

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Eighth Review of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives

Prepared by the Statistics Department

(In consultation with other departments)

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ACRONYMS

<i>2008 SNA</i>	<i>System of National Accounts 2008</i>
AASFA	Japan Administered Account for Selected IMF Activities
ARC	Advance Release Calendar
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
<i>BPM5</i>	<i>Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition</i>
<i>BPM6</i>	<i>Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, sixth edition</i>
CDIS	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey
COFER	Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves
<i>CPIM 2004</i>	<i>Consumer Price Index Manual 2004</i>
CPIS	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey
DFID	U.K. Department of International Development
DQAF	Data Quality Assessment Framework
DSBB	Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board
ECB	European Central Bank
ED	Executive Director
EDDI	Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative
FLI	Forward Looking Indicator
FSB	Financial Stability Board
FSI	Financial Soundness Indicator
G-20	Group of Twenty
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
<i>GFSM 2001</i>	<i>Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001</i>
GGO	General Government Operations
IAG	Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics
IIP	International Investment Position
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMFC	International Monetary and Financial Committee
<i>MFSM 2000</i>	<i>Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2000</i>
<i>NLT</i>	<i>No-later-than</i>
NSDP	National Summary Data Page
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFC	Other Financial Corporations
PMI	Purchasing Managers Index
Reserves Template	Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
ROSC	Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standard
STA	Statistics Department
TFFS	Task Force on Finance Statistics
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2010, the Executive Board agreed to accelerate the timing of the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives to within 24 months and requested an interim briefing prior to the Eighth Review within about a year. In February 2011, the Board discussed the *Interim Report for the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives* and broadly supported further work on enhancements to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and on the proposal for an SDDS Plus as an additional tier of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives. Directors agreed that staff return with detailed proposals at the time of the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives in 2012.

This paper reports on developments in the Data Standards Initiatives since the Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives (December 2008), and presents proposals for further enhancing the SDDS, and for data categories for the new higher tier of the data standards, the SDDS Plus. The SDDS Plus is primarily intended for subscribers to the SDDS with systemically important financial sectors while contributing to address further the data gaps revealed in the global financial crisis. This new tier is designed to enhance and supplement the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives and not to replace the SDDS.

Progress was achieved with the various modifications approved by the Board at the meetings on the Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives and on Broadening Financial Indicators in the SDDS. Most of the SDDS metadata now have references to internationally accepted statistical methodologies and describe deviations from those methodologies. The implementation of the decision to change the regular SDDS metadata certification from quarterly to annual began in 2009. Implementation of the modifications to the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (Reserves Template) to cover exchange-traded futures settled in domestic currency has been completed. Work on incorporating financial soundness indicators (FSIs) in the SDDS on an encouraged basis is making good progress. A simplified table on subscribers' external debt by remaining maturity has been incorporated into the SDDS on an encouraged basis. The transition to mandatory reporting of quarterly International Investment Position (IIP) data with one quarter timeliness by the end of September 2014 is on track.

Aligning the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) more closely with the SDDS was completed. The GDDS metadata for all GDDS participating countries was reformatted into the format of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), and several countries established both National Summary Data Pages (NSDPs) and Advance Release Calendars (ARCs). GDDS countries were also encouraged to compile the statistical data categories in accordance with the requirements of the SDDS.

Outreach activities were conducted to facilitate the implementation of the Board's decisions taken at the time of the Seventh Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives. In addition, five regional outreach seminars were held to get feedback from SDDS subscribers on the detailed proposals regarding the future of the SDDS, as well as on the SDDS Plus. Outreach visits were also conducted with capital markets and a number of multilateral organizations. The feedback from all of these outreach exercises has been incorporated in the proposals presented in this paper for the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives.

On enhancements to the SDDS, a number of proposals are presented. These include: (i) introducing a more structured timeline for the SDDS nonobservance procedures; (ii) including hyperlinks in the NSDPs to longer time series and more detailed data by end-2012; (iii) adding more structure and focus to the encouraged data category, Forward Looking Indicators (FLIs), with particular emphasis on specific FLIs; (iv) deleting the ARC flexibility options from the SDDS, after a transition period, by end-2017; (v) terminating the posting of the SDDS quarterly update on the Data Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB); and (vi) incorporating two data categories, sectoral balance sheets and general government gross debt, on an encouraged basis.

Ongoing work by the IMF, in collaboration with other international institutions, to address data gaps in the context of the G-20/IMFC Data Gaps Initiative has pointed the way forward for the development of the SDDS Plus data categories. Therefore, staff proposes that the SDDS Plus includes all SDDS prescribed data categories and nine additional data categories. The SDDS Plus would initially allow transition periods for up to four of these data categories through the end of 2017,* if an interested country does not fully meet all the requirements at the present time, but commits to comply with them by the end of 2017.* However, no flexibility options are being proposed for the nine additional data categories. The proposed data categories refer to the four macroeconomic sectors: real sector (sectoral balance sheets); fiscal sector (general government operations (GGO) and general government gross debt); financial sector (other financial corporations (OFCs) survey, FSIs, and debt securities); and external sector (Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS), Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS) and Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)). To adhere to the SDDS Plus, a country would need to be a subscriber in full observance of the SDDS. Adhering to the SDDS Plus would be voluntary, but once a country adheres, it undertakes to meet the most rigorous data dissemination and data quality standards within the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives. Modalities for monitoring the observance of the SDDS requirements, as well as nonobservance procedures, would be similar to those in the SDDS.

* Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal by deciding to extend the transition period until end-2019 to address several Directors' concerns about countries ability to fully adhere to all the requirements by 2017. See [Public Information Notice—Eight Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives](#).

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) introduced the Data Standards Initiatives in the mid 1990s following the Mexican financial crisis for the purpose of promoting the transparency of economic and financial statistics.** The data standards initiatives consist of two tiers: (1) the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), a monitored standard designed to guide countries that have or might seek access to international capital markets in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public; and (2) the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), a statistical development framework designed to guide countries in the provision of economic, financial, and socio-demographic data to the public.
- 2. The Fund has made significant contributions to filling the data gaps that surfaced during the recent financial crisis under the so-called Group of Twenty (G-20) Data Gaps Initiative (DGI).** This was in response to the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Working Group on Reinforcing International Co-operation and Promoting Integrity in Financial Markets which called on the IMF and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) to explore data gaps highlighted by the crisis.¹ The International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) has endorsed this initiative and its progress repeatedly. Progress made so far by the IMF regarding the Data Standards Initiatives drawing on the lessons of the DGI includes: (1) adding financial soundness indicators² (FSIs) in the SDDS on an encouraged basis, which was approved by the Fund's Executive Board in March 2010³ in response to the Executive Board's request during the Seventh Review of the Data Standards Initiatives in December 2008;⁴ and (2) strengthening the data dissemination of international investment position (IIP) data under the SDDS by requiring quarterly reporting (rather than annual), with a maximum lag of one quarter (from three quarters) starting from September 2014 (beginning with data for 2014 quarters I and II), which was also approved by the Board in March 2010.
- 3. In March 2010, the Executive Board agreed to accelerate the timing of the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives to within 24 months and**

¹ The staff of the Fund and the FSB Secretariat presented a report containing 20 recommendations for closing information gaps (the so-called G-20/IMFC Data Gaps Initiative) in October 2009, followed by two implementation progress reports in May 2010 and June 2011. The G-20 Data Gaps Initiatives report to the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors issued in October 2009 is available at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/102909.pdf>, see also the progress report issued in May 2010, <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/053110.pdf>; and the progress report issued in June 2011 <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/063011.pdf>.

² [Broadening Financial Indicators in the Special Data Dissemination Standard](#).

³ <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2010/022210a.pdf>.

⁴ <http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/111908.pdf>.

requested an interim briefing prior to the Eighth Review within about a year. In February 2011, the Board discussed the *Interim Report for the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives* and broadly supported further work on enhancements to the SDDS and on the proposal for an SDDS Plus as an additional tier of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives. Directors agreed that staff return with detailed proposals at the time of the *Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives* in 2012.

4. **To further address the data gaps revealed during the global crisis, this paper highlights proposals for further enhancements to the SDDS and the establishment of a higher tier for the Data Standards Initiatives, the SDDS Plus.** On enhancing the SDDS, the proposals include, among others, clarifying the timeline for the SDDS nonobservance procedure, adding hyperlinks to time series on the National Summary Data Pages (NSDPs), and incorporating two data categories on an encouraged basis. The paper proposes establishing the SDDS Plus, an additional tier of the Data Standards Initiative aimed at countries that have systemically important financial sectors. The SDDS Plus is a more rigorous tier that would require adhering countries to disseminate a broader range of data with shorter periodicity and faster timeliness. This new initiative is designed to reinforce and supplement the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives, and not to replace the SDDS. The SDDS Plus proposal draws on the on-going work by the IMF, in collaboration with other international agencies, on the G20/IMFC Data Gaps Initiative.

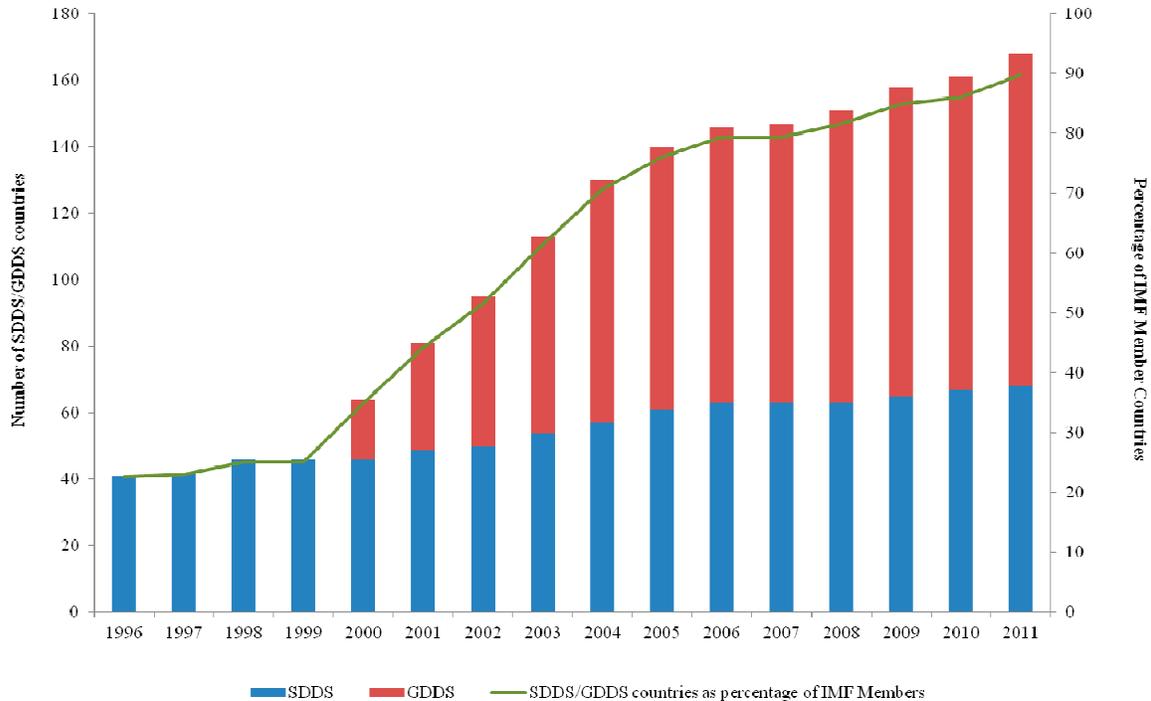
5. **The structure of this paper is as follows.** Section II reports on developments in the Data Standards Initiatives since the Seventh Review. Section III presents proposals to strengthen the SDDS. Section IV reports on GDDS developments. Section V presents the SDDS Plus proposal, including its data categories and governance modalities. Section VI discusses the resource implications of the staff proposals. Section VII presents the issues for discussion.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DATA STANDARDS INITIATIVES SINCE THE SEVENTH REVIEW

A. Membership

6. **A large number of member countries have joined either the SDDS or the GDDS.** As of December 31, 2011, about 90 percent of the Fund membership either subscribes to the SDDS or participates in the GDDS (Figure 1). SDDS subscription now stands at 69 countries while 102 countries participate in the GDDS. The GDDS has had 112 participants since its inception, ten of which have graduated to the SDDS.

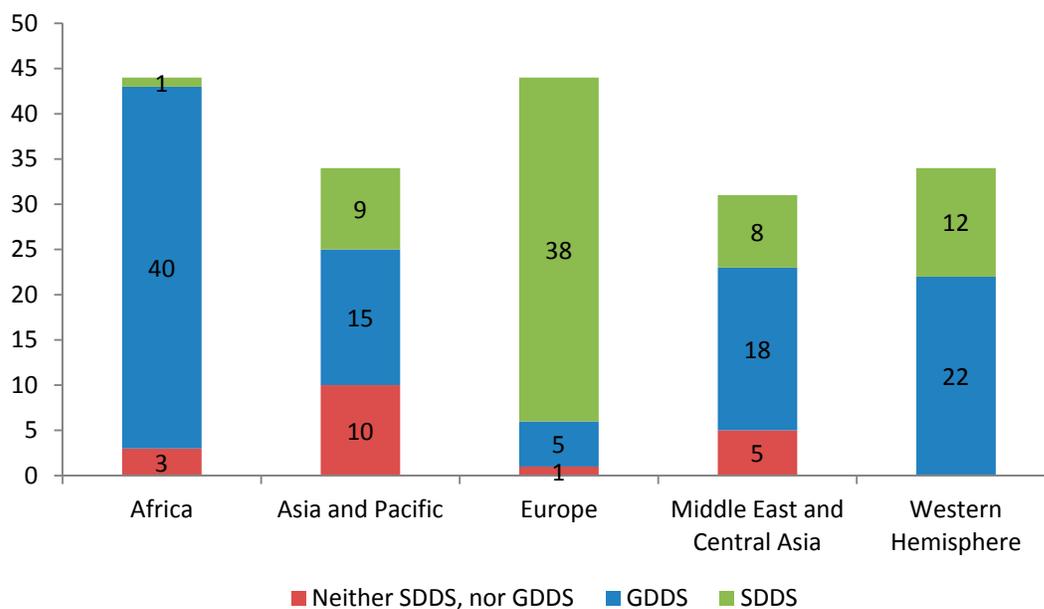
Figure 1. SDDS and GDDS membership



7. **Since the Seventh Review, five countries have subscribed to the SDDS and twelve countries began participation in the GDDS.** The new SDDS subscribers are Cyprus, and the four graduates from the GDDS: Georgia, Jordan, Malta, and Macedonia, FYR. The new GDDS participants include three from the Middle East and Central Asia, three from Asia and the Pacific, three from Europe, two from the Western Hemisphere, and one from Africa.⁵

⁵ See Table 2 on countries that joined the GDDS since the 7th Review.

Figure 2. Fund Membership in the SDDS and the GDDS by Region



8. **Currently, 19 IMF member countries are neither GDDS participants nor SDDS subscribers** (Table 1). Of these, several have expressed an interest to begin GDDS participation. This is expected to take about two to five years, depending on each country's circumstances. Most of the remaining countries are constrained by limited statistical capacity, while a few others have yet to make a strong political commitment to publicly disseminate key economic data; these factors will likely continue to limit additional membership in the short and medium term. To help address these constraints and limitations, the Japanese authorities have generously granted support in 2011 for a project to provide technical assistance to 11 of these countries to accelerate their participation in the GDDS. This project is scheduled for a formal launch at an opening workshop in March 2012.

**Table 1. IMF Member Countries Not Participating in Either the GDDS or the SDDS
(as of end December 2011)**

African Department	Asia and Pacific Department	European Department	Middle East and Central Asia Department	Western Hemisphere Department*
Comoros Equatorial Guinea Eritrea	Lao P.D.R. Marshall Islands Micronesia Myanmar New Zealand Palau Papua New Guinea Samoa Timor Leste Tuvalu	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Djibouti Iran, Islamic Republic of Somalia Turkmenistan Uzbekistan	

* All the Western Hemisphere countries participate in either the GDDS or the SDDS.

B. SDDS Developments

9. **The SDDS legal text was updated to reflect the Executive Board’s decisions made at the meetings on the Seventh Review and on Broadening Financial Indicators in the SDDS and, after the approval of the Executive Board, the updated version was published in September 2010.** Staff then notified the SDDS coordinators and advised them to begin implementing the recent enhancements to the SDDS (as reflected in its legal text) as soon as possible. Progress achieved thus far is described below.

Citations and Deviations from Internationally Accepted Statistical Methodologies

10. **Substantial progress has been achieved regarding the change that was decided at the time of the Seventh Review of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives to add explicit citations to and deviations from internationally accepted statistical methodologies in the SDDS subscribers’ metadata.** Staff posted on the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) a list of internationally accepted statistical methodologies for each data category covered by the SDDS. In mid-2009, staff identified the cases where explicit citations of and/or deviations from the internationally accepted statistical methodologies needed to be added to the metadata posted on the DSBB. SDDS coordinators were informed accordingly in the October 2009 version of the regular monthly SDDS observance reports, with a request to make these explicit citations and note the deviations in the SDDS metadata as soon as possible. Implementation progress by subscribers in conducting this exercise is closely monitored by staff on a monthly basis. As needed, each successive monthly observance report provides reminders to the SDDS subscribers to complete the remaining gaps in the exercise.

11. **Most of the SDDS metadata now have references to internationally accepted statistical methodologies and describe deviations from those methodologies.** As of end-December 2011, over 96 percent of the 1242 data categories' metadata presentations (18 data categories⁶ for each of the 69 subscribers) have explicit references to internationally accepted statistical methodologies that the subscriber follows, as well as relevant deviations where needed. Citations or deviations are still missing for only 48 out of the 1242 data categories, mainly regarding wages, the production index, consumer and producer prices, and population. Staff continues to work with subscribers to address the outstanding cases.

Annual Metadata Certification

12. **The implementation of the Board's decision taken at the Seventh Review to change the regular SDDS metadata certification from quarterly to annual began in 2009.** Accordingly, the SDDS legal text was amended to request SDDS subscribers to certify their metadata annually, one month after the end of the calendar year. Thus, the first annual metadata certification was for 2009, and it was due by January 31, 2010. The first results of the annual certification exercise were recorded in the subscribers' Annual Observance Reports for 2009, which were published on the DSBB at end-May 2010. The same exercise was completed the following year. The switch from quarterly to annual metadata certification has been accepted well and implemented successfully by all SDDS subscribers.

Modifications to the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

13. **Implementation of the modifications to the Data Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity (Reserves Template) to cover exchange-traded futures settled in domestic currency has been completed.** As of December 2011, all SDDS subscribers, except one,⁷ comply with this data dissemination requirement, which became effective at end-August 2009 (beginning with July 2009 data).

Conducting Data Quality Assessments

14. **At its discussion on the Seventh Review, the Board encouraged subscribers to conduct and disseminate a Data Module of the Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (Data ROSC) or undertake an equivalent exercise at intervals of no more than seven-to-ten years.** Staff communicated this message to all subscribers and made special efforts to contact subscribers that had never conducted a Data ROSC (or equivalent)

⁶ Three data categories covered by the SDDS are excluded from this exercise, in part because no internationally accepted statistical methodology has been fully developed. These are interest rates, the stock market index, and exchange rates.

⁷ At the time of preparation of this report, the only outstanding case in this regard was scheduled for a Board discussion on February 1, 2012.

and those where Data ROSCs were more than 10 years old. Since the Seventh Review, five Data ROSCs (Australia, Costa Rica, Korea, Mexico, and Russia) were conducted and all of them have been disseminated and another Data ROSC (Georgia) was conducted in late 2011 (see <http://dsbb.imf.org/pages/dqrs/ROSCDataModule.aspx>). Four subscribers have yet to conduct and disseminate a Data ROSC or equivalent exercise, and five others have outdated ROSCs (completed in 1999 or earlier). Staff has begun to update the July 2003 version of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF), used by staff to undertake the assessments under a Data ROSC, by incorporating the latest developments in statistical methodologies (especially the *System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA)* and the sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)*). The updated DQAF will be available for use in Data ROSCs in 2012. In FY 2011 and FY 2012, available resources allowed the Statistics Department (STA) to undertake up to two Data ROSCs per fiscal year but due to serious budget constraints, further streamlining is likely.⁸

Incorporating Financial Soundness Indicators on an encouraged basis

15. **Work on incorporating FSIs in the SDDS is making good progress.** The recent financial crisis highlighted the need for more frequent, timely, and cross-country comparable financial indicators. A new SDDS data category named “Financial Soundness Indicators” (FSIs) was introduced on an encouraged basis as decided by the IMF’s Executive Board in March 2010. The category encompasses seven FSIs: (i) regulatory tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets, (ii) regulatory tier 1 capital to assets, (iii) nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital, (iv) nonperforming loans to total gross loans, (v) return on assets, (vi) liquid assets to short-term liabilities, and (vii) net open position in foreign exchange to capital. These indicators are encouraged to be disseminated quarterly with one quarter timeliness. Subscribers were informed that the seven FSIs could be disseminated through the Fund’s FSIs database (<http://fsi.imf.org/>), and on their NSDPs along with the already existing financial sector data categories. Subscribers that disseminate this encouraged data category have been requested to include a hyperlink on their NSDPs to the Fund’s FSIs database.

16. **As of December 2011, 57 of the 69 SDDS subscribers report FSI data to the Fund.** Thirty-one SDDS subscribers already disseminate FSI data through their NSDPs, either through hyperlinks to the respective country pages in the Fund’s FSI database, or directly by including FSI data in their NSDP. For these SDDS subscribers, hyperlinks have also been posted on the DSBB to the relevant country metadata contained in the [FSI website](#). The data that are being reported may not always cover all seven indicators (while in many cases other FSIs are being reported), and may have diverse periodicity and timeliness characteristics across (and within) countries. Nevertheless, the use of hyperlinks to incorporate FSIs in the SDDS has significantly reduced reporting burdens on the SDDS subscribers and is leading to faster and broader dissemination of these data.

⁸ Excess demand for Data ROSCs during this period might be accommodated through peer reviews. Staff could facilitate such exercises by putting interested countries in touch with potential peer reviewers.

Dissemination on External Debt by Remaining Maturity on an encouraged basis

17. **As of December 2011, only 13 of the 69 SDDS subscribers disseminate data on external debt by remaining maturity.** During its discussion on broadening financial indicators in the SDDS in March 2010, the Executive Board approved the introduction of a simplified table on subscribers' external debt by remaining maturity, on an encouraged basis, to better monitor the vulnerability of domestic economies to shocks. Four countries (Brazil, India, Israel, and Ukraine) currently disseminate external debt by remaining maturity data on web pages hyperlinked to their NSDPs. Another group of nine SDDS subscribers (Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Peru, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Uruguay) disseminate these data within the Quarterly External Debt Statistics database developed and maintained by the World Bank (see supplementary Table 3.1 on gross external debt position: short-term remaining maturity by sector on the [external debt hub](#)).

Quarterly International Investment Position

18. **The transition to mandatory reporting of quarterly IIP data with one quarter timeliness is on track.** In order to better understand cross-border linkages and facilitate flow and stock data consistency, the Board endorsed the change of IIP dissemination requirement to quarterly (from annual) with a maximum lag of one quarter and a transition period of four years. The aim is to allow users to link the existing quarterly balance of payments data to quarterly IIP data to obtain a full picture of external vulnerabilities. The transition period is scheduled to end on September 30, 2014. At that time, all SDDS subscribers would need to disseminate quarterly IIP data on their NSDPs for the first and second quarters of 2014. As of December 2011, 47 subscribers (close to 70 percent of the 69 SDDS subscribers) already report quarterly IIP data, thereby meeting these tighter requirements. Staff has informed subscribers of the new requirement and the transition period, and consultations confirm that all remaining subscribers that do not currently conform to the new requirement are actively working to meet this schedule.

19. **Staff produced and published in March 2011 a document on how to compile quarterly IIP statistics.** In response to the increased number of requests for compilation advice that the IMF has been receiving from countries to meet the new demands for quarterly IIP reporting, staff produced and published a document on how to compile quarterly IIP statistics: *Quarterly International Investment Position Statistics: Data Sources and Compilation Techniques*. The document is currently available in English on the IMF website at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/iip/2011/030111.htm>. Staff is available to provide technical assistance to members to support efforts to compile and disseminate quarterly IIP data.

C. GDDS Developments

20. **In December 2008, during the discussion of the Seventh Review, the Board approved staff recommendations to place greater emphasis on data dissemination in the GDDS and in facilitating graduation to the SDDS.** The focus of the GDDS had traditionally been more on the dissemination of metadata and, to a lesser extent, on the dissemination of data. Since the Seventh Review, staff has made additional efforts to bring the GDDS in line with the SDDS and to emphasize data dissemination by: (i) reformatting the GDDS metadata into the DQAF,⁹ which is the SDDS format; (ii) aligning the GDDS data categories to the SDDS; (iii) promoting annually updated national plans for improvement of the statistical systems; and (iv) developing a National Summary Data Page (NSDP) and an Advance Release Calendars (ARC) as required in the SDDS. The GDDS remains a non-monitored system.

21. **Through workshops, bilateral technical assistance, and other means of communication, progress has been made in aligning the GDDS more closely with the SDDS.** In close cooperation with the authorities of all the GDDS participating countries, the metadata posted on the DSBB have been reformatted into the DQAF. Moreover, seven GDDS countries now have established both NSDPs and ARCs, while a further six countries have established NSDPs, and one country adopted an ARC. Staff also has been encouraging GDDS countries to compile the statistical data categories in accordance with the requirements of the SDDS. This is expected to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of work on the GDDS, technical assistance in the area of statistics, and Data ROSC missions while facilitating the graduation to SDDS subscription. To further support the GDDS countries in implementing the changes in the GDDS, staff posted an updated *GDDS Guide for Participants and Users* on the DSBB.

22. **The greater emphasis on *data* dissemination has not diverted attention from the developmental aspects of the GDDS.** Since the Seventh Review, participation in the GDDS has increased from 94 to 102. Twelve countries started participation, while four countries (Georgia, Jordan, Malta, and Macedonia, FYR) graduated from GDDS participation to SDDS subscription (see paragraph 7 on membership).

⁹ More information on the DQAF is available at <http://dsbb/Pages/DQRS/DQAF.aspx>.

Table 2. Countries that Joined the GDDS Since the 7th Review of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives

Algeria	April 2009
Serbia	May 2009
Libya	December 2009
Iraq	December 2009
Haiti	December 2009
Bhutan	May 2010
Kosovo	April 2011
Solomon Islands	June 2011
Guyana	June 2011
Burundi	August 2011
Maldives	October 2011
Montenegro	December 2011

23. **Future GDDS work will continue to pursue several key objectives.** These are: (i) further increasing GDDS participation, especially in the Asia/Pacific and Middle East/Central Asia regions; (ii) encouraging GDDS participants to update their plans for improvement at least annually; (iii) encouraging GDDS participants to update their metadata on a best effort basis; (iv) assisting GDDS participants in the implementation of NSDPs and ARCs; and (v) assisting GDDS participants who want to graduate to the SDDS.

D. Outreach

24. **Outreach activities were undertaken to facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the Seventh Review regarding the development of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives.** After the Seventh Review, six GDDS and three SDDS workshops were held in eight countries; most of them were open to neighboring countries.¹⁰ The GDDS workshops allowed participants to review the modifications to the GDDS metadata. They also provided the participants with an opportunity to discuss the changes to the GDDS that were designed to strengthen data dissemination by incorporating elements of the SDDS. The workshops focused on data category alignment as well as the associated newly encouraged periodicity and timeliness for each data category, an NSDP, and an ARC. The GDDS outreach program received significant support from donors especially from the United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) and the Japan Administered Account for Selected IMF Activities (AASFA, formerly known as JSA) (see Box 1), which funded five of the six GDDS workshops held since the Seventh Review (see Table 3). The SDDS workshops familiarized participants with the requirements of the SDDS. They also

¹⁰ GDDS workshops were held in March 2009 (Bahrain, 18 participants), May 2009 (Namibia, 12 participants), August-September 2010 (Kenya, 12 participants), September 2010 (Botswana, 19 participants), September 2010 (Azerbaijan, 20 participants), and November 2010 (Ghana, 14 participants). In addition, SDDS workshops were held in March 2009 (Bahrain, 37 participants), December 2010 (Saudi Arabia, 34 Saudi officials), and April 2011 (China, 25 Chinese officials).

contributed to the efforts of the participating countries to strengthen their statistical frameworks, update their plans for improvement, and improve data dissemination.

Table 3. GDDS Workshops/Seminars Since the 7th Review

3/17/2009	Bahrain	GDDS Workshop
5/12/2009	Namibia	DFID: STE GDDS Regional Workshop
8/31/2010	Kenya	DFID III: Training: GDDS Workshop
9/7/2010	Botswana	DFID III: Training: GDDS Workshop
9/21/2010	Azerbaijan	AASFA: Training: GDDS Workshop
11/16/2010	Ghana	DFID III: Training: GDDS Workshop

25. **During September and October 2011, five regional outreach seminars were held to get feedback from SDDS subscribers (and certain GDDS participants) on the detailed proposals regarding the future of the SDDS, as well as on the SDDS Plus.**¹¹ Outreach visits were also conducted with capital markets and a number of multilateral organizations. In general terms, these proposals were initially included in the *Interim Report for the Eighth Review*, which was discussed by the Executive Board in February 2011. In addition, to further understand the data needs of capital markets and ensure the relevance of data standards, staff conducted similar outreach exercises with capital market players in Asia, Europe, and North America, including especially investment banks and credit rating agencies. The feedback from all of these outreach exercises has been incorporated in the proposals outlined in this Eighth Review.

26. During outreach meetings with capital market participants,¹² staff discussed the proposed data categories that could be included in the SDDS Plus and possible enhancements that could be made to the SDDS. Overall, the representatives seem to be aware of recent data initiatives and strongly endorsed the enhancements to the SDDS as well as the proposed SDDS Plus data categories.

¹¹ These seminars were held in Indonesia (11 countries and The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESERIC)), Czech Republic (16 countries), Kuwait (6 countries), Peru (5 countries), and Switzerland (10 countries).

¹² Staff met with Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) in Zurich; Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank in Frankfurt; Nomura Asset Management and the Rating and Investment Information Inc. in Tokyo; HSBC, Fitch Ratings and Standard Chartered in Hong Kong SAR; and Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital, Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan, Moody's, Scotia Bank, and Standard and Poor's in New York. Staff also met with the following multilateral institutions: Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and Financial Stability Board (FSB) in Basel and the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt.

Box 1. Donor Funded GDDS Projects

United Kingdom’s DFID financed GDDS project for Anglophone Africa

Strengthening the Data Framework and Dissemination Modules

One of the six GDDS workshops conducted since the Seventh Review was financed under Phase II of the DFID GDDS Project for Anglophone Africa, entitled “Modules for Strengthening Statistics” (2006-2009). DFID financed another three GDDS workshops under the “Strengthening the Data Framework and Dissemination Modules” through the Enhanced Data Dissemination Initiative (EDDI), a follow-up project launched to further improve macroeconomic statistics in 23 African countries.

These workshops contributed to the efforts of the countries to strengthen their statistical systems and improve data dissemination. Staff worked with the participants to develop NSDPs, ARCs, and plans for improvement. In this context, staff: (i) provided electronic draft NSDPs specially prepared for each of the participating countries; (ii) demonstrated the most effective way to design ARCs while emphasizing their role in enhancing data utility to the users; and (iii) urged countries to update their plans for improvement. Staff also emphasized the importance of updating metadata on a regular basis. Since the three regional GDDS workshops conducted during the first year of the project that focused on training countries to develop NSDPs, ARCs, and updating plans for improvement, five additional GDDS countries have completed and began publishing NSDPs and four additional countries have completed and began publishing ARCs. These accomplishments are both ahead of schedule with respect to the logical framework milestones for 2012.

In August 2011, Burundi began participating in the GDDS, marking a major step forward in the development of the country’s statistical system. A GDDS mission to Burundi had laid the basis for Burundi’s participation by assisting the authorities to develop their metadata and plans for improvement, following their expression of interest to join the GDDS after participation in one of the three regional workshops. The beginning of Burundi’s participation in the GDDS is in advance of the logical framework 2012 milestone.

GDDS project funded through the Japan’s AASFA—formerly referred to as JSA

In 2011, STA received external financial support from the Japan Administered Account for Selected IMF Activities (AASFA) for a project to substantially increase GDDS participation among countries in the Asia/Pacific region and targeted member countries in the Middle East/Central Asia region. The project is directed at six Pacific Island countries,¹ Lao PDR and Timor Leste, as well as Iran, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The main focus of the project is to perform diagnostics of each target country’s macroeconomic statistical systems, as well as the development of plans for statistical improvements, which would be designed to serve as the basis for future statistical development. Other significant results would be the posting of metadata and links on the IMF’s website, including information on participants’ data compilation and dissemination practices, as well as the development of NSDPs and ARCs.

¹ Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Tuvalu.

III. PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE THE SDDS

27. **The SDDS was designed to evolve over time to address new data needs and to keep its relevance to enable crisis prevention.** SDDS enhancements are important to ensure that the objective of promoting transparency is maintained. The SDDS was established in the aftermath of the financial crises of the 1990's (starting with the 1994 Mexican financial crisis), in response to the broad consensus that the lack of transparency in providing information played a role in triggering and prolonging crises. The emphasis on transparency was based on the expectation that the release of more comprehensive, frequent, and timely data together with more information on economic and financial policies would enable economic agents to take timely and informed steps that would help support sound economic policies, reducing the probability of crises. The recent global financial crisis has highlighted the need for high quality, comparable, and timely data that are crucial for early detection of risks and vulnerabilities. To assist in addressing the data gaps, the Executive Board in the *Interim Report* on February 28, 2011 endorsed the proposal to enhance the SDDS.

28. **This chapter sets out the proposals to enhance the SDDS, based on the discussions by the Executive Board on the *Interim Report*.** At that time, Directors stressed the need for continued close consultation with capital market participants, national authorities, and international standard-setting bodies in order to take account of country-specific circumstances and resource implications for both the Fund and member countries. Against this background, five regional seminars¹³ were held with 45 SDDS subscribers and 3 GDDS participants with a view to gathering feedback on possible modifications to the SDDS. Overall, participants were supportive of staff's proposed modifications to the SDDS set out below.

A. Clarifying the SDDS Nonobservance Procedures

29. **SDDS nonobservance procedures were introduced in 1996 and have evolved over time.** In establishing the SDDS in 1996, the Executive Board noted that it would be necessary to signal when a subscriber was no longer fulfilling its SDDS undertakings. The Board approved the procedures of SDDS nonobservance on the occasion of the Second Review of the SDDS in December 1998 and established a graduated four-step approach for cases of nonobservance.¹⁴

30. **The current SDDS nonobservance procedures do not impose a strict timeline in their implementation and allow a high degree of latitude in interpretation, which can undermine the credibility of the SDDS.** Nonobservance procedures have not followed a

¹³ These seminars were held in Indonesia (11 countries and The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESERIC)), Czech Republic (16 countries), Kuwait (6 countries), Peru (5 countries), and Switzerland (10 countries).

¹⁴ Second Review at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/dsbb/1998/120298.pdf>.

rigorous timeline. The current legal text indicates that, in case of nonobservance of SDDS requirements, a notice could be placed on the DSBB at the same time that the matter is brought to the attention of the Governor of the Fund. The legal text does not specify how the Governor for the Fund would be notified (by letter or otherwise) and whether IMF Management or Department Directors should communicate the matter. Meanwhile, markets may come to the conclusion that a data problem exists without the Fund indicating that the subscriber is in nonobservance of its SDDS undertakings. Thus, a clearly defined timeline for nonobservance procedures would help reduce the reputational risk for the SDDS and the Fund.

Toward a Time-based SDDS Nonobservance Procedure

31. **Based on the previous Board discussion and feedback from stakeholders, staff proposes a more structured timeline for SDDS nonobservance procedures (see Figure 3).** These revised rules aim to clarify the maximum time lag for each step and the action to be taken by the Fund if no remedy is enacted by the subscriber.

- **Technical discussions** between staff and the SDDS coordinator will start immediately after a deviation is detected. Experience indicates that most issues are resolved between staff and the authorities at this stage within a short time period.
- If an issue that is considered serious¹⁵ and is not resolved through technical discussions within 3 months for monthly data or 6 months for quarterly and annual data, the **SDDS Coordinator** would be notified by staff of the initiation of the nonobservance procedures; if unresolved,
- **Communication with the subscriber's Executive Director** by staff will start within 3 months after the notification of the SDDS coordinator; if unresolved,
- **A letter to the subscriber's Governor of the Fund** will be sent, by Management, within 3 months after the communication with the Executive Director, if still unresolved,
- **A note on the DSBB** will be posted within 3 months after the letter to the Governor of the Fund. The note will indicate the Fund staff's decision that the subscriber is not in observance of its undertakings under the SDDS, and the authorities' reactions and plans, if any, to address the nonobservance issue.
- **Board discussion** will take place up to 12 months after posting the note on the DSBB. A Board paper bringing the nonobservance issue to the attention of the

¹⁵ For more information on a serious deviation, see paragraph 32.

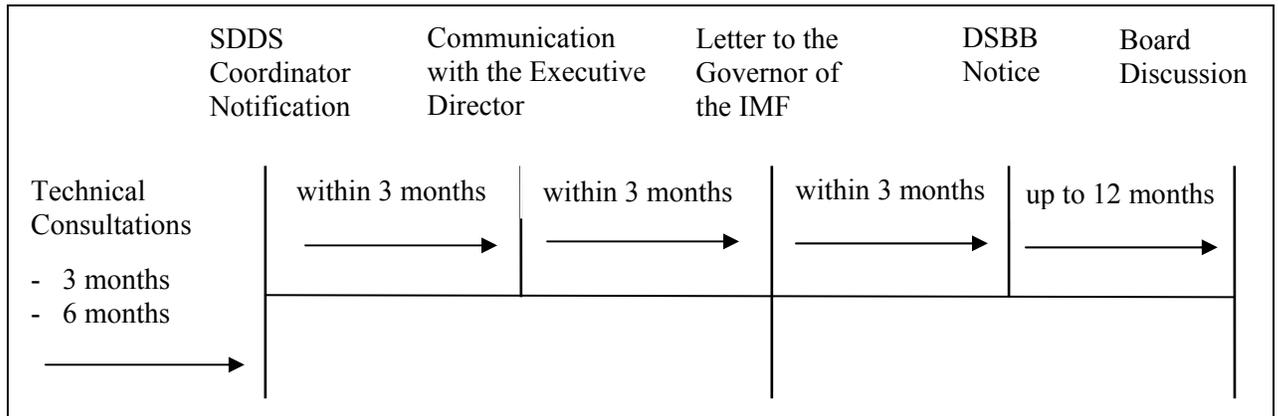
Executive Board will propose deleting the metadata of the subscriber from the DSBB, and effectively terminating the subscription of the country to the SDDS.

- **Re-subscription.** As is the case for all non-subscribing countries, a country can re-subscribe by informing the Director of STA in writing of its intention to subscribe to the SDDS. Once staff is satisfied that the country meets all the SDDS requirements, staff will inform the country that it may proceed to inform the Secretary of the IMF of its subscription to the SDDS.

32. **The trigger for this procedure is “a serious deviation” from an SDDS requirement.** A “serious deviation” involves data not publicly disseminated, incomplete data publicly disseminated, or frequent delays in the public dissemination of SDDS required data. Serious deviations could also arise when other types of issues are identified but are not resolved through technical discussions within six months. Stronger requirements are applied for the timeliness of the public dissemination of the Reserves Template¹⁶ and External Debt¹⁷ categories for which the SDDS requirements do not allow any flexibility options for periodicity and/or timeliness.

33. **The revised rules would limit the maximum time lags of the nonobservance procedures to 21 months, from the time of the SDDS coordinator notification to bringing the matter to the Executive Board.**

Figure 3. SDDS Nonobservance Procedures Timeline



¹⁶ Occasional delays in the dissemination of the data or non-dissemination of data within one month after the required dissemination date.

¹⁷ Occasional delays in the dissemination of the data or non-dissemination of data within three months after the required dissemination date.

B. Hyperlinks to time series on NSDPs

34. **It is proposed that the NSDPs should contain hyperlinks to longer time series and more detailed data via the NSDPs by end-2012.** The SDDS was developed to provide users with 21 data categories, but the NSDPs were designed to contain only the two most recent observations (time “t” and “t-1”) for each variable. This lack of time series in the design of the SDDS has been a point of frustration for many users and has limited the usefulness of the data directly available from the NSDP. On the other hand, many subscribers provide longer time series in locations other than the NSDP, but users may have difficulties locating these time series. Thus, it is proposed that NSDPs should contain hyperlinks to the full set of data (providing quick access to more detailed and longer time series). The proposal for this new requirement is to provide time series for all data categories after a transition period with the related hyperlinks implemented by end-2012.

35. **Most of the time series data links already have been identified by staff and have been forwarded to the authorities for their use.** Since the February 2011 Board meeting on the *Interim Report*, staff has conducted a review of time series currently hyperlinked through the NSDPs of SDDS subscribers. For categories without a time series hyperlink from the NSDP, staff searched countries’ statistical websites for relevant time series databases. When appropriate hyperlinks were discovered, staff forwarded these hyperlinks and recommended to SDDS subscribers that these links appear on their respective NSDPs. As a result, time series data hyperlinks for more than 75 percent of SDDS data categories already appear on subscribers’ NSDPs.

C. Streamlining the SDDS

36. **There are two aspects of the SDDS that are not widely applied or used:** the Forward Looking Indicators (FLIs) data category and the ARC flexibility options. Modifications to strengthen the SDDS would both add and subtract encouraged data categories and simplify the structure to enhance the usefulness and operational efficiency of the standard.

Structuring Forward Looking Indicators

37. **The SDDS fosters the dissemination of FLIs on an “encouraged” basis because they can provide useful insights into the developments of an economy.**¹⁸ It is proposed, however, that this data category be more structured and focused. Currently only 13

¹⁸ This was provided in the Fifth Review of the Data Standards Initiatives, available at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/dsbb/2003/eng/061803.pdf>.

subscribers¹⁹ provide data on FLIs through their NSDPs. In some instances, the dissemination of FLIs does not follow practices consistent with those for prescribed data categories, making comparison difficult. Staff, therefore, propose to add more structure and focus to this encouraged data category with particular emphasis on specific FLIs. Staff would, therefore, propose that SDDS subscribers provide on an encouraged basis FLIs covering: industrial production or investment (such as the Purchasing Managers' Index—PMI—as a measure of business confidence), retail sales (as a measure of consumer confidence), and inflationary expectations.

Deleting ARC Flexibility options

38. **The SDDS allows “flexibility for the distribution of the release dates” (ARC flexibility option) for up to two data categories.** If a subscriber indicates a range of dates or a “no-later-than (NLT)” date on its ARC, but is not in a position to provide a precise release date to the IMF staff on the last working day of the week prior to the actual release of the data, it must avail itself of an ARC flexibility option. Subscribers that use NLT or a range of dates in their ARC may invoke up to two ARC flexibility options in advance.

39. **The ARC flexibility option is distinct from all other SDDS flexibility options regarding periodicity and/or timeliness of a data category incorporated in the SDDS.** The ARC flexibility option does not exempt the subscribing country from any other ARC requirements. It exempts the subscriber only from the obligation to provide the precise release date no later than the last working day of the week prior to the actual release of the data. However, at least 24 hours advance notice is strongly encouraged for releases of the data, even when this ARC flexibility option is taken.

40. **Staff proposes to delete the ARC flexibility options from the SDDS, after a transition period, by end-2017.** ARC flexibility options deprive users of an exact release date and as a result, dilute and undermine the usefulness of an ARC. Only 14 SDDS subscribers have ever invoked these ARC flexibility options, some of which no longer do so. Only ten subscribers currently use ARC flexibility options covering 13 different variables.

41. **It is important to emphasize, nevertheless, that the proposal would not change any other flexibility option in the SDDS.** This proposal is not related to current flexibility options on periodicity and timeliness. The SDDS will continue to allow up to two of these periodicity/timeliness flexibility options for each subscriber as it currently exists under the SDDS. The proposal also does not affect the targeted flexibility option on general government operations (GGO) for subscribers that disseminate data following the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001)* methodology.

¹⁹ Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hong Kong SAR, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

D. Reference to International Statistical Methodologies in the SDDS Legal Text

42. **Since its inception, the SDDS legal text has contained coverage descriptions or explicit references related to certain key international statistical methodologies including especially on the balance of payments.** However, since the Seventh Review in December 2008, subscribers have been requested to include explicit references to internationally accepted statistical methodologies in their metadata. Simultaneously, the international statistical community has continued to develop and refine these methodologies. As a good practice, staff would plan to update the legal text to further encourage subscribers to adopt the latest methodologies in their compilation and dissemination practices.

43. **It is important to note that the adoption of updated methodologies results in two types of changes in disseminated data.** First, updated methodologies contain updated definitions for many key data items. (For example, gross assets and gross liabilities in the IIP are defined differently in the *BPM6* than in the fifth edition of the *Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5)*, due to changes in the treatment of direct investment.) Second, account titles often change when methodologies are updated. (For example, the terms “income” and “current transfers” in the *BPM5* are renamed as “primary income” and “secondary income”, respectively, in the *BPM6*.) The changes in definitions and nomenclature will result in changes to data that are disseminated under the GDDS and SDDS—including data on the IIP and external debt data categories—by Fund members that adopt the updated methodologies. Data on reserves (as included in the Reserves Template) for economies in currency unions also may be affected by the adoption of the updated methodologies. Comprehensive information on changes in data dissemination arising from the adoption of updated methodologies will be presented at the same time as other changes to the legal text to the Board for approval during the second half of 2012.

E. Termination of SDDS Quarterly Update

44. **Staff proposes to terminate the posting of the SDDS quarterly update on the DSBB.**²⁰ The update is a report noting the observance status of SDDS requirements for all SDDS subscribers, and also providing summary information on the monitoring of the punctuality of data releases. This report was started in 2001 to chronicle the progress of the SDDS. Until 2007, when the annual observance reports for 2006 were first published, the quarterly updates were the only source of information regarding the observance of the standard. At present the annual observance reports provide more detailed and comprehensive information regarding the observance of the SDDS by each subscriber. Hence, staff proposes to terminate the preparation and posting on the DSBB of the SDDS quarterly update.

²⁰ http://www.imf.org/cgi-shl/create_x.pl?sdds.

F. Encouraged Data Categories

45. **Enhancements to the SDDS if the proposed SDDS Plus data categories are approved by the Board.** The SDDS was designed to evolve over time to address new data needs and to keep its relevance as a tool for crisis prevention. In order to address some of the data gaps identified in the context of the G-20/IMFC Data Gaps Initiative, which includes the need for additional and timely data on sectoral balance sheets and the fiscal sector on a broader scale, staff proposes that two of the SDDS Plus data categories be included in the SDDS. Therefore, the data categories sectoral balance sheets and general government gross debt at nominal value, as discussed in paragraphs 54 and 56 respectively, are proposed to become “encouraged” data categories under the SDDS.

IV. FOLLOWING UP ON ENHANCEMENTS TO THE GDDS

46. **No further enhancements are proposed for the GDDS at this time.** Following the major enhancements to the GDDS at the time of the Seventh Review, staff is not proposing any enhancements to the GDDS. Staff would aim to serve the broad membership by focusing on (i) further increasing GDDS participation, especially in the Asia/Pacific and Middle East/Central Asia regions; (ii) encouraging GDDS participants to update their plans for improvement at least annually; (iii) encouraging GDDS participants to update their metadata on a best effort basis; and (iv) assisting in the implementation of NSDPs and ARCs, on an encouraged basis.

47. **Annually updated GDDS plans for improvement could be leveraged better.** The purpose of these plans is to focus and prioritize technical assistance in statistics (from the Fund and donors). In addition, well crafted and up-to-date statistical plans for improvement could contribute to strengthening the surveillance of GDDS member countries. This could be accomplished if the issues and plans were incorporated in the Article IV staff reports, especially in the statistical issues appendix or in the main text in cases where data provision to the Fund for surveillance purposes has serious shortcomings that hamper surveillance. Staff will raise this issue at the time of the *Eighth Review of Data Provision to the Fund for Surveillance Purposes* scheduled for September 2012.

V. THE SDDS PLUS: A PROPOSAL

48. **At the time of the discussion of the *Interim Report* in February 2011, the Board requested staff to come back within a year with a concrete proposal for the SDDS Plus, a higher tier of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives.** In line with the *Interim Report*, this section presents, for consideration by the Board, data categories that could be included in such a standard as well as proposals for governance elements and modalities of an SDDS Plus. The staff proposals reflect feedback received from SDDS subscribers, multilateral

organizations, and capital market participants in the context of the consultations requested by the Board at the time of the *Interim Report*.

49. The SDDS Plus would be a new tier of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives.

The SDDS Plus goes beyond the focus of the SDDS on access to international capital markets by putting an emphasis on countries that have systemically important financial sectors. In other words, the SDDS Plus would aim to include economies that are integral to the operation of international financial markets.²¹ The primary focus will be on the target group²² of countries that play a leading role in international capital markets and have institutions that are interconnected through channels such as cross-border operations, interbank operations, security lending, repurchase agreements, and derivatives contracts. As identified in the Board paper on *Understanding Financial Interconnectedness*,²³ countries have become more inter-linked with each other through asset and liability management strategies of their governments, and financial institutions and corporations, which have become increasingly global in nature. Thus, analysts need information on financial network linkages to better understand and foresee how shocks to institutions and markets can propagate through the international financial system. These developments underline the potential usefulness of an SDDS Plus. The SDDS Plus would aim to serve the broad membership by focusing on stronger data dissemination by a narrower range of target economies that would improve the data transparency, which in turn could help strengthen the international financial system.

50. Ongoing work by the IMF, in collaboration with the institutions that are part of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (IAG)²⁴ and with support from the FSB Secretariat, to address data gaps in the context of the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative, which was endorsed by the IMFC, has pointed the way forward for the development of the SDDS Plus. Considerable progress has been made since the beginning of the global financial crisis to identify data gaps and to develop work plans and timetables to address these gaps, as reflected in three reports presented to the G-20 Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors for their meetings in October 2009, May 2010, and June 2011.²⁵ Data gaps have been identified in three main areas:

²¹ The IMF Executive Board has identified 25 countries with systemically important financial sectors (see <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2010/pr10357.htm>). Of the 25 countries, 24 are currently SDDS subscribers.

²² All SDDS subscribers can adhere to the SDDS Plus and will be encouraged to do so. However, staff's primary focus will be on countries that have systemically important financial sectors.

²³ *Understanding Financial Interconnectedness* (SM/10/265).

²⁴ The members of the IAG are the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB), Eurostat, the IMF (Chair), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the World Bank.

²⁵ These reports can be found at: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/102909.pdf>, <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/053110.pdf>, and <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/063011.pdf>, respectively.

- Build-up of risk in the financial sector (both bank and nonbank);
- Cross-border financial linkages: investment positions and exposures; and
- Monitoring of vulnerabilities of domestic economies to shocks.

A. Developments in the SDDS Plus proposals since the *Interim Report for the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives*

51. **At the request of the Board at the time of the *Interim Report* staff conducted a number of outreach seminars (see paragraph 25).** Staff conducted five outreach seminars to discuss the proposed SDDS Plus with SDDS subscribers (and certain GDDS participants) to elicit their views. Staff also met with a number of international organizations and capital market participants to obtain their feedback. During the outreach seminars, all participants were in agreement that the data gaps as identified in the context of the G-20/IMFC Data Gaps Initiative should be addressed and overwhelmingly expressed their support for the creation of an additional tier, the SDDS Plus, as part of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives.

52. **The data categories described below were discussed in terms of coverage, periodicity, and timeliness with SDDS subscribers and members of the G-20 that participate in the GDDS.** Most of the outreach seminar participants supported the inclusion of these data categories in the proposed SDDS Plus. For summary results of the consultative process (i.e., the feedback received during these outreach seminars and subsequent teleconferences) see Annex I.

B. Proposed Data Categories—Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

53. **The SDDS Plus includes all SDDS prescribed data categories and nine additional proposed data categories (see Annex II).** This section discusses the data category proposals for the SDDS Plus. The SDDS Plus would initially allow transition plans for up to four of the data categories through the end of 2017, if an interested country does not fully meet all the requirements, but commits to comply with them by the end of 2017.* However, in order to reflect the status of the SDDS Plus as well as the high level of interconnectedness of international financial markets, and to keep prospective monitoring of the SDDS Plus to a reasonable level, no flexibility options are being proposed, and all data categories would be limited to required coverage, timeliness, and periodicity. These data reporting requirements would be expected to evolve over time. SDDS Plus adherents would be expected to keep

* Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal by deciding to extend the transition period until end-2019 to address several Directors' concerns about countries' ability to fully adhere to all the requirements by 2017. See [Public Information Notice—Eight Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives](#).

pace with these developments, including best statistical practices in each of these data categories. These proposed data categories refer to the four macroeconomic sectors: the real sector, the fiscal sector, the financial sector, and the external sector.

Real Sector

Sectoral Balance Sheets

54. **Sectoral balance sheet data for financial assets and liabilities would constitute a critical data category for the SDDS Plus, in part because these data enhance information about the non-depository financial corporations sub-sector and the debt liabilities of the general government, as well as financial linkages across sectors.** Many economies already produce and disseminate sectoral balance sheets covering financial assets and liabilities, and nonfinancial assets. However, coverage varies across economies with regard to sector details and breakdowns of nonfinancial assets and financial instruments. As countries transition to the *2008 SNA*, an opportunity exists to improve and standardize the dissemination of sectoral balance sheet data. A majority of the targeted countries have work programs in place to transition to the *2008 SNA* by the end of 2014, consistent with the table in Annex III. It is expected that at the beginning* countries will provide the data according to instrument on a best effort basis.

Coverage: The SDDS Plus would require a minimum set of internationally comparable sectoral balance sheets, for financial assets and liabilities with a focus on the sub-sector details of the financial corporations, and standard 2008 SNA instrument classification.

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require data dissemination within 1 quarter after the end of the reference period.

Fiscal Sector

General Government Operations (GGO)

55. **The GFSM 2001 methodology is well in use, with the data usually being derived by mapping national formats.** Already, 96 per cent of the SDDS subscribers report GGO data in the *GFSM 2001* presentational format which are published in the *GFS Yearbook*. The SDDS Plus proposes that countries disseminate GGO data in the *GFSM 2001* presentational format (see table 4.1 *Statement of Government Operations* on page 38 of the *GFSM 2001*

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal removing the words “at the beginning” to address some Directors’ concerns.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>). The SDDS Plus could also strengthen the periodicity and timeliness of GGO data, in line with the quarterly national accounts, which compile quarterly accounts for the general government sector. Moreover, consistent with other possible stock and flow data sets, the fiscal data would require financial balance sheets for the general government (as part of the sectoral balance sheets described above).

As with quarterly national accounts and balance of payments, some components of quarterly general government operations data could use different methods from those used in the corresponding annual data. Annual government financial statistics are usually more detailed and based on more reliable sources, often based on final audited accounts. In contrast, for quarterly data, particularly at the sub-national levels, there would usually be less detail, and greater use of statistical techniques such as use of partial data, sampling, and estimation. Such data may be subject to greater revisions than annual data. The Fund staff plans to release a draft guide to quarterly compilation techniques later this year to assist countries wishing to develop or improve quarterly government finance statistics.

Coverage: The SDDS Plus would require GGO data presented in the GFSM 2001 format. The recording basis could be a cash, modified accrual or accrual basis (full adoption of the GFSM 2001 methodology will not be required).

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require data dissemination within 4 months after the end of the reference period.*

General Government Gross Debt

56. **The international financial crisis in recent years, and the associated large fiscal deficits and debt levels in many countries, underscored the importance of reliable and timely statistics on general government (and, more broadly, public sector) debt as a critical element in countries' fiscal and possibly external sustainability.** It is therefore proposed that the SDDS Plus includes, as a separate category, data on general government total gross debt, at nominal value,²⁶ classified by debt instrument, currency of denomination, and residence of the creditor. In addition, the following memorandum items are proposed:**

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal extending the deadline to 12 months to address some Directors' concerns about the quality of the data within 4 months after the reference period.

²⁶ Sometimes, face value is used as a proxy for nominal value.

** The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal by indicating that the memorandum items should be provided on a best effort basis to address some Directors' concerns about the availability of the data.

Total debt securities at market value (which is also in the sectoral balance sheets), and a classification by remaining maturity of general government debt securities and loans. These items are a subset of the public sector debt statistics template adopted by the Task Force on Finance Statistics (TFFS)²⁷ and the World Bank-IMF-OECD public sector debt statistics database.²⁸ These data include some common elements with the sectoral balance sheets and external debt.

Coverage: The SDDS Plus would require data on general government total gross debt at nominal value, classified by debt instrument, currency of denomination, and residence of the creditor; and for memorandum items, general government debt securities and loans classified by remaining maturity, and total debt securities at market value (see Annex IV).

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require data dissemination within 4 months after the end of the reference period.

Financial sector

Other Financial Corporations (OFCs) survey

57. Data on the Other Financial Corporations (OFCs) are very important, given the role of these institutions in analyzing capital flows and assessing financial stability.

These data would be included as a separate data category. In addition, the coverage of the OFCs data would follow the *Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual 2000 (MFSM 2000)* and its successors, as discussed below. Incorporating OFCs into the SDDS Plus would allow users to have an integrated set of monetary and financial data covering the entire financial sector.

Coverage: The OFCs survey would cover a minimum set of assets and liabilities compatible with the MFSM (see Annex V).

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require data within 1 quarter after the end of the reference period.

²⁷ The TFFS includes representatives from the BIS, Commonwealth Secretariat, ECB, Eurostat, IMF (chair), OECD, Paris Club, UNCTAD, and World Bank.

²⁸ <http://databank.worldbank.org/ddp/home.do?Step=12&id=4&CNO=3009>.

Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs)

58. **FSIs constitute a strong data category for inclusion in the SDDS Plus.** The main cluster of FSIs that would be included in the SDDS Plus proposal is six of the seven FSIs currently encouraged in the SDDS (the exception being the “net open position in foreign exchange to capital”) and, in addition, one indicator related to real estate (see Annex VI). Many economies (with global systemically important financial sectors) voluntarily disseminate six or seven of these FSIs, with at least quarterly periodicity and one quarter timeliness, excluding the net open position in foreign exchange to capital. However, the global financial crisis also saw pressures stemming from real estate. Staff discussed during the outreach seminars four FSIs on real estate covered by the FSI concepts and definitions document (I37-I40 <http://fsi.imf.org/misc/FSI%20Concepts%20and%20Definitions.pdf>): residential real estate prices, commercial real estate prices, residential real estate loans to total loans, and commercial real estate loans to total loans.

Considering that many countries already disseminate data on residential real estate prices, it is proposed to expand the FSIs with a residential real estate price indicator. Although data on residential real estate prices may not be fully comparable across SDDS Plus adherents, countries will need to explain their methodology in the publicly available metadata.

Coverage: All of the FSIs encouraged under the SDDS would be required, except the “net open position in foreign exchange to capital.” In addition, the FSI on residential real estate prices would be required.

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require data within 1 quarter after the end of the reference period.

Debt Securities

59. **The Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, and the IMF have issued a *Handbook on Securities Statistics* to guide the compilation and dissemination of securities data, including the issuance and holding of debt (and equity) securities:**

Part 1: Debt securities issues <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/wgsd/pdf/051309.pdf>; and

Part 2: Debt securities holdings <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/wgsd/pdf/090710.pdf>.

In a broader context, data by issuer and holder on a from-whom-to-whom basis permit the analysis of relationships between institutional sectors and sub-sectors within an economy and also between these sectors and sub-sectors and non-residents. Such an analysis sheds light on

sectoral compositions of assets and liabilities, and on potential strengths and vulnerabilities in portfolios. As this is a new data category, it is proposed that the SDDS Plus require countries to provide data on the stocks only. Many of the targeted countries indicated that they already compile most of the required data.

*Coverage: The Handbook on Securities Statistics coverage by issuer and holder on a from-whom-to-whom basis, as outlined in Part 2 (Section 5, especially the time series presentation in Table 5.2 (see Annex VII)).**

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require data within one quarter after the end of the reference period.

External sector

Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS)

60. **Given the importance of monitoring cross-border interconnectedness, it is proposed that the SDDS Plus incorporates some recently established data areas. The IMF will start conducting the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) on a semi-annual periodicity beginning in June 2013 (annual data are presently collected).** The purpose is to collect information on the stock of cross-border holdings of securities—equity securities and long- and short-term debt securities valued at market prices prevailing at the end of June and December, and broken down by the economy of residence of the issuer of the securities (see Notes and Definitions <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/pi/notes.htm>). In addition to this core (i.e., required) set of data, the CPIS also encourages the reporting of supplementary information. The result is a global database of reported cross-border holdings of securities and derived portfolio investment liabilities with the capacity for showing bilateral and partner economy data from the creditor or debtor perspective (<http://cpis.imf.org/>).

Coverage: The SDDS Plus would require participation in the CPIS by providing at least the core (required) set of data (see the CPIS Data Template under CPIS Documents at <http://cpis.imf.org/>).

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require semi-annual data, as of end of June and December each year, beginning in 2015.

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal to add the sentences “Debt securities should be presented at market value, but can be presented at nominal value or both. Countries are required to indicate the valuation method in the metadata.” to address several Directors’ concerns about the availability of market values for all debt securities.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require the data to be reported to the IMF within 7 months after the end of the reference period (with a view to IMF dissemination well within 12 months from the reference period). Countries should disseminate these data on their NSDPs once it is disseminated by the IMF or provide a hyperlink on their NSDPs to the data.

Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS)

61. The IMF conducts a Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS) annually. The purpose of the CDIS is to improve the quality of overall direct investment position statistics in the IIP and by immediate counterpart economy. Data are broken down between equity and debt, and for debt further broken down between claims and liabilities. Additional breakdowns of information, showing positions between fellow enterprises separately from those with direct investors/direct investment enterprises and positions of resident financial intermediaries separately from other direct investment positions are encouraged. Countries also provide metadata. The cross-country data are stored in groups of tables showing inward direct investment (i.e., direct investment into the reporting economy), outward direct investment (i.e., direct investment abroad by the reporting economy), and metadata. Inter- and intra-regional inward and outward direct investment were also included for the first time with the June 2011 release (<http://cdis.imf.org/>).

Coverage: The SDDS Plus would require participation in the CDIS by providing for inward direct investment, the value of outstanding end-year positions by immediate (first) direct investor, by counterpart economy, for both equity and debt.

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require annual data, as of end-December each year.

*Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require preliminary data to be reported to the IMF within nine months after the end of the reference year and revised data within 15 months after the end of the reference year (with a view to have the IMF disseminate the preliminary data within 12 months of the reference year and 18 months for revised data). Countries should disseminate these data on their NSDPs once it is disseminated by the IMF or provide a hyperlink on their NSDPs to the data.**

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal removing the requirement to report revised data within 15 months to address some Directors' concerns.

Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)

62. **Participation in the Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER) database is proposed to be included in the SDDS Plus, that is, a country supplies the required data to the IMF quarterly.** This proposal does not require public dissemination of data. Although countries would not be required to make public their information on reserves by individual currency, the proposal would mean that a country would, through its adherence to the SDDS Plus, make public its participation in the COFER database.

Periodicity: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data.

Timeliness: The SDDS Plus would require quarterly data to be reported to the IMF within one quarter after the end of the reference period.

C. Transition periods

63. **Transition periods (expiring by end-2017)* would allow countries to adhere to the SDDS Plus through 2017* even though they do not meet all the requirements at the present time.** Countries could adhere to the SDDS Plus if they meet all the SDDS Plus requirements. However, until end-2017* they also would be allowed to adhere if they meet these requirements for fewer than all nine data categories and apply transition periods, for up to four data categories. No transition period would extend beyond 2017.* Use of a transition period must include a description of plans to meet the SDDS Plus requirements by no later than end-2017* in the adherent's metadata for the respective data category or categories. Thus, by end-2017,* all SDDS Plus adherents should meet the requirements for all data categories.

D. Proposed Governance Elements and Modalities of an SDDS Plus

64. **Adherents.** To adhere to the SDDS Plus, a country would need to be a subscriber in observance of the SDDS. Similar to the SDDS, adhering to the SDDS Plus would be voluntary, but once a country adheres, it undertakes to meet the most rigorous data dissemination and data quality standards within the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives. While open to all SDDS subscribers, SDDS Plus will primarily target subscribers with systemically important financial sectors. As in the case of the SDDS, a country that desires to adhere to the SDDS Plus would need to inform the Director of STA in writing of its intention. Once

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal by deciding to extend the transition period until end-2019 to address several Directors' concerns about countries' ability to fully adhere to all the requirements by 2017. See [Public Information Notice—Eight Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives](#).

staff is assured that the country meets all the relevant requirements, staff will inform the country authorities that it may proceed to inform the Secretary of the IMF of its adherence to the SDDS Plus and a public notice to this effect would be posted on the IMF's DSBB. If the Board approves the SDDS Plus, the SDDS Plus legal text would be prepared and submitted to the Board for approval in the second half of 2012. Following staff visits and consultations with countries and the development of the required IT programs, countries may indicate their intention to adhere to the SDDS Plus immediately following the approval of the legal text by the Executive Board. The official launch of the SDDS Plus will take place thereafter.

65. **Modalities.** Modalities for monitoring the observance of SDDS Plus requirements, as well as nonobservance procedures would be similar to the SDDS. The SDDS Plus would use the NSDP and ARC mechanisms from the SDDS. However, the SDDS Plus would require that hyperlinks on NSDPs provide users with access to time series with a minimum length (five years of data for well established data categories; newly developed data categories would require hyperlinks to data since the creation of the time series). The SDDS Plus data categories would also have periodicity and timeliness requirements, as described in the previous section.

66. **The SDDS Plus would contain only required data categories.** The SDDS Plus would include all the existing requirements of the SDDS. All the data categories proposed for the SDDS Plus would be required and none would be categorized as “encouraged.” Modifications to the data categories in the SDDS Plus would follow the same process as the SDDS, through IMF Executive Board decision that takes place simultaneously with the normal periodic reviews of the Fund's other Data Standards Initiatives. The associated metadata would be required for each data category under the SDDS Plus. Metadata report formats and certification would follow the same modalities as the SDDS.

E. Proposals not included

67. **Staff decided to drop, for the time being, certain proposals that were included in the *Interim Report for the Eighth Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives*.** Taking into account the views expressed by and feedback obtained during discussions with subscribers and other Fund members, international agencies, and other stakeholders, including through the outreach seminars, staff decided to drop the following proposals mainly because of the significant challenges to compile or monitor the dissemination of these data in the foreseeable future:

- **Adopting the five internationally accepted statistical methodologies (2008 SNA, CPIM 2004, GFSM 2001, MFSM 2000, and BPM 6).** During the outreach seminars a number of SDDS subscribers and especially the SDDS subscribers in the initial target group expressed their reservations to the full adoption of the five internationally accepted statistical methodologies. Subscribers indicated that, since a number of these methodologies were

recently revised or in the process of being updated, it would be difficult to commit to the full implementation at this stage. Staff, therefore, decided to drop this requirement from the SDDS Plus. Staff will carefully monitor countries adoption of these methodologies. In their metadata SDDS subscribers provide explicit references to the internationally accepted statistical methodologies that the subscriber follows, as well as relevant deviations from these methodologies.

- **Sectoral balance sheets—nonfinancial assets.** In the feedback received from SDDS subscribers during the outreach seminars, participants informed staff that it would be very difficult and in some cases very costly to collect data on all nonfinancial assets on a sectoral basis. Staff, therefore, decided to drop nonfinancial assets from the minimal sectoral balance sheet required for SDDS Plus adherence. Staff may come back to the Board at a later stage; once more countries have implemented the full sectoral balance sheet.
- **International banking statistics as reported to the BIS.** During staff's discussions with the BIS, the latter was not supportive of staff's proposal to include data collected by the BIS in the SDDS Plus given the challenge of monitoring SDDS Plus adherence across international agencies and the voluntary nature of the BIS exercise. STA staff continues to work closely and cooperatively with BIS staff to close important data gaps, including with regard to international banking statistics.
- **Data on systemically important global financial institutions.** During consultations with other international organizations, especially the FSB, it was made clear to staff that there are still a number of issues to be addressed in terms of the detail of the information to be collected, how these information will be reported, and who will have access to the information and in what detail. Staff was informed that the FSB will finalize the decisions on the final form of the common template, the data-sharing arrangements among supervisory authorities and with the central data hub; and on broader data sharing among the official sector during 2012. The collection of data could start with phase 1 in late 2012 and, through a series of incremental steps, be fully operational by end-2014. Due to this feedback, staff decided not to proceed at this time with the inclusion of data on systemically important global financial institutions in the SDDS Plus. However, the FSB, in close consultation with the IMF, is considering the possibility of convening a small group to prepare recommendations addressing which standardized information from the template should be disclosed (or published) within one year of the launch of the common template. Given this, and the importance of data on the systemically important global financial institutions, staff would come back to

- the Board with a specific proposal to be included in the SDDS Plus at the latest at the time of the next review.

VI. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

68. **Staff remains cognizant of resource costs incurred by countries and the Fund.**²⁹ The enhancements to the SDDS will require additional resources, at least in the initial phase. The proposal to add hyperlinks to available time series on NSDPs for all data categories would need to be implemented by subscribers and checked by Fund staff, at least in the initial stage. However, as mentioned earlier, many countries have already added hyperlinks to available time series on their NSDPs. Also, the implementation of a required timeline for nonobservance procedures would require staff time and IT budget to develop the appropriate automated mechanisms. The proposal to remove the ARC flexibility option in the SDDS would involve minimal resource costs.

69. **As part of the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative, as well as the implementation of 2008 SNA and BPM6, many countries have already incurred or are in the process of incurring much of the fixed costs that would be associated with adhering to the SDDS Plus.** Countries that could potentially be interested in adhering to the SDDS Plus, including most of the G-20/IMFC economies and other countries with strong linkages to systemically important global financial institutions, acknowledge the need for greater information on financial interconnectedness and that the cost of not having the information when needed outweighs the reporting costs. However, if the reporting requirements are structured consistent with existing initiatives, to the extent possible, the cost associated with the SDDS Plus adherence should be limited. There would be no costs to members that would choose not to adhere to the SDDS Plus. Support to assist some subscribers with the implementation process would add demand for STA technical assistance. Adherence, implementation, and monitoring of a new SDDS Plus standard, in which all data categories would be prescribed, is likely to require additional financial and staff resources, especially in the initial phases.

70. **It is proposed that the Ninth Review of the Data Standards Initiatives be held within five years.***

²⁹ STA budget projections for FY2013 indicated requirements for the SDDS Plus equivalent to 1 full time equivalent staff position and 0.5 full time equivalent contractual position.

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal to address several Directors' views by proposing that the next review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives take place in two rather than five years. See *Public Information Notice—Eight Review of the Fund's Data Standards Initiatives*.

VII. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Enhancements to the SDDS

- Do Directors agree with the implementation of a time-based SDDS nonobservance procedure (paragraph 31)?
- Do Directors agree that NSDPs should contain hyperlinks to time series for all data categories by end-2012 (paragraph 34)?
- Do Directors agree that the encouraged data category *forward looking indicators* be structured and focused to provide useful insights into the developments of an economy (paragraph 37)?
- Do Directors agree that the flexibility option for the distribution of advance release dates be deleted from the SDDS by end-2017 (paragraph 40)?
- Do Directors agree with the proposal to terminate the posting of the SDDS quarterly update on the DSBB (paragraph 44)?
- Do Directors agree with the proposal to add sectoral balance sheets and general government gross debt at nominal value to the SDDS data categories on an encouraged basis (paragraph 45)?

Proposals for an SDDS Plus

- Do Directors agree that the SDDS Plus include the nine proposed data categories as well as the related coverage, periodicity, and timeliness (paragraphs 53–62)?
- Do Directors agree with allowing countries to apply transition periods for up to four out of the nine proposed data categories until end-2017 (paragraph 63)?*
- Do Directors agree with the proposed governance elements and modalities of the SDDS Plus (paragraphs 64–66)?
- Do Directors agree with the timing of the next review of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives (paragraph 70)?

Legal documents

- Depending on the outcome of Executive Directors’ discussion of the above issues, amendments to the SDDS Annex (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sd/index.asp?decision=EBM/96/36>) and the new legal text for the SDDS Plus will be prepared and circulated to the Board for approval.

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal by deciding to extend the transition period until end-2019 to address several Directors’ concerns about countries’ ability to fully adhere to all the requirements by 2017. See [Public Information Notice—Eight Review of the Fund’s Data Standards Initiatives](#).

Annex I: Outreach Seminars and Responses on the SDDS Plus Proposals

Feedback from Target Countries³⁰

	Sectoral Balance Sheets	General Government Operations	General Government Debt	Other Financial Corporations	Debt Securities	Financial Soundness Indicators	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey	Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves
Number of Respondents who Approve	13	10	9	10	11	11	15	15	13
Total Number of Respondents	16	16	17	16	16	16	16	16	16
Percent Approval of Total Respondents	81	63	53	63	69	69	94	94	81

Feedback from Outreach Seminar Participants³¹

	Sectoral Balance Sheets	General Government Operations	General Government Debt	Other Financial Corporations	Debt Securities	Financial Soundness Indicators	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey	Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves
Number of Respondents who Approve	29	24	9	27	33	37	38	40	28
Total Number of Respondents	45	43	17	46	46	47	47	47	47
Percent Approval of Total Respondents	64	56	53	59	72	79	81	85	60

³⁰ The total number of target countries is 24.

³¹ 48 countries participated in the outreach seminars.

Annex II. SDDS Plus Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

SDDS Plus Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness			
Coverage (Prescribed)		Periodicity	Timeliness
Category	Components		
Real Sector			
GDP: nominal, real, and associated prices or price indices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP in current prices and GDP volume by production approach, with disaggregated components; or • GDP in current prices and GDP volume by expenditure category, with disaggregated components 	Q	Q
Production index/indices	Industrial, primary commodity, or sector, coverage as relevant	M (as relevant)	6W (as relevant) (M encouraged)
Sectoral Balance Sheets	Sectoral stocks of financial assets and liabilities	Q	Q
Labor market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, as relevant; • Unemployment, as relevant; and Wages/earnings, as relevant 	Q (as relevant)	Q (as relevant)
Price indices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer prices; and Producer or wholesale prices 	M	M
Fiscal Sector			
General government operations (or public sector operations, as relevant)	Table 4.1 Statement of Government Operations in the Government Statistics Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001)	Q	4M*
General government gross debt	Annex IV	Q	4M
Central government operations	For subscribers using the <i>GFSM 1986</i> framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revenue; • expenditure; • balance (deficit/surplus); • aggregate financing, disaggregated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ domestic financing (bank, nonbank), ○ foreign financing; If disaggregation by domestic (bank, nonbank) and foreign financing is not feasible, disaggregated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ maturity, and either ○ instrument, or 	M	M

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal extending the deadline to 12 months to address some Directors' concerns about the quality of the data within 4 months after the reference period.

SDDS Plus Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

Coverage (Prescribed)		Periodicity	Timeliness
Category	Components		
	currency of issue		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For subscribers using the <i>Manual on Government Finance Statistics 2001 (GFSM 2001)</i> framework, see Tables 4.1a, 4.1b, and 4.1c of <i>The Special Data Dissemination Standard: Guide for Subscribers and Users (SDDS Guide)</i>. 		
Central government debt	Total, with disaggregated components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by maturity; and • by residency (domestic, foreign); or • by instrument; or • by currency of issue Non-central-government debt guaranteed by central government, as relevant For subscribers using the <i>GFSM 2001</i> framework, see Tables 4.1a and 4.1d of the <i>SDDS Guide</i> .	Q	Q
Financial sector			
Depository corporations survey (formerly called Analytical accounts of banking sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad money (for example, M3); • Domestic claims, disaggregated into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1a) net claims on general government (covering central, state, and local governments); or (1b) claims on nonfinancial public sector (if public sector operations represent the comprehensive framework for the fiscal sector); and (2) claims on other resident sectors; and • Net foreign assets Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total foreign assets • Total foreign liabilities 	M	M
Central bank survey (formerly called analytical accounts of the central bank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary base; • Domestic claims, disaggregated into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1a) net claims on general government (covering central, state, and local governments), or (1b) claims on nonfinancial public sector (if public sector operations represent the comprehensive framework for the fiscal sector); and (2) claims on all other resident sectors; and • Net foreign assets Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total foreign assets 	M (W encouraged)	2W (W encouraged)

SDDS Plus Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

Coverage (Prescribed)		Periodicity	Timeliness
Category	Components		
	Total foreign liabilities		
Other financial corporations survey	Net foreign assets Claims on nonresidents less: Liabilities to nonresidents Domestic claims Net claims on central/general government Claims on central/general government less: Liabilities to central/general government Claims on depository corporations Claims on other sectors Liabilities to depository corporations Other domestic liabilities (except those included in Other Items Net) Shares and other equity Other Items (Net)	Q	Q
Interest rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term and long-term government security rates; and • Policy-oriented rate (for example, central bank lending rate) 	D	<u>3/</u>
Financial soundness indicators (FSIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets • Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets • Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital • Nonperforming loans to total gross loans • Return on assets • Liquid assets to short-term liabilities • Residential real estate prices 	Q	Q
Debt Securities	Table 5.2—See Handbook on Securities	Q	Q
Stock market	Share price index, as relevant	D	
Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)	Participation in COFER—IMF certification	Q	Q
External sector			
Balance of payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account, disaggregated by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Goods: exports; (2) Goods: imports; (3) Services: credit; (4) Services: debit; (5) Income: credit; (6) Income: debit; 	Q	Q

SDDS Plus Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

Coverage (Prescribed)		Periodicity	Timeliness
Category	Components		
	(7) Current transfers: credit; and (8) Current transfers: debit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital account, disaggregated by: (1) capital account: credit; and (2) capital account: debit. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial account, disaggregated by: (1) direct investment abroad; (2) direct investment in reporting economy; (3) portfolio investment, assets; (4) portfolio investment, liabilities; (5) other investment, assets; (8) other investment, liabilities; and (9) reserve assets. Net errors and omissions. 		
Official reserve assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total amount of official reserve assets, disaggregated into: (1) foreign currency reserves; (2) IMF reserve position; (3) SDRs; (4) gold; and (5) other reserve assets. 	M (W encouraged)	1W
Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity	See Table 6.1 of the <i>SDDS Guide</i> .	M (W encouraged)	1M (1W encouraged)
Merchandise trade	Trade balance, disaggregated into: (1) merchandise imports; and (2) merchandise exports	M	8W (4-6W encouraged)
International investment position (IIP)	Assets, disaggregated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct investment abroad; portfolio investment, disaggregated by: (1) equity securities; (2) debt securities; other investment; and reserve assets. Liabilities, disaggregated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct investment in reporting economy; portfolio investment, disaggregated by: (1) equity securities; 	A (Q encouraged) Q (from September 2014)	3Q (Q encouraged) 1Q (from September 2014)

SDDS Plus Data Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

Coverage (Prescribed)		Periodicity	Timeliness
Category	Components		
	(2) debt securities; and • other investment.		
Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey	Participation in CPIS—IMF certification	SA (beginning June 2015)	7M
Coordinated Direct Investment Survey	Participation in CDIS—IMF certification	A	9M
External debt	See Table 6.2a of the <i>SDDS Guide</i> .	Q	Q
Exchange rates	• Spot rates; and three- and six-month forward market rates, as relevant	D	<u>3/</u>
Addendum: Population		A	... <u>5/</u>

Annex III. Minimum Classifications for Sectors and Financial Instruments for Internationally Comparable Sectoral Accounts

Minimum Classification of Institutional Sectors	Non-financial corporations S11	Financial corporations S12				General government S13	Households and NPISHs S14-15	Rest of the World S2
		Central bank S121	Other depository-taking corporations S122	Money-market funds S123	Insurance corporations and pension funds S128 + S129			

Classification of Financial Instruments (assets and liabilities) Quarterly with one quarter timeliness	
F1	Monetary gold and SDRs
F2	Currency and deposits
F3	Debt securities
F4	Loans
F5	Equity and investment fund shares
F6	Insurance, pension and standardized guarantee schemes
F7	Financial derivatives and employee stock options
F8	Other accounts receivable/payable

Annex IV. General Government Gross Debt at nominal value

Total gross debt

By type of instrument:

- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)
- Currency and deposits
- Debt securities
- Loans
- Insurance, pensions, and standardized guarantee schemes ^{1/}
- Other accounts payable

By currency of denomination:

- Domestic currency
- Foreign currency

By residence of the creditor:

- Domestic creditors
- External creditors

Memorandum items:^{*}

- Debt securities at market value
- Payable within one year or less
 - Debt securities
 - Loans
- Payable in more than one year
 - Debt securities
 - Loans

^{1/} To be reported consistent with coverage in the sectoral balance sheets.

* The Executive Board endorsed a modified staff proposal by indicating that the memorandum items should be provided on a best effort basis to address some Directors' concerns about the availability of the data.

Annex V. Other Financial Corporations Survey

Net foreign assets

 Claims on nonresidents

 less: Liabilities to nonresidents

Domestic claims

 Net claims on central/general government

 Claims on central/general government

less: Liabilities to central/general government

 Claims on depository corporations

 Claims on other sectors

Liabilities to depository corporations

Other domestic liabilities (except those included in Other Items Net)

Shares and other equity

Other Items (Net)

Annex VI. Financial Soundness Indicators

- Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets
- Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets
- Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital
- Nonperforming loans to total gross loans
- Return on assets
- Liquid assets to short-term liabilities
- Residential real estate prices

Annex VII. Debt Securities

**From-whom-to-whom holdings of debt securities in a time series format
 $t, t+1...t+n$**

Debt securities holdings by**Non-financial corporations**

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents

Non-residents

All issuers

Financial corporations

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents

Non-residents

All issuers

General government

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents

Non-residents

All issuers

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents

Non-residents

All issuers

All residents

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents

Non-residents

All issuers

Non-residents

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents (= all issuers)

All holders

Issued by

Non-financial corporations

Financial corporations

General government

Households and non-profit institutions serving households

All residents