

Towards the
2025 SNA

Session 1

Communicating and Disseminating Macroeconomic Statistics

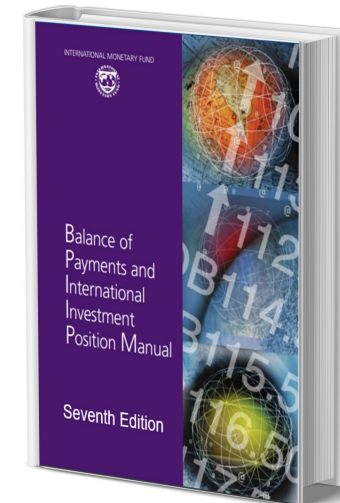
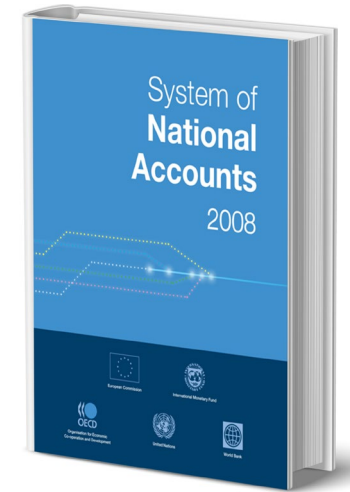
Sanjiv Mahajan (SNA Update - Supporting Editor)
Sanjiv.mahajan@iswgna.com

UNECE: Meeting of the Group of Experts on National
Accounts, Palais des Nations, Room XXVI

23rd April 2024

Overview

- Background and introduction
- Communication policy and dissemination strategy
- Communication with data suppliers
- Statistical confidentiality
- Framework for measuring alignment with macroeconomic statistical standards
- Taxonomies and metadata
- Prominence of net measures
- User-friendly terminologies
- Compilers' Hub
- Summary and next steps

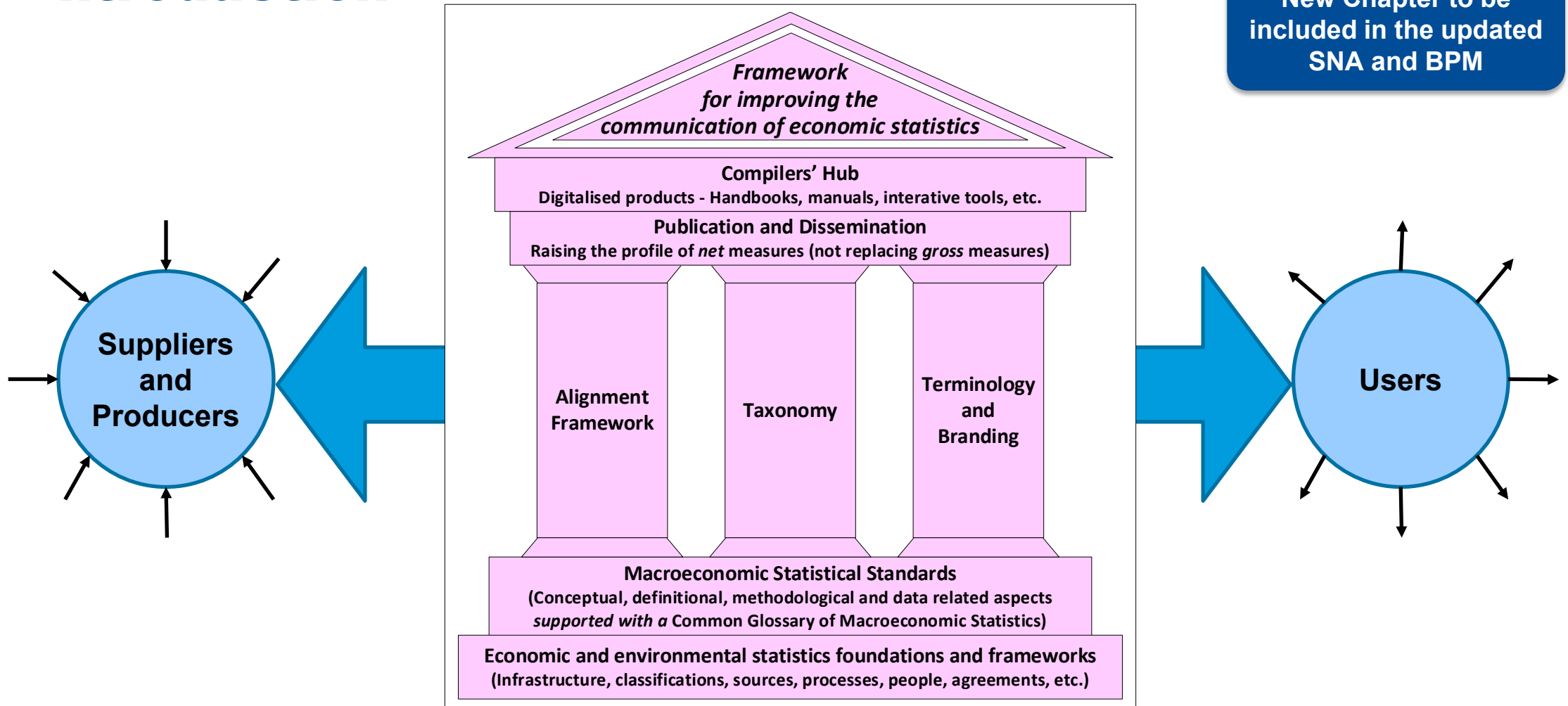


Background and motivation for a new chapter



- The way in which macroeconomic statistics are communicated has a significant **impact** on users' understanding; their use of the data; and knock-on affects.
- Statistics compilers are encouraged to better communicate with ALL users to provide information which helps to maximise comparability, usefulness, quality, etc.
- UN Generic Statistical Business Process Model recognises the role and importance of dissemination and communication as part of the statistical value chain.
- Evidence base gathered and tested through using YouGov Survey in the UK in February 2020 (1,665 people) and in August 2022 (2,007 people):
 - Public misperceptions about economic figures and the economy continue.
 - Better understanding of inflation and interest rates as they affect users personally - still confusion over language used price levels, changes in prices and changes in inflation rate.
 - GDP and BoP not well understood and labour related terms / definitions are poorly understood.

Introduction

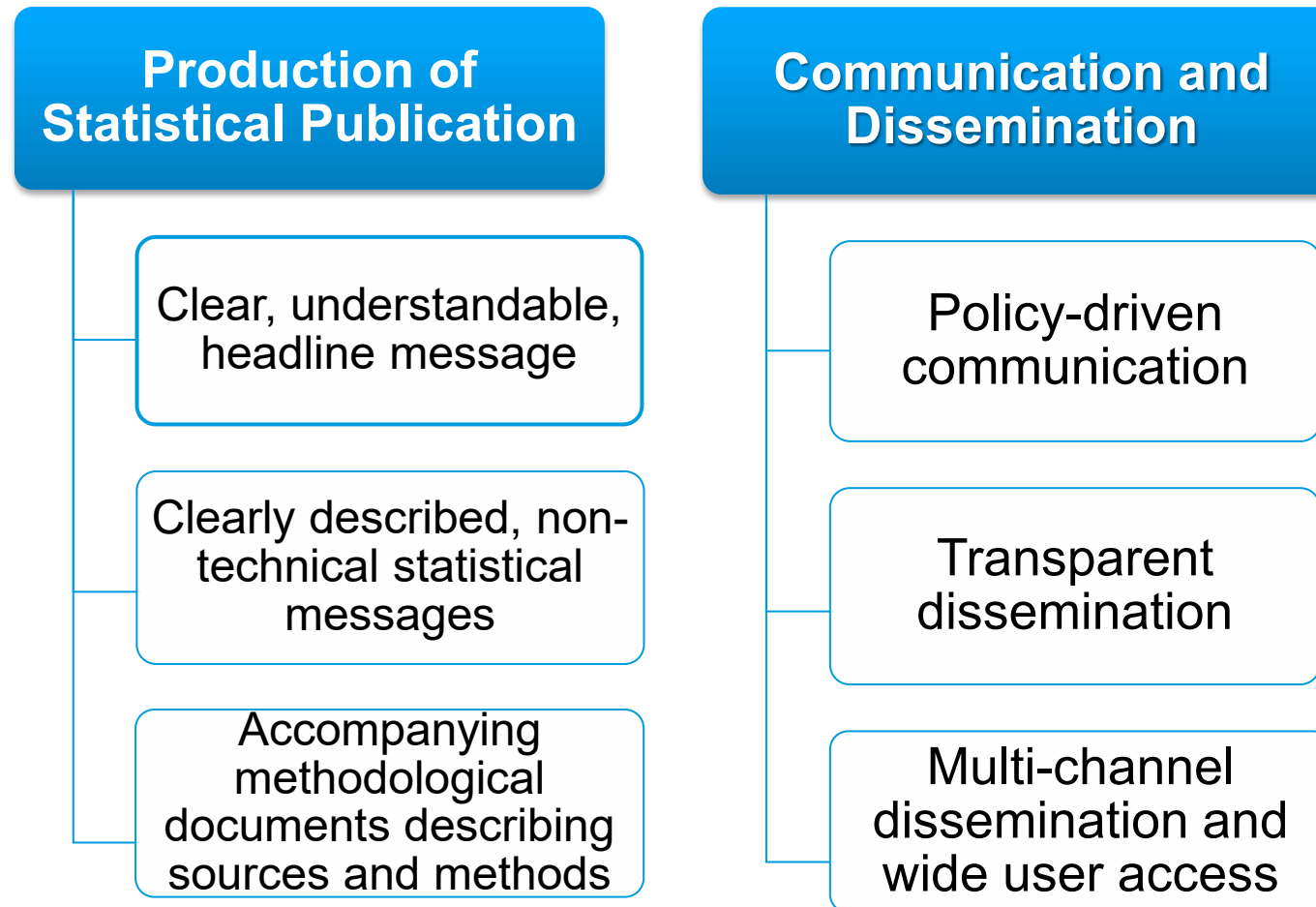


New Chapter to be included in the updated SNA and BPM

- Highlights importance and role of dissemination and communication as key components of the production chain of official statistics.
- Presents broad-based innovative strategies to help producers of macroeconomic statistics communicate the statistics to their users and improve comparability.

Dissemination strategy and communication policy

- Guidance to statistical producers on production and dissemination of published data and accompanying documentation:



Communication with data suppliers

- This section provides guidance to statistical producers on communication with data suppliers.
- Official statistics producers need to communicate effectively with data suppliers to effectively to produce macroeconomic statistics. This includes:
 - Use of language that suppliers can readily understand.
 - Link and role of business accounting language for suppliers, e.g., IFRS, IPSAS.
 - Use of appropriate definitions in line with the standards - which can be adjusted to meet the relevant standards.

Statistical confidentiality

- Most official statistics producers collect data from businesses and households for statistical purposes only and often under some legislation.
- These cannot be disseminated, sold, or otherwise published in a way that allows identification of the business or household.
- Appropriate data confidentiality policies, anonymisation techniques and disclosure checking procedures should always be part of the process before publication of any data.
- The goal of confidentiality policies should be to maximise the dissemination of information as a public good for the wide range of users while still ensuring confidentiality obligations are met.

A framework for measuring alignment with the macroeconomic statistical standards

- A key feature of the **2025 SNA** and the **BPM7** is their ability to facilitate cross-country comparisons.
- The alignment framework provides a tool that:
 - Statistical producers can use to self-assess their macroeconomic statistics.
 - Users can assess whether countries are on the same basis and have implemented these standards consistently.
- The results are readily available in an easily digestible format.
- The framework is structured around the key building blocks:

Concepts



Methods



Classifications

An extract from the SNA alignment framework

Category / level	Sub-Category	Fully Aligned	Highly aligned	Broadly Aligned	Partially Aligned	Not Aligned	N/A
I. Concepts and definitions							
<i>An SNA concept reflects the articulation of a macroeconomic idea, activity, interaction, state, or notion. Concepts determine what gets measured, an example is the concept of production in the SNA.</i>							
L0	i) Units of the economy include						
L0	Domestic territory						
L0	Territorial enclaves in the rest of the world						
L1	Free zones/bonded warehouses / factories operated by offshore enterprises under customs control						
L1	Workers who work part of the year in another country						
L1	Goods that do not change economic ownership are part of the economy (not recorded in exports and imports)						
L0	ii) Production boundary covers						
L0	Market output						
L0	Non-market output						
L0	Output for own final use						
	- In particular, the following items are included						
L1	Informal economy						
L1	Underground economy						
L1	Illegal activities						
L2	Other non-observed activities						

An extract from the BPM alignment framework

Category / level	Sub-Category	Fully Aligned	Highly aligned	Broadly aligned	Partially Aligned	Not Aligned	N/A
I. Concepts and definitions							
<i>A BPM concept reflects the articulation of a macroeconomic idea, activity, interaction, state, or notion. Concepts determine what gets measured, an example is the concept of residency in the BPM.</i>							
L0	i) Units of the economy include						
L0	Domestic territory						
L0	Incorporated or unincorporated affiliates of non-resident companies						
L0	Territorial enclaves in the rest of the world						
L0	Free zones / bonded warehouses / factories operated by offshore enterprises under customs control						
L0	Workers who work part of the year in another country						
	- In particular						
L1	Residence of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) is attributed to the economy in which they are located						
L1	International organizations and supranational authorities are not considered residents of any national economy						
L1	All units of general government (e.g. embassies, military bases) are considered to be resident in their own economy						
L1	Subject to specific circumstances, an individual may cease being a resident of his country when he or she works continuously for one year or more in a foreign country						

Taxonomies and metadata

Provides guidance to statistics producers on effectively communicating statistical products with explicit reference to documentation on quality and methodology:

Quality

◆

Timeliness

◆

Frequency

◆

Reference Period

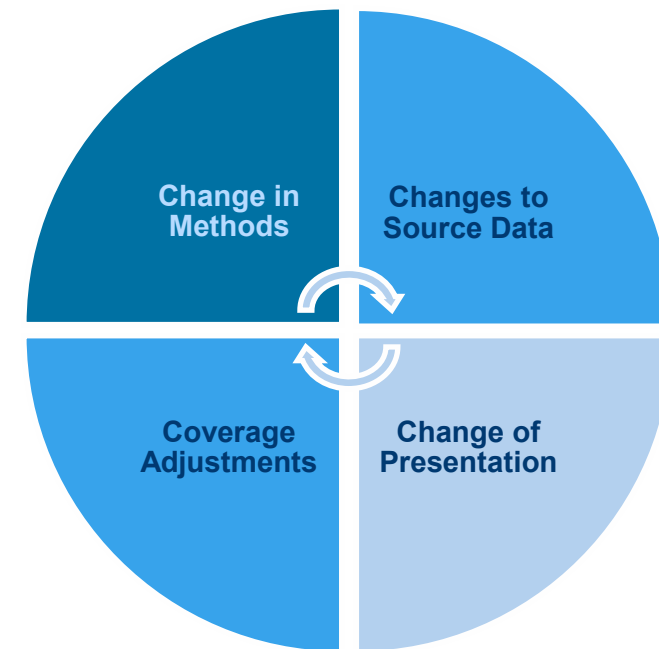
Example: Assume that on average the first, second and third vintages of quarterly GDP are published 30, 60 and 90 days after the reference period, respectively. Assume further, that the estimates are based on incomplete source data (such that each vintage is a result of a regular revision).

Substance (Type of Revisions)	Timeliness	Frequency	Reference Period	Update Period
Regular	30-day	Quarterly	First quarter, 2021	
Regular	60-day	Quarterly	First quarter, 2021	2021.Q1
Regular	90-day	Quarterly	First quarter, 2021	2021.Q1

These vintages should be communicated as:

- Regular – 30-day - Quarterly National Accounts release, first quarter 2021
- Regular – 60-day - Quarterly National Accounts release, first quarter 2021 (2021.1Q revised)
- Regular – 90-day - Quarterly National Accounts release, first quarter 2021 (2021.1Q revised)

Producers should also provide information about the substance of the release and sources of revisions:



Prominence of net measures compared to gross measures

- Encourages the focus on net measures (e.g., NNI) as conceptually better measures (not replacing gross measures but complementing them).
- Examines challenges of net measurement and support the need for higher quality and reliable net estimates and recommends steps on the way forward.
- Encourages the:
 - *Improvement of the estimation of ~~consumption of fixed capital~~ depreciation and measures of depletion of natural resources (additional guidance being developed).*
 - *Expansion of the accessibility and practical guidance on capital measurement to a wider range of countries.*

Use of easier to understand terminology

Objectives:

- Ensure harmonised definitions across the macroeconomic statistical standards primarily for producers.
- Single, harmonised Common Glossary of Macroeconomic Statistics covering the macroeconomic statistical standards.
- User friendly terms and explanation of terms for communicating with users.

Common Glossary of Macroeconomic Statistics

- This product is important as it ensures further harmonisation across international statistical standards and provides users with a clear and consistent understanding of key economic terms and definitions.
- Aim is to publish the final Common Glossary of Macroeconomic Statistics as a separate electronic publication and reflects:
 - Significant exercise from the Communication Task Team through to the SNA/BPM Editorial Teams.
 - Started with approx. 1,240 terms concluding with approx. 825 terms with agreed definitions.
 - Inputs from eight statistical standards: SNA, BPM, ESA, GFS, MFS, SEEA, IPSAS and BIS.
 - English version exists on the UN 2025 SNA webpage – final version will be translated into the official languages.

Examples of easier to understand terminology

Terminology SNA 2008 / BPM6	Terminology SNA 2025 / BPM7
Accumulation accounts	Accumulation of economic assets account
Adjusted disposable income	Disposable income adjusted for social transfers in kind
Allocation of (other) primary income account	Allocation of (other) earned income account
Balance on goods/services/goods and services	Balance of international trade in goods/services/goods and services
Balance of primary incomes	Balance of earned incomes
Compensation of employees	Remuneration of employees
Constant prices	In volume terms
Consumption of fixed capital	Depreciation
Distribution of income account	Earned income account
Financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM)	Implicit financial services on loans and deposits
Financial lease	Finance lease
Generation of income account	Generation of earned income account
Imputed rental of owner-occupied dwellings	Owner-occupied housing services
Net errors and omissions	Statistical discrepancy
Net fees	Fees less service charges
Net guarantees	Guarantees less service charges

Examples of easier to understand terminology (cont'd)

Terminology SNA 2008 / BPM6	Terminology SNA 2025 / BPM7
Net (non-life) insurance premiums	Non-life insurance premiums less service charges
Net re-insurance premiums	Re-insurance premiums less service charges
Net social contributions	Social contributions less service charges
Other changes in assets account	Other changes in assets and liabilities account
Other changes in the volume of assets account	Other changes in the volume of assets and liabilities account
Primary income	Earned income
Product balance	Balance of the supply and use of products
Purchases less sales of goodwill and marketing assets	Acquisitions less sales of goodwill
Redistribution of income account	Transfer income account
Redistribution of income in kind account	Social transfers in kind account
Resource lease	Natural resource lease
Resources	Revenues
Secondary distribution of income account	Income transfers other than social transfers in kind account
Trade margin	Distribution margin
Use of adjusted disposable income account	Use of disposable income adjusted for social transfers in kind account
Uses	Expenditures

Compilers' Hub

Objectives:

- Design and develop a digital solution for the statistical community that would aid:
 - centralisation and sharing knowledge;
 - engagement in global collaboration; and
 - facilitate discussion of macroeconomic statistics issues.

State of play

- Compilers' Hub is now in the implementation stage.
- IMF is working with an external development team to develop a minimum viable product in the first phase, focusing on the key aspect of Compilers' Hub.
- First version expected to be launched by June 2024. This will have the Collaboration and Community sections of the Hub and an initial version of the Resources Page.
- The Beta version will be available for IMF users and some external users.
- A planned version 2.0 is scheduled for some time in FY2025, which will likely include more elaborated features and be open to the non-IMF users.

2025 SNA and BPM 7

Significant developments on communication and dissemination

- **New Chapter** dedicated to Communication and Dissemination of Macroeconomic Statistics.
 - ▶ Joint SNA / BPM chapter and glossary involving both the SNA and BPM Editorial Boards.
 - ▶ Reflects the outcomes of the Communication Task Team as well as Guidance Notes, global consultation on the Guidance Notes and feedback from AEG / BOPCOM as well as OECD, UNECE, etc. meetings.
 - ▶ Chapter almost ready for global consultation (April / May 2024).
- Common glossary of macroeconomic statistics:
 - ▶ Another layer of harmonisation improving harmonisation across the standards.
 - ▶ Focused on SNA and BPM with key inputs from six other statistical standards.
- Branding – Macroeconomic Statistical Standards.
- Development of a Compilers Hub:
 - ▶ Producer and user forum – information sharing.
- Digitalised version of 2025 SNA and BPM 7:
 - ▶ Digitisation of past and present macroeconomic statistical standards.



Extra slides for information