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Session 3 - Approaches, programme design

Title: A Coordinated Strategy for Implementing the *System of National Accounts*

Institution: IMF/UNSD

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission asked the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to submit a strategy for implementing the *System of National Accounts*. This paper elaborates on the implementation strategy described in the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to the thirty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission. The proposed strategy is based on regional consultations undertaken by the member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts during 2006 and 2007, reflecting user and producer perspectives.
2. The proposed strategy takes into account the different levels of implementation of the *1993 SNA* in countries. The existing modalities of the strategy, - the organization of meetings, training seminars and workshops; the delivery of technical cooperation; the preparation of manuals and handbooks; and the sponsoring of research - , which the member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts apply for the SNA implementation, will continue to serve more advanced statistical systems as they implement the new features of the *1993 SNA*. However, the new strategy places greater emphasis on building institutional capacity and basic source data for less advanced statistical systems and, in particular, on coordinating the efforts of the often multiple technical cooperation agencies working with individual countries and regional organizations on statistical capacity building.
3. To ensure effective coordination, the paper proposes that the SNA implementation strategy be based on the internationally accepted approach of managing for development results, which emphasizes strategic planning, calls for the coordination of programme monitoring and reporting, and promotes better data to support evidence-based policy design and execution by strengthening the national and international statistical systems.
4. As part of harmonizing the reporting on national implementation activities and progress, the paper proposes for discussion a common structure for organizing project information across multiple technical cooperation agencies. This common structure would minimize additional documentation burden on each participating agency while facilitating managing for development results at the world, regional, and national levels through strategic planning; coordinated program monitoring and reporting, and channeling user input into designing statistical products for evidence-based policy design and execution as well as economic decision-making at the household and enterprise level.
5. The paper concludes by presenting five modalities and four strategic elements of effective coordination of the SNA implementation strategy.