

Towards the
2025 SNA

Progress of the 2008 SNA Update

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2008 SNA Update Project Manager

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Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic
Accounting

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Background

In 2020 UNSC requested the ISWGNA to submit, for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-second session in 2021, a road map for the revision of SNA for adoption by the Commission in 2025

The 2021 UNSC endorsed the work programme for the update of the 2008 SNA and timeline for undertaking technical research, engaging in broad consultations and ensuring overall consistency with the other manuals of the system of economic statistics (including SEEA)

Key governance bodies:

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA)

Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts

In early 2022, the Project Manager (Pete Harper) and Lead Editor (Peter van der Ven) commenced work

Key features of the update process

Undertaking technical research on prioritized and other national accounts issues

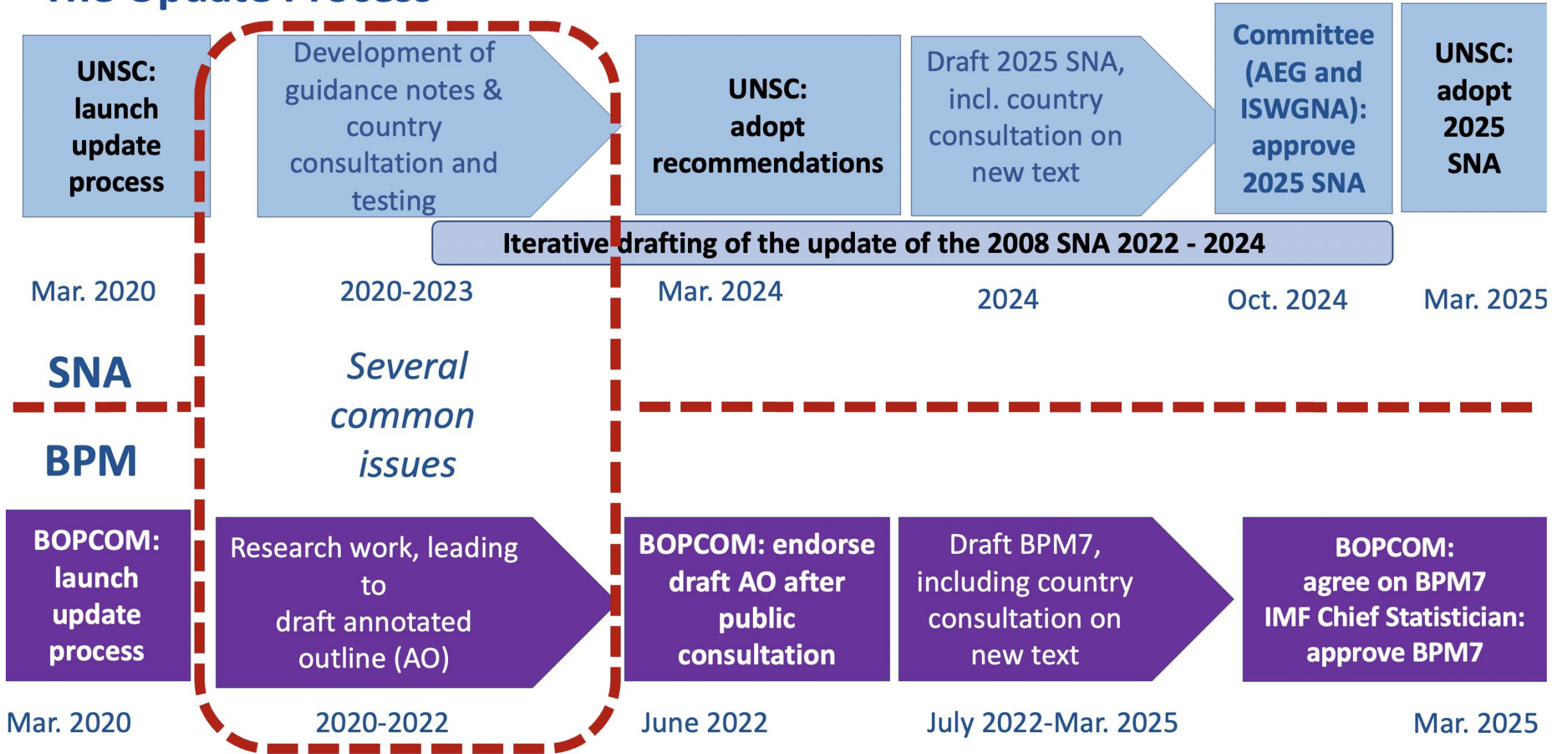
Engaging in a broad consultation on update issues

Ensuring overall consistency with other statistical standards in the system of economic statistics

- In particular, close collaboration between SNA and BPM updates

A program of experimentation and testing of selected recommendations

The Update Process



Progressing the research agenda

Deliberations on specific issues carried out by Task Teams during the period 2020-2022

- Development of Guidance Notes (GNs) to address issues on the research agenda
- GNs approved by AEG (and BOPCOM where relevant) for consultation

GNs including recommendations sent to countries for comments during the period 2021-2022

AEG/BOPCOM consider comments received by countries and finalize GNs for publication

- This is expected to be mostly completed by the end of 2022, although some issues may not be fully resolved until into 2023

Task Teams

- Digitalization Task Team
- **Wellbeing and Sustainability Task Team**
 - **Area Group on Environmental Economic Accounting**
Lead: Joe St. Lawrence, Statistics Canada
- Joint Globalization Task Team
- Joint Communication Task Team
- Joint Financial and Payment Systems Task Team
- Joint Informal Economy Task Team
- Joint Islamic Finance Task Team
- BPM Balance of Payments Task Team
- BPM Current Account Task

Objectives

- Environmental sustainability major issue in policy and research and this should be recognized in the SNA
- More focus on accounting for natural resources
- Better alignment between SNA and SEEA Central Framework
- Provide clarifications on recording and measurement, where needed

Environmental -economic accounting Guidance Notes

- WS.6: Economic ownership and depletion of natural resources (with a focus on mineral and non-renewable energy resources)
 - Global consultation completed
- WS.7: Emission permits: the atmosphere as an asset
 - Global consultation completed
- WS.8: Accounting for biological resources
 - Global consultation to commence shortly – [Webinar 14 July 2022](#)
- WS.9: Recording of provisions
 - Global consultation to commence shortly
- WS.10: Valuation methods (with a focus on mineral and non-renewable energy resources)
 - Global consultation to commence shortly
- WS.11: Renewable energy resources
 - Global consultation to commence shortly – [Webinar 14 July 2022](#)
- WS.12: Classifications
 - Global consultation expected to commence in August
- WS.14: Distinction between taxes and services
 - Global consultation expected to commence in August

SNA 2005 chapter structure

- The provisional chapter structure for the SNA 2005 has been endorsed
- In the area of well-being and sustainability, three new chapters are proposed
 - **Chapter 2. National Accounts and measures of well-being and (environmental) sustainability:** More general discussion on the SNA and measures of well-being and sustainability, followed by the introduction of a broader framework of national accounts
 - **Chapter 34. Measuring well-being:** Discussion of the concept of well-being and various approaches/methods to measure it, and how extended accounts can support all of this
 - **Chapter 35. Measuring sustainability:** Discussion on monitoring sustainability (capital approach), what the SNA does (not) measure, and SEEA as a complementary system

Progressing the drafting of SNA 2005

- An editorial team has been established to support the lead editor
 - Carl Obst is responsible for the environmental-economic accounting related chapters
- For new and significantly revised chapters, outlines will be prepared over the next few months
 - The EEA community will be consulted in the preparation of the draft outlines for the environmental-economic accounting related chapters
 - The draft outlines will be considered by the AEG (and BOPCOM) at a joint meeting in October 2002
- A glossary will also be prepared during 2022
 - It is proposed that this glossary will underpin all economic international statistical standards
- Drafting of the actual chapters will commence late 2022/2023
 - The EEA community will be consulted in the drafting of the environmental-economic accounting related chapters
- A consolidated list of all recommendations will be prepared in early 2023 for country consultation around about the second quarter of 2023
- Country consultation on the drafts for new and significantly revised chapters will likely occur in the second half of 2023

Experimental estimation/ early implementation

- A key feature of the update process is a program of experimental estimation/early implementation for recommendations in some of the GNs
- A two-phased approach for this has been agreed
- The first phase relates to experimental estimation needed to finalize recommendations in certain guidance notes
 - This phase will be conducted in 2022
 - Some environmental-economic accounting GNs will be tested in this phase – mainly around feasibility of split-asset approach
 - Only a limited number of countries will be involved in this phase
- The second phase relates to early implementation and will assist countries in implementing the 2025 SNA
 - This phase will be conducted during 2023-2025
 - Detailed planning for this phase will be undertaken in mid 2022
 - A greater number of countries will be involved in this phase, and in certain instances technical assistance may be available



Towards the 2025 SNA

About the updating process

The [Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts \(ISWGNA\)](#), assisted by the [Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts \(AEG\)](#), oversees the overall 2008 SNA update programme.

The [Project Management](#) page contains all documents (workprogramme, governance arrangements, progress reports of the project manager, reports to the UNSC, minutes of ISWGNA meetings, etc.) relevant to the management of the update project.

A three-pronged approach is envisaged for the update of the 2008 SNA:

A. Undertaking technical research in prioritized and other national accounts issues and experimentation and testing of selected recommendations.

To address the issues a series of [Guidance Notes](#) are being developed. This list is based on the consolidated SNA research agenda and an [initial list of issues](#) considered for updating the 2008 SNA which was identified in July 2020.

A novel key feature within the research component of the update of the 2008 SNA work programme is the explicit inclusion of an [experimental estimation / early implementation](#) component for some recommendations in the guidance notes.

Dedicated task teams were established to undertake the technical research and draft guidance notes.

B. Engaging in a broad consultation on the issues related to the thematic areas.

The Broad Consultation component of the SNA update constitutes several rounds of interactions with various groups of stakeholders such as compilers, policymakers, academia, and the private sector. Among the instruments used to broadcast the update and collect feedback are online [Global Consultations](#) on the guidance notes and [Outreach](#) activities through global and regional webinars and forums.

C. Ensuring overall consistency with other statistical standards in the system of economic statistics.

For overlapping issues in the research agendas identified for the SNA, BPM, GFS, MFSM, SEEA, ISIC and CPC etc., the Task Teams were established consisting of subject matter experts from relevant Committees of Experts and other groups.

As of March 2022, of specific note is the historically close collaboration of the work on the [update of the BPM6](#) and the 2008 SNA and the efforts to align the two standards, as well as the engagement of the [Government Finance Statistics Community](#) in the update programme.

List of Task Teams



Digitalization Task Team



Wellbeing and Sustainability Task Team



Joint Globalization Task Team



Joint Communication Task Team



Joint Financial and Payment Systems Task Team



Joint Informal Economy Task Team



Joint Islamic Finance Task Team



BPM Balance of Payments Task Team



BPM Current Account Task Team



BPM Direct Investment Task Team

SNA Update Website

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/Towards2025.asp>

Thank you for
your interest!

