

Meeting: International Public Sector Accounting
Standards Board

Meeting Location: New York, USA

Meeting Date: March 21-25, 2022

Agenda Item 12

For:

☐ Approval

☒ Discussion

☐ Information

ISS UPDATE

Project summary	The IPSASB considers opportunities to reduce unnecessary differences between IPSAS and ISS in order to facilitate the use of IPSAS data for ISS purposes.	
Task Force members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marc Wermuth, Technical Advisor 	
Meeting objectives	Topic	Agenda Item
Project management	ISS Update: Project Roadmap	12.1.1
	Instructions up to Previous Meeting	12.1.2
	Decisions up to Previous Meeting	12.1.3
Decisions required at this meeting	Education Session: Update on International Statistical Standards (ISS)	12.2.1
Other supporting items	N/A	N/A

**ISS UPDATE:
PROJECT ROADMAP**

Meeting	Completed Actions or Discussions / Planned Actions or Discussions:
	1. N/A

INSTRUCTIONS UP TO PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting	Instruction	Actioned
	1. N/A	1. N/A

DECISIONS UP TO PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting	Decision	BC Reference
	1. N/A	1. N/A

Education Session: Update on International Statistical Standards

Purpose

1. To provide the IPSASB with an update on International Statistical Standards (ISS).

Recommendation

2. No recommendation provided. For information purposes only.

Background

3. The [International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's \(IPSASB\) Strategy and Work Plan 2019-2023](#) considered alignment with Government Finance Statistics¹ (GFS) as an integral part of its work in order to reduce unnecessary differences with IPSAS.
4. The IPSASB's Policy Paper [Process for Considering GFS Reporting Guidelines During Development of IPSASs](#) sets out the IPSASB process for considering Government Finance Statistics (GFS) reporting guidelines during the development of IPSAS.
5. Since 2020, the statistical community has underway a project to update the *System of National Accounts, 2008* (2008 SNA), the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*, sixth edition (BPM6), and other ISS.
6. The [IPSASB's Mid-Period Work Program Consultation](#) (Consultation), also considered that one of the most important recent developments that could play an important role in advancing the use of accrual information to improve the quality of information used for PFM decisions is the start of a major program to update the ISS by 2025. IPSASB Members and staff have been supporting this initiative by sharing information on developments related to accrual financial accounting in the public sector, and IPSAS in particular, and through this process hope to continue to identify opportunities for further alignment between statistics and IPSAS.
7. As there are significant intervals between ISS updates, resources will need to be allocated to taking the resulting opportunities to increase alignment between statistical reporting guidance and IPSAS. Depending on developments related to this initiative, future resources under Themes A and B might be needed for narrow scope Government Finance Statistics (GFS) alignment projects.
8. While the Consultation focuses on which projects to add to its Work Program, the IPSASB expects to leave unchanged its current level of focus on Themes D and E, in areas other than the ISS update.
9. The objective of this Agenda Item is to provide the IPSASB with an update on the recent developments regarding the update of the ISS and introduce the IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard (see Agenda Item 1.6).

¹ The overarching standards for macroeconomic statistics are set out in the *System of National Accounts 2008* (2008 SNA). International statistical standards (ISS) are harmonized with the 2008 SNA to the extent possible, while remaining consistent with their own specific objectives. ISS include, among others, the *European System of Accounts 2010* (2010 ESA), International Monetary Fund's (IMF) *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014* (GFSM 2014), and *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (Sixth Edition).

Recent developments on ISS update

10. At its [51st session](#), held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2020, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) to develop a [roadmap](#) for the revision of the *System of National Accounts, 2008* (2008 SNA) for [adoption by the Commission in 2025](#).
11. Subsequently, the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) decided to launch a parallel process for updating the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*, sixth edition (BPM6), with a target release date of March 2025.
12. The ISWGNA and the BOPCOM have agreed to coordinate the update of both statistical manuals and other international statistical standards (ISS).
13. The IPSASB is represented in four ISS Task Teams that deal with relevant topics relevant for IPSAS-ISS alignment:
 - Current Account Task Team (CATT) (Task Team BOPCOM);
 - Wellbeing and Sustainability Task Team (WSTT) (Task Team ISWGNA);
 - Financial and Payments Systems Task Team (FITT) (Joint Task Team BOPCOM/ISWGNA); and
 - Communication Task Team (CMTT) (Joint Task Team BOPCOM/ISWGNA).
14. Over the last year and a half, the statistical community has been developing and issuing for public consultation Guidance Notes on specific topics (see full list [here](#)).
15. The IPSASB staff has contributed to the drafting of the ISS Guidance Notes that are relevant for further reducing the differences between IPSAS and ISS.
16. In specific cases, the IPSASB Chair and IPSASB Staff have also sent comment letters Guidance Notes during the consultation process.

IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard

17. The IPSASB Chair and IPSASB staff have developed a new IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard that is introduced at the March 2022 meeting as the new standing agenda item for the IPSASB meetings (see Agenda Item 1.6). The IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard replaces the IPSAS-GFS Tracking Table. The IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard will be updated as the ISS revision progresses.
18. The main sections of the IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard are as follows:
 - (a) **IPSAS-ISS Alignment Dashboard Overview**—presents a graphic presentation of types of differences between IPSAS and ISS and the respective number of IPSAS;
 - (b) **Table 1 – IPSAS/RPG and ISS—Summary**—presents for each IPSAS the current status of IPSAS-ISS alignment;
 - (c) **Table 2 – ISS Guidance Notes Relevant for IPSASB**—presents the list of ISS guidance Notes that are relevant for the IPSASB; and
 - (d) **Table 3 – IPSAS/RPG and ISS—Detail**—presents for each IPSAS a list of the main differences.

Decision Required

19. No decision required. For information purposes only.