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**FINAL REPORT**

**REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISION 4 OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA 1993)**

**(Santiago, Chile, 22-26 November 1993)**

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## **I. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK**

### **Place, date and purpose of the meeting**

1. The Regional Seminar on the Implementation of Revision 4 of the System of National Accounts (SNA 1993) took place in Santiago, Chile on 22 through 26 November 1993 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
2. The approval of the 1993 System of National Accounts (hereinafter referred to as SNA 1993) has raised some doubts as to the ability of some of the countries in the region to implement that system within a reasonable time period. In view of the scant amount of resources available to the countries and to international agencies for performing this task and considering the difficulties encountered by the countries of the region in implementing (albeit only partially, in the great majority of cases) the preceding version of the System of National Accounts (SNA, Rev. 3, 1968), it was decided that a regional strategy should be designed for the gradual implementation of SNA 1993 which, while taking the special features of the various countries into account, would include the greatest possible number of common objectives and tasks at each stage in that process. This approach will also enable international cooperation agencies to pursue a joint strategy and thereby utilize their resources to better advantage.
3. Within this context, and with the primary objectives of providing the countries of the region with an opportunity to form a consensus as to the nature of the basic information requirements and steps involved in setting up the new system and of reaching agreement as to the most appropriate regional strategy for achieving these ends, ECLAC, which is serving as the focal point for regional and international cooperation for the implementation of SNA 1993 in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized this regional seminar in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT), which served as its co-sponsor.

### **Attendance\***

4. The seminar was attended by representatives of the following countries members of ECLAC: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. Representatives of the Netherlands Antilles, an associate member of ECLAC, also attended.
5. Representatives of UNSTAT, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC and the ECLAC office in Buenos Aires were also present.

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\* See annex 1 for the list of participants.

6. In addition, representatives of the following bodies attended the meeting by special invitation: Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), Central American Monetary Council (CMCA), Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), Inter-American Statistical Training Centre (CIENES) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

#### Organization of the debates

7. To direct the debates, the attending delegations designated Mr. Pedro Cervieri del Monte, Director of the Economic Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Uruguay, as chairperson; Mr. Jorge Castellanos, Chief of the Macroeconomic Aggregates Division of the Central Bank of Honduras, as first deputy chairperson; Mr. Joseph Nartey, National Accounts Consultant to the Statistics and National Accounts Division of the Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Bahamas, as second deputy chairperson; and Mr. Hugo Delgadillo, Chief of the National Accounts Department of the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia, as rapporteur.

#### Agenda and documentation

8. The participants had before them the documents listed in annex 2 to this report and the following agenda:

1. Strategy for the implementation of Revision 4 of the System of National Accounts (SNA 1993)
  - a) Institutional organization and adjustment of the relevant internal capabilities
  - b) Dissemination of the new System and training of compilers and users
  - c) Minimum set of accounts and tables to be used for the start-up of the implementation process and accounts and tables to be designed for future additions or stages
  - d) Adaptation or gradual expansion of the basic statistics currently being produced in order to meet the requirements of high-priority accounts and tables
    - i) Harmonization as appropriate, in accordance with SNA 1993, of international guidelines for the preparation of basic statistics and other macro-statistical schemes (balance of payments, governmental financial statistics and financial and monetary statistics)
    - ii) Adaptation and refinement of economic surveys and censuses and administrative records; new designs and forms of information gathering (joint surveys); utilization of available statistics
    - iii) Liaison between business accounting and national accounting activities; application of accounting standardization procedures
  - e) Implementation of pilot projects.

2. Mechanisms for concluding operational and methodological agreements at the regional level
  - a) Selection of base years for national accounts (to include adjustments in compilation methods, the incorporation of new tables and categories, etc.) that will permit the various countries' calculations at constant prices to be as close as possible to one another; presentation on the value added tax (VAT)
  - b) Periodic evaluation of the regional implementation process
  - c) Prompt transmission of information to ECLAC and other international agencies
  - d) New international questionnaire on national accounts.
3. Horizontal and international technical cooperation in the area of basic statistics and national accounts
  - a) Training of regional experts
  - b) Training seminars and workshops
  - c) Development of training material
  - d) Manuals and practical handbooks
  - e) Mechanisms for the exchange of information regarding project activities and results in the region.
4. Matters relating to the preparation of national accounts during periods of high inflation.

#### Opening meeting

9. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mr. Gert Rosenthal, the Director of the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division, Mr. Pedro Sáinz, opened the seminar. He noted that, in so doing, he was also acting on behalf of Mr. William Seltzer, Director of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT), which was co-sponsoring the seminar.

10. Mr. Sáinz extended a warm welcome to the participants, wished them success in their deliberations and offered them the support of the ECLAC secretariat. He then referred to the process leading up to the approval of SNA 1993 and spoke of the efforts made by the sponsors of the seminar to ensure the broad-based participation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. He underscored the efforts made in July 1993 by the technical experts of the region who were represented on the working group concerned with the implementation of SNA 1993 and made special mention of the role played in its activities by Mr. Enea Avondoglio, to whom he expressed the gratitude of the representatives of all the countries participating in the meeting.

11. The approval of SNA 1993 by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations marked the end of one stage of the process. The next step was the implementation of the new System, and the chief aim of the current technical meeting was to analyse ways of embarking upon that endeavour.

12. Within that context, he commented upon the institutional duties involved in that process and emphasized the role to be played by the organizations responsible for developing SNA 1993 at the national level, by the institutions in charge of preparing accounts for the balance of payments and for compiling fiscal, monetary and financial statistics, and by the national statistical agencies whose job it was to compile basic statistics. Without the help of those agencies and the coordination of their activities, it would be very difficult to implement the new System; hence the efforts made by the sponsors of the seminar to ensure the participation of technical experts from the organizations concerned with those matters. The international community, as represented by the institutions and agencies whose delegates were participating in the present seminar, also had the responsibility of organizing and promoting regional cooperation. That community therefore needed to focus its efforts on a series of common tasks. Furthermore, in order to overcome the developmental differences existing among the countries of the region in the field of statistics, a large-scale horizontal cooperation effort was called for, and the organizations in attendance should play a major role in that undertaking.

13. He went on to list a number of tasks which he felt should receive priority attention during the ensuing debates. The first was to define the stages into which the implementation of SNA 1993 should be divided and to identify, even if only along general lines, what advances the countries hoped to make during the first stage. The second task was to choose a minimum set of the most basic and most easily estimated accounts, tables and variables on which work should be concentrated during the early stages of the implementation of SNA 1993. The third task was to identify the institutional mechanisms that might be used for that purpose. Within that context, he underlined the importance of international and horizontal cooperation, as well as the need to delineate institutional responsibilities for the coordination of the work at the world and regional levels.

14. The Governments of the region had designated ECLAC as the focal point for the implementation of SNA 1993 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the ECLAC secretariat was counting on the guidelines which it hoped would emerge from the present seminar —whose participants represented those Governments in technical matters— to aid it in the performance of that duty.

## II. PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

15. To assist them in their deliberations, the participants had before them the background documents listed in annex 2.

16. With regard to general aspects of the implementation of SNA 1993 in the region, it was agreed that the process should be based on an overall view of the System, that the accounts should be prepared on an annual basis and that the variables which were to be presented in publications should not be given at a higher level of disaggregation for the base year than for other years in the series. The information used in compilations for the base year would, nevertheless, have to be more complete in terms of both coverage and level of disaggregation, than the data used to prepare estimates for the other years in the series. In addition, the breakdowns for base-year variables might be used as a basis for specialized publications.

17. The participants were all of the opinion that the implementation of SNA 1993 in the region would be a fairly lengthy process and would therefore have to be undertaken in stages. The first stage, which might take four or five years, would primarily be concerned with the dissemination of the new manual, the training of technicians from each country and of the main users in matters relating to national accounts and basic statistics, and the performance of activities aimed at adapting the statistics produced by the countries to the requirements of the System and, more specifically, to the minimum set of high-priority basic tables and accounts (see paragraph 27).

18. The setting of those priorities should not, however, prevent the preparation of more complex accounts and tables by those countries able to do so. The establishment of priorities served only to point out the direction in which joint efforts to carry forward the gradual implementation of SNA 1993 in the region should be directed.

19. In some respects, the implementation of SNA 1993 did not necessarily require new research but only the refinement and expansion of existing methods for gathering basic information. The differences between the current and preceding versions lay in the greater importance which the new manual placed on business concerns as opposed to business establishments with a view to facilitating the preparation of the System's institutional accounts.

20. Those countries which had gained sufficient experience through the preparation of their current institutional accounts and which had basic statistics that conformed reasonably well to the guidelines set forth in the new manual ought to adopt a strategy of their own. The situations of those countries should, however, be analysed on a case-by-case basis so that the particular characteristics of each country's problems and of their possible solutions might be identified.

21. With regard to the subject of institutional organization and the need to gear the countries' statistical production capacity to the new System's requirements, it was agreed that, regardless of the institutional scheme used by each country to implement SNA 1993, the officials in charge of national accounts and other related statistical matters (such as the balance of payments, public finances, and monetary and financial statistics) must remain in close contact with one another. Special importance was also attributed to the need for a free-flowing exchange between such officials and the persons responsible for producing basic statistics and keeping administrative records.
22. A comprehensive application of the new manual would require the countries to expand upon their existing statistical information due to the fact, in large part, that the limited approach used in implementing the preceding version of the SNA had hindered the offices responsible for producing various types of statistics from establishing appropriate links with national accounts offices; those links would have to be expanded considerably as the new System was implemented. To remedy that situation, some countries were passing legislation designed to improve coordination among the various institutions involved in applying the SNA.
23. As regarded the form which the dissemination of the new System and corresponding training activities should take, it was felt that a distinction needed to be made between dissemination and training activities aimed at those responsible for producing basic statistics and preparing national accounts and the activities of that nature intended for users. The general view was that responsibility for such tasks should be assumed jointly by the United Nations and the countries and, in the latter, by their national accounts offices in particular. The initiatives seen as necessary in order to achieve that goal were as follows:
- a) International agencies should provide the technical materials relating to SNA 1993 to national accounts specialists in each country as soon as possible, and the authorities in each country should inform users why it was both advisable and necessary for them to follow the new guidelines.
  - b) The United Nations should assign priority to the preparation of a comprehensive instructional summary of the new manual to facilitate its dissemination, in particular, to the producers of basic statistics and users in each country. At the same time, national accounts offices should assume responsibility for making the new System known in their countries.
  - c) The training offered in the region should emphasize operational aspects. With specific regard to the interpretation of the new System's frame of reference, methodology and statistical aspects, intensive training should be provided in national accounts offices, institutions responsible for the production of basic statistics and other macro-statistical schemes (e.g., balance of payments, public finances, monetary accounts) and the main user institutions. In such cases, it was important that the complete version of the new manual should be used in dissemination and training activities.
24. ECLAC was asked to convene a meeting of representatives from international training centres and from institutions in the countries of the region that had such centres for the purpose of analysing and coordinating some of the fundamental aspects of training activities. Examples of such aspects included the frequency with which training courses should be offered and how they should be apportioned among the various training centres; financing, preparation and exchange of teaching materials; supplementary instruction; development of pilot implementation projects, etc.



25. Universities also needed to be encouraged to use the SNA 1993 frame of reference and recommendations in their courses on national accounts since, by doing so, they would facilitate the future training of technical staff for statistical and national accounts offices and would promote the correct use of SNA 1993 by analysts and users.

26. Regarding the minimum set of basic accounts and tables to be used in commencing the implementation of SNA 1993, the participants were in agreement that the task in question, although limited during an initial stage, should be programmed within the context of the complete set of institutional sectors provided for in the System. Later on, as the countries improved their basic statistics production capabilities and gained experience, the scope of the work could be gradually expanded with a view to setting up all the accounts included in SNA 1993.

27. The following minimum set of basic accounts and tables were proposed for the start-up of the new System in the region:

- a) Tables on supply and demand with breakdowns on output, intermediate consumption and value added, by class of economic activity, at the level of disaggregation permitted by the available data.
- b) Complete accounts for the financial corporations sector, to include all the accounts (i.e., production, income, use of income, formation and balance sheets), and complete accounts for the rest of the world.
- c) Accounts on production, income, use of income, capital and the financial account of the general Government.
- d) Complete accounts for major non-financial corporations and those listed on the stock exchange.
- e) Accounts for households, non-profit institutions (NPIs) and non-financial corporations not included in category d) above would be obtained in consolidated form by computing the differences from the production account to the financial account.

28. A figure showing the entire structure of SNA 1993 may be found in annex 3 to this report. The shaded areas in that figure correspond to the minimum set of basic accounts and tables to which reference was made in paragraph 27.

29. In view of the experience gained by a number of countries in the region in the course of their application of Revision 3 of the System of National Accounts (SNA, Rev. 3) and the preparatory work for the implementation of SNA 1993, some of the more important additions that could be made to the minimum set of tables and accounts were defined. Countries that had been working with the complete version of SNA, Rev. 3 or with a significant portion thereof would already be in a position to introduce some of those additions. Some of the other countries still needed to resolve various difficulties, and that would require more time and resources. Some of the possible additions were the following:

- a) Integrated accounts for public non-financial corporations, including accounts on production, income, use of income, formation and balance sheets.

- b) Comprehensive coverage of private non-financial corporations, including those corporations not included in the category set forth in paragraph 27 d) (i.e., smaller corporations and those not listed on the stock exchange). In that event, in principle, only household and NPI accounts would be calculated as residuals.
- c) Accounts on production and generation of income by informal units.
- d) Tables on supply and demand broken down by product and on intermediate consumption broken down by product and type of activity, but without cross-classifications.
- e) Tables on supply and demand broken down by product and on intermediate consumption with cross-classifications for product groups and economic activities.
- f) Cross-classifications for production, intermediate consumption and value added and its components, by type of economic activity and institutional sector.
- g) Classification of government expenditure by type of function.

30. Since these additions should, in principle, be based on the experience gained by some of the countries in the region, it was felt that they could be made available to the other countries through horizontal cooperation.

31. Other subject areas that were regarded as important were none the less not included in the list of possible additions because the participants felt that no substantive experience had been gained on those subjects in the region. Even so, the participants felt that the following such subjects should be identified: a) preparation of integrated household accounts based on the information to be found in other accounts within the System or on information obtained from special-purpose research projects and household surveys; b) integrated accounts on NPIs, to be prepared with the help of special-purpose surveys; and c) preparation of balance sheets for produced assets and non-produced assets (natural resources).

32. It was suggested that estimates based on SNA 1993 which involved expanding upon the preceding version of the System of National Accounts should be presented in official publications starting with the year when they became available, rather than including retrospective tabulations, owing to the high cost of such compilations. It was also recommended that, as the preparation of the new System proceeded, each country should seek to establish a new base year for its estimates at constant prices and that the base year should be as close as possible to the current year in order to permit the compilation of information on the most recent relationships to be found within the economic structure.

33. On the subject of the gradual adjustments and expansion of basic statistics needed in order to bring them into line with the requirements of SNA 1993, it was stressed that it was important for the personnel in charge of preparing national accounts, producers of basic statistics and technical personnel responsible for administrative records to work in close contact with one another. In some cases such a process would call for political or inter-agency agreements, however, which might cause some delays.

34. New methods of basic information gathering were called for and efforts to update administrative records needed to be stepped up if they were to be truly useful instruments for the implementation of SNA 1993.

35. It was suggested that institutions responsible for the preparation of national accounts and basic statistics should bring up the matter of adapting administrative records to the requirements of national accounts with the relevant authorities; this was especially important in the case of records containing information necessary for the preparation of SNA 1993 (public finances, social security systems, foreign trade, etc.).

36. Problems relating to the cost and the time required to obtain usable results from economic censuses were discussed. It was proposed that, as one possible option, such censuses might be confined to a few key questions designed to permit the identification of observation units, which could then be investigated further through specialized surveys.

37. The participants were informed that work was proceeding on the harmonization of manuals regarding complementary national-accounts systems (public finances, monetary and banking statistics, employment statistics) and basic statistics (e.g., industrial and foreign-trade statistics) with SNA 1993. As part of that effort, the fifth edition of the balance-of-payments manual had been completed.

38. In the course of the debates it became clear that the geographical coverage of international and regional cooperation activities for the implementation of SNA 1993 differed in that some of those activities were being mounted on a worldwide scale, while others were being pursued at a regional level. Examples of the former included the international dissemination of the new SNA 1993 manual, the political effort to ensure that special resources would be allocated for the implementation of SNA 1993 at the international level, the preparation of practical, generally-applicable handbooks, the efforts being made to reconcile SNA 1993 data with those of other statistical systems (e.g., balance of payments, governmental financial statistics, financial and monetary statistics, environmental statistics), and training and horizontal cooperation activities. A central role had been played, and would continue to be played, by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts, which was composed of representatives from UNSTAT, the regional commissions of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union.

39. Regional cooperation activities, for their part, focused on the application of international guidelines and their adaptation to the characteristics of each region. Examples included the present regional seminar aimed at shaping a strategy for implementing SNA 1993 in Latin America and the Caribbean; the steps taken by the Governments of the region to secure aid for that same purpose; and the creation of regional coordination mechanisms for the execution of such activities. In future, regional collaborative efforts should be channeled through specific cooperation activities and projects whose main components should be the training of technical specialists in the countries by means of training seminars and workshops, horizontal cooperation (taking advantage of the more sophisticated level of statistical development attained by some countries in the region for that purpose) and direct advisory assistance by regional experts for the national accounts offices in each country.

40. In view of the above considerations, and given the need to have an institutional mechanism for channeling such cooperation, the representatives of the countries of the region participating in the seminar asked ECLAC to perform that function and, on their behalf, to take steps to secure the necessary funding from the relevant multilateral institutions and public and private agencies to finance the activities for the implementation of SNA 1993 agreed upon at the seminar. The participants recommended, however, that before making such arrangements ECLAC should bring to the attention of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts the advisability of drawing a clear distinction between the scope of activities

to be carried out worldwide and that of regional activities; such a distinction would help to prevent overlapping initiatives and would permit the institutional delineation of the tasks involved in coordinating such activities.

41. In order to accomplish the tasks outlined in the preceding paragraphs, ECLAC was asked to present the views of the countries of the region to the Inter-Secretariat Working Group for the purposes of clarifying the position of the participants regarding the proper role of the Commission in coordinating regional cooperation and of securing the support of the Working Group for all the arrangements needed to pave the way for international and regional cooperation in implementing SNA 1993.

42. There was an exchange of views regarding the advisability of adopting standardized accounting procedures designed to ensure that accounting information would be recorded in a way that would provide the data needed for the implementation of SNA 1993. In addition to facilitating government and tax administration, that course of action would make a large amount of extremely useful information available to the persons responsible for applying the System. Furthermore, such standardization would enable the countries to conserve resources and would enhance the reliability of the data.

43. In order to expedite the standardization of accounting practices in the countries of the region, the participants requested that UNSTAT and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC explain the importance of such reforms to the Inter-Secretariat Working Group. If that were done, the steps taken to promote standardization at the national level by the bodies represented at the present seminar might be buttressed by efforts on the part of members of the Working Group or the Working Group as a whole to convince decision-makers in the countries of the advantages of standardizing accounting procedures.

44. Owing to the complexity of the administrative and legal steps involved and in view of the amount of time that the standardization of such procedures might take to complete, the countries that had not adopted a standardized system should make use of liaison mechanisms to adapt the information drawn from business accounts to the data requirements of SNA 1993. UNSTAT was in the process of drafting a manual regarding the use of such links.

45. The participants were in agreement as to the need to create a mechanism for concluding operational and methodological agreements regarding those aspects of the implementation of SNA 1993 that were not clearly defined in the manuals or whose application posed difficulties; such a mechanism could also help to secure prompt responses from ECLAC and UNSTAT to any queries made by institutions in the countries. Mention was made of the following general matters that might be resolved through such a mechanism: a) conceptual issues or questions relating to the interpretation of the manual; b) computational procedures and possible sources of information for the preparation of new estimates; c) computational procedures for adapting existing information; and d) regional dissemination of methodological documents prepared by the countries.

46. Using that mechanism, a country wishing to solve a given problem should state the problem in writing to ECLAC; if necessary, ECLAC would then consult with UNSTAT or with other countries known to have experience with matters relating to the problem in question. Thus, the coordination of activities in connection with the proposed mechanism would ultimately be in the hands of the ECLAC secretariat.

47. Since such a mechanism would complement the work of the Inter-Secretariat Group, it would heighten that body's effectiveness, since the Group had already set itself the task of identifying those conceptual, methodological or implementational matters which called for special attention or further statistical research in order to decide whether or not they needed to be addressed within the framework of SNA 1993.

48. The ECLAC secretariat representative explained that the resources currently available were not sufficient to allow the proposed mechanism to function at a desirable level of efficiency in keeping with the standards which the secretariat had traditionally sought to achieve in all its endeavours. The participants responded by requesting that ECLAC, with the support of UNSTAT, should take steps to see to it that within the next two or three years the region would have at its disposal the services of at least a few specialists on a full-time basis so that they could advise those countries requesting their assistance with the various tasks involved in implementing SNA 1993. If its efforts in that regard were successful, ECLAC should set up a mechanism for monitoring the progress made by the countries in certain areas of general interest as well as any obstacles they might encounter along the way.

49. Accordingly, a request was made for ECLAC, on behalf of the institutions represented at the seminar, to bring the agreement that had been reached to the attention of international cooperation agencies so that, in programming their technical assistance activities, they might make a special effort to provide the funding for permanent posts to be occupied by regional specialists.

50. As a possible means of assisting the region in its implementation of SNA 1993, UNSTAT outlined the computerized system for compiling national accounts which it was using in pilot projects in selected countries. As one example of those pilot projects, the UNSTAT representative reviewed the experiences and results obtained during the first stage of a programme in the Dominican Republic which had involved the implementation of that compilation system. The representative of Chile also described an information processing system which that country was using as a basis for the preparation of its new national accounts.

51. The above presentations gave the participants an opportunity to compare the two experiments. In that connection, it was generally felt that the degree of compatibility and complementarity between information-processing and computerized national-accounts compilation systems needed to be determined. It was also important for activities in support of the implementation of SNA 1993 to include, on a priority basis, actions designed to enhance the information processing capabilities of national accounts offices and statistical bureaus in the countries of the region.

52. It was then explained that the UNSTAT pilot programme's objective was to set up a system for dealing primarily with instructional matters, dissemination, data compilation and the alignment of tables and accounts. Thus, the overall results of the initial stages of that system's practical application should not be discussed in official presentations. The UNSTAT representative emphasized that the pilot programme was the first stage in the implementation of SNA 1993 and that it would necessarily be followed by a second stage devoted to the refinement of the database.

53. In relation to the information-processing system being designed by Chile for the preparation of national accounts, there was general agreement regarding its potential usefulness for handling basic information, integrating computational procedures and preparing interrelated estimates as well as for drawing up the final versions of tables and accounts for inclusion in SNA 1993. That scheme facilitated the critical review, cross-checking and evaluation of results. The implementation process and possible set-

up costs of such an information-processing system in offices or institutions having low- or mid-level funding capabilities were also discussed.

54. In the course of an exchange of views concerning means of arriving at operational and methodological agreements, Chile's experiences with its value added tax (VAT) were analysed and it was confirmed that its administration was in keeping with current international recommendations. Methods used for estimating series on goods and services at constant prices, especially in cases where a VAT had not existed during the base year but had been levied in subsequent years, were also analysed. The problem posed by such a situation called for further study with a view to the formation of a regional consensus regarding its treatment.

55. It was deemed advisable for countries to choose base years for their SNA 1993 estimates at constant prices as close as possible to the current year. There were a number of political, administrative and economic factors that might militate against compliance with that recommendation, however.

56. The participants agreed to request that ECLAC suggest to the relevant financial agencies —such as the IMF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)— that they should hold technical coordination meetings with a view to standardizing their methodological guidelines for the selection of base years and the computation of the exchange rates used to convert local-currency series to United States dollars until such time as satisfactory purchasing-power parities became available. In that connection, the countries were invited to participate in the international programme on purchasing-power parities that would be undertaken providing that the relevant agencies managed to obtain sufficient resources to ensure the technical quality of the exercise.

57. On the subject of the periodic evaluation of the SNA 1993 implementation process, there was a consensus regarding the following points: a) that a follow-up action of that type could only be carried out if the countries furnished the required information promptly and regularly; b) that the regional group of national accounts specialists should be reactivated so that, among other reasons, such experts might keep each other informed about the progress made in implementing SNA 1993; and c) that consideration should be given to the possibility of publishing a regional bulletin which would, *inter alia*, help disseminate the progress made in implementing SNA 1993 and in adapting the statistics produced by the countries to that new modality.

58. In reference to the new international questionnaire on national accounts, the UNSTAT representative presented the existing provisional version, noting that it had been designed to emphasize the collection of the type of information needed for worldwide and regional analyses. The questionnaire was still under consideration by the other members of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts and remained a matter open to discussion within the United Nations. Some doubts were expressed as to how faithfully the questionnaire reflected the characteristics of SNA 1993 in terms of both the demands associated with its implementation and the specific types of data required by the regional commissions of the United Nations.

59. The representative of ECLAC gave an overview of the various types of tasks, reports and research regularly undertaken by the Commission and discussed the impact which the new System would have on those activities. The Statistics and Economic Projections Division was working assiduously to upgrade and expand the database which the Governments of the region had asked it to organize in regard to a variety of statistical areas, such as national accounts, foreign-trade statistics, short-term economic statistics, social indicators, etc.

60. In its dual role as an agency seeking to promote the production of statistics in the region and as a source of economic and social information for the region's principal users, the Commission greatly appreciated the determined efforts made by the offices represented at the present seminar to provide ECLAC with a constant flow of information. The Commission also wished to stress how important it was for the Governments, public and private institutions, and researchers in the region, as well as for the international community, that those offices should continue to provide the highest-quality such information as speedily as possible.
61. In the field of horizontal and international technical cooperation relating to national accounts and basic statistics, every effort should be made to promote cooperation among the countries of the region, and it was therefore important for ECLAC to provide coordination in that connection.
62. In reference to the type of training needed in order to implement SNA 1993, the UNSTAT representative described some of the training activities currently being conducted. For example, an interregional training seminar for regional experts was being organized, and practical manuals concerning specific subjects and areas of training were being prepared with the help of pilot projects. The instructional materials needed for the interregional seminar were being prepared and would subsequently be made available to national and subregional training centres. The IMF had played a prominent role in the development of those manuals and practical guidelines. Mention was also made of a number of manuals that were planned but had not yet actually been drafted.
63. Internships for technical experts from different countries should be included among the training activities to be carried out. It was suggested that countries wishing to make use of that training modality should advise ECLAC of their plans in that regard, as should countries having experience in given fields which were willing to collaborate in such an undertaking, so that the Commission might take the necessary steps to coordinate such initiatives.
64. Regarding the subject of the exchange of information on the progress and results of relevant projects, the participants felt that such information should be transmitted to UNSTAT via ECLAC. Subregional organizations represented at the seminar (JUNAC and CMCA) could also place their infrastructure and network of contacts with their member countries at the disposal of ECLAC for that purpose.
65. In the course of their analysis of some of the aspects involved in the estimation of national accounts during periods of high inflation, the participants agreed to establish mechanisms for disseminating the various experiences of the countries of the region with such circumstances.
66. Representatives of the countries which had received technical assistance from the Government of France (Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru) informed the participants that, thanks to that assistance, they had acquired comparative advantages in the compilation of their national accounts and were therefore in a strong position to implement SNA 1993. They took advantage of the occasion to express their gratitude for that assistance to the Government of France.

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## Annex 2

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- Informe de la Reunión del grupo de trabajo sobre la implementación del Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales (SCN), 1993 (LC/R.1304), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, 30 September 1993.
- Clasificaciones y cuentas del Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales 1993. Anexo V del SCN 1993 (LC/R.1311), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, 4 October 1993.
- Seminario Matriz insumo-producto para la economía chilena 1986, Santiago, Chile, Gerencia de División de Estudios, Banco Central de Chile.
- Cuentas Nacionales de Chile 1985-1992 (síntesis anticipada), Santiago, Chile, Gerencia de División de Estudios, Banco Central de Chile.
- Implementación del Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales 1993. Proyecto piloto, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI).
- La Base 1990. Mise en oeuvre du SCN 1993 dans les comptes nationaux français (Réunion conjointe CEE/ONU/OCDE, 21-25 juin 1993), Direction des Statistiques Economiques, Département des Comptes Nationaux, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Estudios Económicos (INSEE).
- Proposed data content for a revised international questionnaire on SNA, based on the 1993 SNA guidelines, Jan W. van Tongeren, United Nations Statistical Division.
- National accounts development in Latin America. Proposal for a strategy to implement the revised SNA, Jan W. van Tongeren, United Nations Statistical Division.
- Algunos problemas en las oficinas de cuentas nacionales que obstaculizan la aplicación y desarrollo del SCN, Santiago, Chile, Banco Central de Chile.
- Las estadísticas básicas y la implementación del Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales. Los Planes Contables y las Encuestas Económicas Anuales, Aurelio Valdez Caro, Lima, November 1993.
- Sistematización de las Cuentas Nacionales en el Perú, Dirección Nacional de Cuentas Nacionales, Lima.
- El IVA en el SCN. El caso chileno, Santiago, Chile, Banco Central de Chile.
- El Sistema de cuentas nacionales español: situación actual y proyectos para la implementación del nuevo Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales, Antonio Martínez López, trabajo presentado en el Seminario sobre "Implementación de la cuarta revisión del Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales de Naciones Unidas", 1993.

## QUESTIONNAIRES

### MITINCI (Ministerio de Industria, Turismo, Integración y Negociaciones Comerciales)

- Encuesta económica anual 1992. Empresas de Hospedaje: Categoría: 3, 4 o 5 estrellas, Peru.
- Estadística manufacturera 1992 (formulario para empresas con 5 a 19 personas ocupadas), Peru.
- Estadística manufacturera 1992 (formulario para empresas con 20 y más personas ocupadas). Datos a nivel de empresa, Peru.
- Estadística manufacturera 1992 (formulario para empresas con 20 y más personas ocupadas). Datos a nivel de establecimiento, Peru.

### TCC (Ministerio de Transportes, Comunicaciones, Vivienda y Construcción)

- Encuesta anual de transportes y comunicaciones 1992. Anexo estadístico: 1. Empresas de radiodifusión, Sonora y/o TV, Peru.
- Encuesta anual de transportes y comunicaciones 1992. Anexo estadístico: 2. Empresas de transporte acuático, Peru.
- Encuesta anual de transportes y comunicaciones 1992. Anexo estadístico: 3. Empresas de transporte terrestre y agencias Comisionistas de Carga, Peru.
- Encuesta anual de transportes y comunicaciones 1992. Anexo estadístico: 4. Empresas de transporte aéreo, Peru.

## Annex 3

## CROSS-CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY AND SECTOR DATA

	Non-financial corporations	Financial corporations	Government	Households	Non-profit institutions (NPI's)
ISIC	Production Generation of income	Production Generation of income	Production Generation of income	Production Generation of income	Production Generation of income

## INTEGRATED ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

	Non-financial corporations	Financial corporations	Government	Households	Non-profit institutions (NPI's)	TOTAL ECONOMY	REST OF THE WORLD
Production	value added	value added	value added	value added	value added	Domestic product	External trade
Generation of income	value added components	value added components	value added components	value added components	value added components	Generation of income	Current external transactions
Allocation of primary income	balance of primary income	balance of primary income	balance of primary income	balance of primary income	balance of primary income	Allocation of primary income	
Secondary distribution of income	disposable income	disposable income	disposable income	disposable income	disposable income	Secondary distribution of income	
Use of income	saving	saving	saving	saving	saving	Use of income	current external balance
Capital	net lending changes in net worth due to saving and capital transfers	net lending changes in net worth due to saving and capital transfers	net lending changes in net worth due to saving and capital transfers	net lending changes in net worth due to saving and capital transfers	net lending changes in net worth due to saving and capital transfers	Capital	Capital
Financial	net lending	net lending	net lending	net lending	net lending	Financial	Financial
Other volume changes in assets	changes in net worth due to other volume changes in assets	changes in net worth due to other volume changes in assets	changes in net worth due to other volume changes in assets	changes in net worth due to other volume changes in assets	changes in net worth due to other volume changes in assets	Other volume changes in assets	Other volume changes in assets
Revaluation of assets	changes in net worth due to holding gains/losses	changes in net worth due to holding gains/losses	changes in net worth due to holding gains/losses	changes in net worth due to holding gains/losses	changes in net worth due to holding gains/losses	Revaluation of assets	Revaluation of assets
Opening balance sheet	opening net worth	opening net worth	opening net worth	opening net worth	opening net worth	Opening balance sheet	Opening balance sheet
Closing balance sheet	closing net worth	closing net worth	closing net worth	closing net worth	closing net worth	Closing balance sheet	Closing balance sheet

= Minimum set of tables and accounts for the region.

TABLE OF SUPPLY, USE AND ASSET ACCOUNTS

