

changes that have taken place:

- presentation of results according to the three (3) GDP lenses;
- analysis of the impacts of the renovation of national accounts, in relation to revisions of statistical sources, estimation methods, SNA concepts, nomenclatures, corrections of past errors, as well as the consideration of various economic phenomena (informal sector, cross-border trade, fraud, drugs, etc.) according to their importance in the economy.

For the first year accounts, the consideration of the results looks at both the data sources used and the methods used to compile the national accounts at constant prices.

6. Confidentiality Clause

The experts participating in the assessment exercise are called upon to observe the strictest confidentiality with regard to the information provided by the country being evaluated. All documents submitted by the country in the context of the joint mission are confidential and cannot be made public until the results have been officially validated and disseminated.

7. Composition of the joint mission for the review

The expert team for the peer review includes representatives of partner institutions and countries.

The institutions that participated in this exercise at least once alongside AFRISTAT are: AFRITAC West, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Central Bank of West African States and the Commission of the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union.

Peer reviewers to date have come from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Morocco, Senegal and Togo.

8. Funding of the joint mission

As far as financing is concerned, the partner institutions bear the cost of their experts.

AFRISTAT finances its participation and that of peer reviewers from countries using its own resources or those of projects under its management.

The evaluated countries are responsible for the practical organisation of the technical work in the form of workshops.

9. Key findings from the review

The work of the joint assessment mission is accompanied by an aide-mémoire co-signed by the various stakeholders.

This aide-mémoire outlines the following key points:

- Introduction
- Objectives of the joint mission
- Conduct of the joint mission
- Account Rebasing Process
- Migration to the 2008 SNA
- Main findings of the mission
- Main recommendations of the mission
 - General recommendations
 - Technical recommendations
- Annexes.



ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL OBSERVATORY
OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ASSESSMENT

by peers and partner institutions
of the results of base year change
and migration to the 2008 SNA
of AFRISTAT member States

*A tool for the consolidation and valuation
of national accounts*

Partner Institutions



Imprim Color Bamako





THE MAIN LINES OF THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

1. Overview

Since its adoption in 2008 by the United Nations Statistical Commission as the new international standard for the production and dissemination of national accounts, the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) represents a new challenge for the harmonization of macroeconomic statistics for Africa in general, and AFRISTAT member States in particular.

To date, all 22 Member States are engaged in the process of implementing the 2008 SNA and several of them already have concrete results.

Thus, with a view to consolidating the achievements of their relining and migration work towards the 2008 SNA, AFRISTAT recommends that Member States submit the results obtained to a peer review mechanism.

This mechanism, which the Observatory conducts with its partners, provides a framework for exchanging experiences, good practices and building the capacities of national executives through constructive dialogue.

This dialogue is established through a joint mission with experts from partner institutions and country experts as peers.

2. Objectives of the joint performance assessment mission

The overall objective of the joint mission is to assess the results of the base year change and migration to the 2008 SNA of AFRISTAT Member States and make operational recommendations for better compliance of practices with the new national accounting standards.

Specifically, the assessment of the results obtained consists in:

- analysing the degree of compliance of national product accounts with the recommendations of the 2008 SNA;

- examine the level of coverage of the data sources used in the process of compiling national accounts;
- explore the methods used to calculate the various aggregates;
- give opinions on the adequacy of the means mobilised in relation to the expected results;
- make operational recommendations for improving the quality of the proposed national accounts.

3. Initiation and preparation of the joint mission

To submit to a peer review is a voluntary act by countries. The wish to be evaluated is at the initiative of countries and is materialized by a letter from the authorities to AFRISTAT. After this phase, the next steps are:

- a. AFRISTAT and the candidate country for peer review shall agree on a date for the conduct of the mission;
- b. AFRISTAT contacts partners and some countries¹ for collecting their availability and interest in being part of the peers;
- c. A mission program proposed by AFRISTAT is examined and adopted by the evaluators;
- d. The adopted program is shared with the country to be evaluated. It is requested to provide peers in advance with relevant documentation on the National Accounts to be assessed.

4. Conduct of the joint mission

The joint mission has three main steps:

Step 1: Introductory meeting of the mission with the national authorities of the country in order to introduce the different members of the delegation and to specify again the objectives and the working method.

Step 2: Organisation of technical sessions on the items on the pre-established work program. The first of the sessions is the one during which the national team presents to the mission the process of rebasing and migration to the 2008 SNA, the data sources used, the development methods implemented, the main difficulties encountered, and the results obtained.

The following sessions are devoted to clarifications, sharing of good practices, advice and recommendations for improving working methods and the quality of results.

¹ Among those who have already changed the base year and migrated to the 2008 SNA.



Step 3: Debriefing meeting on the last day of the work during where the mission shares its observations and recommendations with the authorities.

5. Content of the work to be carried out

The working methodology favours the active participation of the managers in charge of compiling national accounts in the activities with a view to facilitating exchanges. Topics of discussion can range from very general questions to very fine technical considerations that may sometimes lead to the review of working files.

As an example, the accounts of the new base year prepared according to the 2008 SNA, the experts' assessment work will focus on the following aspects:

- Review of the data sources used to inform all economic activities carried out in the country. A particular attention is paid to the sectoral coverage and completeness of the active economic units;
- The main recommendations of the 2008 SNA implemented by the country, including:
 - the inclusion of research and development (R&D) and armament expenditure in gross fixed capital formation (GFCF);
 - the refinement of the method for calculating financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) and its allocation;
 - the clarification of the central bank's output and its consideration;
 - improving the recording of output of non-life insurance services;
- A review of the main results achieved, including a comparative analysis between the two systems (1993 SNA and 2008 SNA) in order to better understand the