taken by ONS UK in improving the measurement of globalization and the activities of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in national accounts and the barriers and opportunities discovered so far. Steps taken include establishing a large case unit (LCU) focusing on data collection, collaborating with MNEs to address survey challenges, leveraging research by the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE), and forming a dedicated globalization team within national accounts. The approach initially focused on a small selection of large businesses. Lessons learnt are used to improve structural surveys for long term improvement to data sources, while short-term focus is on industries most impacted by globalization.

25. *Using BEPS data: Germany's experience by Destatis* outlines how access to Country-by-Country Report (CbCR) data was achieved in Germany, what information those data contain, and how data has already been used in two cases. The base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) project addresses tax avoidance strategies used by MNEs. CbCR requires large MNE groups to report annually on their activities and financial data within each tax jurisdiction where they operate. In Germany, the CbCR data are accessible to Destatis and are used to produce aggregated annual statistics on the economic activities of German MNEs, both regionally and internationally. Further, the CbCR data serves as a valuable resource for the German LCU, which uses them to analyse the international structures of enterprise groups and cross-border business models, identify potential inconsistencies across various data sources, and determine whether collaboration with LCUs in other countries may be necessary. The presentation also addresses key challenges in working with CbCR data, including differences in conceptual frameworks and delays in data availability.

26. *The promising role of a large cases unit in official statistics by INE-Spain* explores the role of LCUs in addressing the challenges that globalization poses to accurately capturing MNEs economic activities. While existing guidance offers support, practical implementation is complex, particularly in identifying companies involved in factoryless goods production, processing, merchanting, or intellectual property product allocation within MNE structures. Over the past three years, the LCU has developed specialized oversight mechanisms to enhance the accuracy and international compliance of MNE activity reporting. By engaging directly with MNEs through in-depth interviews and tailored approach, the LCU builds cooperative relationships and gains deeper insights into corporate structures and operations, allowing to identify potential misrecordings effectively. While establishing the LCU involved extensive staff training, integrating new technologies, and establishing clear operational practices, the initial results already highlight the success in identifying errors, achieving voluntary cooperation from MNEs, and proposing innovative, centralized data collection channels. Moving forward, the LCU aims to refine analytical tools, expand microdata sources and continue developing team expertise.

(f) Next steps

27. This agenda item is organized by the SGNA and includes a presentation by Statistics Netherlands (Chair of SGNA). It introduces the proposal by SGNA on further activities in support of the implementation of 2025 SNA in the CES member countries presented and discussed in October 2024 by the CES Bureau. The session seeks feedback on the areas where countries need the most support and ways in which the Group of Experts on National Accounts could support them.

3. Modern tools supporting national accounts compilation

28. This agenda item is organized by ONS UK and includes contributions by Central Bank of Costa Rica, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of India and ONS UK. It presents experience in using of artificial intelligence and other innovations used by statistical offices to support compilation of national accounts.

29. *A Geospatial Revolution for Costa Rica's National Accounts: AI-Driven Text Mining for Enhanced Data Analysis* by Central Bank of Costa Rica explores the application of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques to extract valuable geographic information from unstructured text data, specifically digital invoices. By leveraging natural language processing (NLP) and supervised learning, the study develops a model capable of accurately identifying and extracting province, canton, and district level data from business names and other textual identifiers. The integration of AI into Costa Rica's national statistical systems offers numerous benefits, including increased efficiency, reduced errors, and improved data quality. The results of this research demonstrate the transformative potential of AI in modernizing data management practices and supporting evidence-based decision-making for Costa Rica's economic development.

30. *How ONS is Using Generative AI to Extract and Classify Household and Business Data* discusses two AI-driven tools developed by ONS to enhance efficiency, scalability, and accuracy in data processing. The first tool, AI-driven Receipt Processing for the Living Costs and Food (LCF) Survey, automates the extraction and classification of information from household receipt images. Using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and NLP, the prototype extracts fields like item descriptions, prices, and shop names, and classifies items using an automated COICOP[1] assignment model. This approach promises to improve the timeliness of national accounts and GDP data, while reducing manual processing costs of up to 60,000 receipts annually. The prototype has shown potential during trials, with further testing underway to validate its performance. The second tool, ClassifA, is a general-purpose classifier for assigning free-text survey responses to predefined classifications such as Standard Industrial Classification or COICOP. Initial tests on deidentified labour market data indicate improvements in classification accuracy over existing methods, especially with specialized terminology or nuanced language. ClassifA's adaptability allows for its application to various classification systems and survey formats, reducing the need for manual coding and enhancing processing efficiency in ONS workflows.

31. *Classifying Non-Financial Private Corporate Sector – Issues and Efforts* by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation describes the evolution of efforts to classify the Non-Financial Private Corporate (NFPC) sector in India, from manual profiling of a small number of large companies to the construction of a frame for Industrial Activity Codes (IACs) and from use of administrative databases and surveys to exploration of ML for classification. The reclassified estimates have been incorporated in 2017-2018. While the reclassification had a minor impact on larger segments such as manufacturing, smaller segments like storage have been significantly impacted, and the share of other services, including residual, has notably reduced. ML algorithms

[1] Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)

using industry-specific structural ratios together with administrative databases would help in improving the classifications further.

4. Informal and non-observed economy

32. The agenda item is organized by IMF and UNECE and includes contributions by Central Bank of Costa Rica, ISTAT, INEGI Mexico, Statistics Netherlands, Rosstat, Eurostat, International Labour Organization (ILO), Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA), University of Leuven, and United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It seeks to present countries' experiences with testing the elements of the framework for measuring the informal economy, proposed in the 2025 SNA and BPM7 and discuss early results, data sources and measurement challenges. The second part of the session is devoted to measuring components of non-observed economy (NOE), illegal and illicit flows, and countries' efforts to ensure exhaustiveness of national accounts measures in general.

33. *The 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy by ILO* provides an overview of the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy, adopted in October 2023. The resolution marks a significant milestone, establishing, for the first time, a comprehensive statistical framework that defines the informal economy and its different components. The framework is an important development, as it broadens the boundaries of informality by recognizing that all productive activities within the SNA production boundary fall under the scope of the informal economy. The resolution refines and clarifies key concepts, including informal employment and informal sector, offering improved definitions and recommendations for operationalization. These enhanced definitions are crucial for advancing the understanding and measurement of informal employment and for capturing the full extent of the informal sector's economic contributions. Further the new resolution allows for a unified statistical framework, aligning labour and economic statistics and enhancing their relevance for policymaking and research. The presentation highlights the main components and the implementation of these new standards that will enable countries to generate more comprehensive data, which in turn can inform effective policies addressing the informal economy's challenges and opportunities.

34. *Measurement of the informal economy and sectorization of the household sector based on the 2025 SNA: formality and informality* by INEGI highlights the essential role of the informal economy in Mexico's national accounts. It focuses on the contribution of informal household producers to GDP, on households' economic well-being, and sustainable development – key areas of analysis in the forthcoming 2025 SNA. In line with the 2025 SNA, the conceptual framework defining the informal sector and informal employment will be updated, the algorithm that processes census information will be improved and the number of workers will no longer be considered as an identifier of informality. These updates will allow for more detailed distributive household statistics, offering a deeper understanding of household well-being and needs. Such insights are crucial for identifying the primary drivers of informality and enabling better public policies to support vulnerable groups during economic shocks.

35. *A Deep Dive into Costa Rica's Informal Economy by Central Bank of Costa Rica* delves into the measurement of the informal economy, a crucial aspect of understanding the country's economic landscape. By applying the guidelines of the 2025SNA, the study analyses household sector data to estimate the prevalence of informal activities in production and employment. Preliminary results show that the informal economy constitutes a significant portion of the country's economic activity, particularly in activities such as housing rentals, retail trade, and education. This research provides valuable insights into the nature and extent of informality in Costa Rica, highlighting the need for comprehensive policies to address the challenges and opportunities associated with this sector.

36. *Measuring illicit financial flows in national accounts: exploring concepts for application in satellite accounts* by ISTAT and UNCTAD presents a tentative conceptual framework for

compiling satellite accounts of illicit financial flows (IFFs). It highlights the advantages of the frameworks, such as ensuring mutual exclusiveness and exhaustiveness, exploring interactions between illicit and regular activities, and assessing the extent of IFFs' inclusion in SNA aggregates. While IFFs are hidden and pose significant measurement challenges, they leave traces in official records, affecting trade flows, production, income, etc. Estimating IFFs also helps in improving the exhaustiveness of national accounts by capturing non-observed economic activities. Progress has been made in defining and measuring IFFs, with respective methodologies endorsed at the 53rd UN Statistical Commission in 2022. Pilot testing across three regions (Africa, Asia and Latin America) revealed billions in annual IFFs from selected illicit activities only, underlining the importance of addressing their impact on national accounts and balance of payments.

37. *Estimating the contribution of cocaine trafficking to the Dutch GDP* by Statistics Netherlands outlines the methodology and considerations behind attributing only about 10 per cent of the estimated €10 billion in cocaine trafficking earnings within Dutch borders to the Dutch GDP. The Netherlands, a hub for illegal drug production and trade, has incorporated enhanced methodologies in its 2021 national accounts benchmark revision to better account for this part of the illegal economy. Key considerations included distinguishing between illegal activities conducted within the Netherlands and those contributing to its economy. Data sources, including wastewater analysis, police reports, and drug confiscation rates at Dutch harbors, were utilized, though they are subject to significant uncertainty. Additionally, determining shadow market prices and addressing the global nature of cocaine trade posed challenges. Finally, Statistics Netherlands adopted a 'merchanting solution,' treating non-resident crime lords as the owners of production, while Dutch participants are classified as self-employed providers of trade and transport services. The presentation clarifies why some methods were adopted, whilst others were rejected.

38. *The application of the employment method for the exhaustiveness of GDP estimates. Practical guidelines for enhanced comparability between countries* by Eurostat introduces practical guidance to improve the application and comparability of the employment method for GDP exhaustiveness estimates. As outlined in the OECD Handbook on Measuring the Non-Observed Economy, the employment method – also known as the labor input method – is a widely used supply-based approach for estimating the size of the NOE. Drawing on two to three decades of EU countries' experience in this field, Eurostat's GNI Expert Group has created guidelines to standardize and enhance the method's implementation across countries. Published in 2024, these guidelines are expected to benefit both EU and non-EU countries seeking more consistent and reliable GDP estimates.

39. *The non-observed economy in the national accounts: "to be or not to be" on the agenda of national accountants, policymakers and academics* by HIVA provides a cross-country comparison of adjustments made for the NOE in GDP and GNI estimates across EU and EFTA member states, based on GNI Inventories submitted to Eurostat during the 2020–2024 data verification cycle. Adjustments range from less than 1 per cent of GDP in Norway to over 27 per cent in Romania, highlighting variations by institutional sector, industry, GDP component, and Eurostat's Tabular Approach to Exhaustiveness (TAE) types. The study emphasizes the increased transparency and detail of these inventories compared to earlier surveys by UNECE and OECD, as well as the harmonized inclusion of illegal activities in GDP since 2014 and the adoption of TAE from 2016. The paper also examines the limitations of NOE adjustments in capturing tax evasion or the informal sector, distinguishing these objectives from ensuring the exhaustiveness of national accounts. Despite these limitations, the adjustments provide valuable insights into the structure of tax evasion, underscoring the need for enhanced cooperation between tax administrations and national accountants to improve measurement. This research serves as a foundation for the development of a satellite account for tax evasion and avoidance.

40. *Estimate of the non-observed economy – experience of the Russian Federation* details the methodology employed by Rosstat to estimate the NOE in the Russian Federation, including shadow (hidden) production across economic activities such as industry, transportation, and

trade, as well as informal production. As part of its annual GDP calculations, Rosstat incorporates NOE estimates to ensure comprehensiveness. The presentation also highlights the key information sources used for these calculations.

41. The supporting paper *Detecting underreporting of value added in national accounts* by ISTAT presents the receiver operating characteristic (ROC-Is) method, developed to measure underreporting of value added at the micro level. In 2022, the underground economy accounted for 9.1per cent of Italian GDP and 10.1 per cent of the total value added generated by the Italian business system, with underreporting being the main component and worth slightly more than €100 billion. The method applying ROC analysis allows to identify the profile of tax evading business units considering a large set of economic and structural information and to estimate the amount of underreporting based on the distance of those firms from a threshold of "normality". The approach enhances the capability to assess, monitor and analyse underreporting and improves the reliability of the exhaustiveness adjustments in national accounts.

5. Time series, classifications and data sources

42. The agenda item is organized by Statistics Canada and United States Bureau of Economic Analysis and includes contributions by Reserve Bank of India, Statistics Netherlands, National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia, Rosstat and Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and supporting papers from Statistics Canada and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India. Users of National Accounts data regularly underscore the importance of consistent time series. This session seeks to explore the latest advancements and methodologies in handling national accounts time series, with a focus on backcasting, benchmarking and comparison of series across time. It also addresses the challenges and solutions related to classifications in national accounts, and the development of new data sources, including innovative survey techniques. This session aims to facilitate knowledge sharing on best practices for improving the accuracy, coherence and comparability of national accounts data for the upcoming conceptual and manual changes.

43. *Compilation of time series in Russian statistics* by Rosstat presents the methodology for compiling dynamic series, ensuring the consistency of national accounts data over time and across regions, along with approaches for their analysis. The presentation also addresses issues of coherence and additivity in national accounts data, using the development of 2008 SNA indicators as an example.

44. *Revising the time series of 1995-2021: Innovative methods and quick results* by Statistics Netherlands outlines the methods and analytical tools used to revise national accounts time series, following the 2021 benchmark revision. Time-series were rebased to new level estimates for GDP and its components using automated procedures and data visualization tools allowing work to be done in a short period of time and with fewer people involved. The time-series have been compiled for 64 industries, 16 commodities and 15 expenditures categories, using a SUT-framework with prices of the current year and previous years. Rebasing took into account the large GDP contraction during COVID in 2020 and the strong recovery in 2021, and addressed earlier omissions concerning solar panels, financial spreads, student travel passes, a number of large companies, the illegal economy, etc. Discrepancies at the commodity level, caused by adjustments, were resolved using a mathematical solver under predefined conditions, with minimal manual intervention limited to larger discrepancies and implausible results.

45. *Powering progress – The role of infrastructure in driving productivity growth in India* by the Reserve Bank of India examines the role of capital in measuring total factor productivity (TFP). A nation's capital stock comprises a variety of assets and vintages with varying marginal productivities. The services provided by these assets vary based on their type and age. Effective productivity analysis aggregates these assets while accounting for vintage and efficiency

differences. Using investment data since 1950 and the KLEMS[2] methodology, a capital input series (1980–2024) reflecting asset heterogeneity and aligned with national accounts statistics (NAS) were developed. To enhance international comparability, the EU KLEMS growth accounting framework was applied. Findings reveal capital services grow faster than traditional aggregate capital stock measures. Building time series by asset type across sectors is challenging due to lack of publicly accessible data. Next, the infrastructure capital role in output and productivity growth will be assessed. The impact of four infrastructure capital categories – energy, transport, digital, and social – on the productivity growth of India will be examined, as well as whether the efficiency of infrastructure industries has an impact on the overall productivity growth for the economy.

46. *Conversion from NACE[3] Rev 2 to NACE Rev 2.1, from external statistics perspective* presents the work accomplished by the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia to keep up with EU regulation requiring the use of NACE Rev. 2.1 from reference year 2025, and the agreement for External Statistics to report 2025 data in both classifications with back-casting for 2023-2024. As an EU candidate country, North Macedonia is planning to introduce the conversion to NACE Rev 2.1 by providing comparable foreign direct investment (FDI) time series, without any delays. The National Bank is responsible for External Statistics, including FDI by activity, and launched a project for implementing the revised classification and introduce the necessary changes in the FDI reports in high quality and considering user needs. The presentation will introduce the current use of NACE classification, the data sources and planned changes, not only to enable better up-to-date classification, but also consistent time series. This project also aims to enhance coherence of the statistical system.

47. *Unlocking the past for future insights: building consistent and comparable, historical time series for research and policy analysis* by BIS discusses the importance of historical time series on key economic indicators in research and policy analysis. They are essential to draw lessons from the past when assessing the current economic developments and planning for the future. The presentation shares the experience of constructing long time series that are comparable in time and across countries, using BIS credit statistics as an example. It introduces splicing and backcasting methods from SNA 1953 to 2008 for selected economies, emphasizing the role of international frameworks, and links these efforts to the work of the Central Bank Network on Historical Monetary and Financial Statistics under the aegis of the BIS and Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC). As we look ahead to implementing the 2025 SNA, we need to address the "recency" bias of constructing and analysing historical data through the lens of the present. Finally, the presentation stresses the critical role of transparency and metadata for comparable historical time series.

48. The supporting paper *Bridging the gap in classifications for nominal and volume estimates to maintain a consistent time series* by Statistics Canada discusses challenges encountered when backcasting the trade estimate at a detailed level given the impact on GDP, and the trade-off between consistent detail for a time series and consistent measures at the aggregate level. The estimates of international trade are based on North American Product Classification (NAPCS), which is updated every 5 years or so, also reflecting changes to the Harmonized System (HS) classification for trade in goods. On the nominal side, incorporating such classification changes is relatively straight forward. However, on the volume (and price side) it is significantly more complicated and could result in shifts in the volume estimate, possibly impacting the aggregate GDP estimate.

49. The supporting paper *Multi Activity Enterprises: Segregating Activities* by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of India examines challenges and current practices in handling multiactivity enterprises and considers possible solutions. The compilation of SUTs require data on establishment level with clearly defined kind of activity and geographical location. Nowadays the enterprises combining multiple activities at different locations, with

[2] KLEMS stands for analysis of capital (K), labour (L), energy (E), materials (M) and service (S) inputs

[3] Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE).

diversification of products and processes, are increasing. This poses challenges in the compilation of National Accounts, whereby aggregates of multiactivity enterprises are allocated entirely to a single industry depending on the predominant activity. This obfuscates the industry mix and limits the use of such data for SUTs.

6. Information items

50. An update on recent activities undertaken by UNECE in cooperation with partner organizations will be presented to the Group of Experts for information.

7. Conclusions, next steps, and adoption of the report

51. In this item, the proposals for future work will be presented and discussed. The main decisions of the meeting will be put for adoption.

8. Other business

52. Participants wishing to propose additional points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.