



WORKING GROUP ON SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (WGSNA)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted by the ACSS Committee in its 6th Session on 1-3 November 2016

The ASEAN Working Group on System of National Accounts (WGSNA) is set up to promote the production and dissemination of national accounts statistics to support the monitoring of economic performance and development of individual ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Community as a whole. The WGSNA shall be a key forum for discussions on the development and improvement of national accounts in ASEAN, the coordination of regional capacity building efforts and advices on the 2008 SNA implementation recommendations. The WGSNA shall operate within the framework of the ASEAN Cooperation in SNA, and carry out its functions and activities under the purview of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee.

Objectives

The WGSNA aims in particular to:

- a) promote the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) in ASEAN Member States, including the setting of milestone, measures, targets and quality standards;
- b) ensure that the ASEAN programme on the 2008 SNA implementation is in line with related international programmes, standards, and best practices;
- c) promote harmonisation and development of relevant economic statistics in support of the 2008 SNA implementation;
- d) develop a data transmission framework and protocol in the production and dissemination of SNA statistics in accordance with international standards and ASEAN requirements;
- e) promote and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices in the production and dissemination of national accounts statistics through better coordination, statistical capacity building and technical assistance among those involved in the provision of national accounts statistics in ASEAN Member States and ASEANstats.

Scope of Work

1. The general function of the WGSNA is to share approaches and experiences, as well as to provide expert advice and technical inputs in the implementation/adoption of the 2008 SNA among ASEAN Member States.
2. The functions/tasks of the WGSNA are to:
 - a) provide technical inputs on results of the periodic review of the 2008 SNA implementation, including milestones, measures, and targets;
 - a) facilitate the adoption of new/updated frameworks, concepts, compilation guidelines, methodologies, and standards; identify issues concerning the production, and dissemination of national accounts statistics by ASEAN Member States and recommend possible solutions;
 - b) recommend key economic indicators that are useful for comparative analysis of economic issues in the region as basis for data sharing among ASEAN Member States and for the purposes of monitoring the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025;
 - c) recommend to undertake and review the results of regional or joint research studies on national accounts issues relevant to ASEAN Member States;
 - d) recommend strategies and measures for institutional, information technology and human resource capacity building (i.e technical assistance and technical advice) to support the development of national accounts statistics;
 - e) provide standards, methods, and mechanism for regular data dissemination of ASEAN Member States using data transmission tools (DTT) to ASEAN Secretariat;
 - f) implement a regular and comprehensive review of data and metadata in line with the agreed specification methodology, quality, and timelines in the supply of the national accounts statistics to the ASEAN Secretariat and recommend the measure to address statistical gaps and deficiencies, and
 - g) provide recommendations on formulation of the Annual Work Plan of the WGSNA in line with the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025.
3. The implementation of these tasks shall be guided by ACSS Annual Work Plan as agreed by the WGSNA member and approved by ACSS committee.

Organization

1. Each ASEAN Member States shall designate two (2) permanent members to the WGSNA. These members shall be national accounts experts or officers of the national agency/ies responsible for the development, compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics.
2. Each ASEAN Member States shall designate a country focal point on SNA, from the two permanent members, to coordinate and monitor WGSNA related activities at the

national level. The focal point shall also provide periodic updates on WGSNA related matters to the ACSS Committee through the Sub Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC).

3. The Chair of the WGSNA is nominated by members of the WGSNA. The term of the Chair shall be for a period of at least two (2) years which may be extended for a maximum of two (2) years.
4. The Chair shall be responsible primarily for steering the activities of the WGSNA towards the achievement of the stated objectives, leading meetings and discussions, formulating the collective decisions and recommendations of the WGSNA, presenting the WGSNA recommendations to the ACSS Committee, designating the WGSNA members to address specific issues, and performing other tasks as deemed relevant.
5. The WGSNA Chair shall coordinate closely with ASEANstats in planning, initiating and leading the implementation of the Annual Work Plan.

Institutional arrangements and general mechanics

1. The WGSNA shall meet at least once a year and may recommend additional meetings (workshops/seminars, trainings, etc) as may be deemed as necessary. It can also conduct inter-sessional or preparatory meetings as well as exchange views through telephone, emails, and other means.
2. Hosting of the WGSNA meeting shall either be by one of the ASEAN Member States or by the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. The WGSNA shall provide its recommendations on the 2008 SNA related implementation to the ACSS Committee through the SCPC.
4. The WGSNA shall provide technical inputs and consult closely with ASEANstats on the discussion or resolution of issues towards the implementation of the 2008 SNA specifically on programs and activities to be undertaken.
5. In general, the WGSNA decisions and agreements shall be based on consensus.

Secretariat

The ASEANstats of the ASEAN Secretariat shall provide the technical and secretariat services to the WGSNA.
