

Bridging NTA to NIA: Towards Socioeconomic Insights for Inclusive Policy Design

13 March 2025

11:15–13:00 (Bangkok time), Lotus Suit 1-2, Centara Grand at CentralWorld
15th NTA Global Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept note and programme

I. Background

The global demographic shift towards ageing populations necessitates innovative policy approaches to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In Asia and the Pacific, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean, countries experience significant demographic transitions, with ageing populations reshaping economies and societies. National Inclusion Accounts (NIAs) serve as a vital tool to understand resource flows between generations and across socioeconomic groups, providing data-driven insights to inform policies on social protection, education and healthcare.

National Transfer Accounts (NTAs) provide a framework for understanding how economic resources (e.g., income, consumption and public and private transfers) are produced, distributed and utilized across age groups. They highlight intergenerational resource flows, such as how the working-age population supports children and older persons through family support, labour income and public programmes. Building on the foundational NTAs, NIAs further disaggregate these flows by age, educational level, income quintile and family structure. This level of granularity is essential for addressing inequalities, planning long-term public expenditures and ensuring fiscal sustainability in response to ageing populations. This disaggregation allows policymakers to identify and address inequalities by revealing which groups may be underserved or disproportionately burdened. For instance, NIAs can show whether lower-income groups are receiving adequate public transfers, how educational investments vary across socioeconomic groups, or whether caregiving responsibilities are unequally distributed based on family structures. By providing these nuanced insights, NIAs enable the design of policies that reduce inequities, ensure inclusiveness and foster sustainability.

With NIAs, Governments and institutions gain the tools needed to address inequalities and guide policy design for long-term growth, based on sustainability and inclusion. This session emphasizes the practical steps and collaboration necessary to make NIAs a reality.

The session aligns with the objectives of the UN Development Account's 15th tranche project, "Inclusive and sustainable economic growth in a society for all ages in the post-COVID-19 era in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean," implemented by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The project aims to strengthen capacities in eight pilot countries—Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica,

Uruguay, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives and Viet Nam—to use NIAs for evidence-based policymaking.

The session will focus on methodologies and real-world applications in using NIAs as an extension of NTAs for more effective policymaking, supporting participants in understanding and implementing this approach.

II. Objectives

1. To provide participants with a clear understanding of the transition from NTAs to NIAs and how NIAs build on NTAs to address socioeconomic inequalities.
2. To highlight case studies, data sources and practical applications of NIAs.
3. To discuss key steps for countries to develop NIA estimates, focusing on collaboration and preparation for designing inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic policies, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.

II. Organizers

This discussion session is organized by the Social Development Division (SDD) of ESCAP in collaboration with the Population Division of United Nations DESA and the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for Demography (CELADE) – Population Division of the ECLAC.

III. Date and venue

The session will take place in person at the Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World, Bangkok, on Thursday, 13 March 2025, from 11:15 to 13:00 (Bangkok time). It is part of the 15th Global Meeting of the NTA Network which will take place at the same venue from 10 to 13 March 2025.

IV. Participation

The session will engage a diverse group of participants, including policymakers, academics, technical experts, United Nations entities and Government representatives particularly focal points on NIAs from project target countries in Asia and the Pacific: Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives and Viet Nam. Attendees of the 15th NTA Global Meeting, including global experts in NTAs and practitioners in population and economic studies, will contribute to enriching the discussions with their insights. The session will emphasize cross-disciplinary collaboration, with active participation in discussions to address challenges, share national experiences and develop actionable steps for advancing NIA methodologies and implementation.

V. Expected outcome

1. Enhanced understanding of how NIA estimates can be calculated, given available data sources.
2. Greater understanding of how NIA can address socioeconomic disparities in response to population ageing.
3. Development of a joint roadmap for advancing NIA estimates to guide development and implementation of NIAs, focusing on addressing data challenges.
4. Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange through dialogue and partnerships among experts, policymakers and representatives from countries, facilitating the sharing of experiences, good practices and innovative approaches to applying NIA in policymaking.

VI. Programme

11.15-11.20	<p>Opening Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP</p>
11:20-12:05	<p>Interactive panel: The legacy of NTAs for intergenerational policy design and the transition to NIAs</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panelists: Mr. Ron Lee, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of California Berkeley, United States of America, and Founding Director of NTA</p> <p>Mr. Simone Cecchini, Chief, Latine American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), Population Division, ECLAC (video message)</p> <p>Ms. Suphannada Lowhachai, Director, Social Data and Indicator Development Division, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), Thailand</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:05-12:10	<p>Break</p>
12:10-12:50	<p>Moving from concept to application: NIA estimation and data needs Moderator: Mr. Marco Roncarati, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Ms. Shen Ke, Professor of Demography, Fudan University, China, and ESCAP consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed steps for NIA estimation • Case studies and good practices • Roadmap to develop estimates and support policy implementation <p>Q&A</p>
12:50-12:55	<p>Wrap-up Ms. Mun Sim Lai, Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, DESA</p>
12:55-13:00	<p>Closing ESCAP representative</p>

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Marco Roncarati, Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, SDD, ESCAP (roncarati@un.org)

Mr. Napaphat Satchanawakul, Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, SDD, ESCAP (napaphat.satchanawakul@un.org)