



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

**Meeting of the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee
on the update of the SEEA CF
UNHQ, New York
17-21 November 2025**

Report of the meeting

Introduction

1. The first in-person meeting of the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee was held from 17–21 November 2025 at UN Headquarters in New York to advance the substantive discussion for the update of the SEEA Central Framework. The meeting brought together members of the Technical Committee alongside key experts. About 20 experts from national statistical offices, international organizations, and academia participated in the meeting with additional experts connecting online.
2. The discussions focused on the review of the draft Guidance Notes for the set of 12 issues that are planned for tranche 1 of global consultation planned for January/February 2026 as well plans for the preparation of the Guidance notes for tranche 2 and 3 of global consultation which will take place later in 2026. The meeting provided detailed feedback and strategic direction for the finalization of the Guidance Notes and preparation for the global consultation. The meeting also discussed the coordination with the research agenda of the 2025 System of National Accounts, the revision of the Government Finance Statistics Manual and the Classification of the Functions of the Government.
3. This report provides an overview of the main conclusions of the discussion and next steps. The agenda of the meeting and list of participants are included in Annexes I and II, respectively.¹

¹ All Guidance Notes, presentations and other documents can be found at the meeting website at: <https://seea.un.org/events/meeting-technical-committee-seea-central-framework-update-seea-central-framework>.

Opening and General context for the update of the SEEA CF

4. The meeting was opened by Ms. Ilaria Di Matteo (UNSD) and Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands and Chair TC).
5. In the introductory session provided a general context for the update of the SEEA CF in the context of the work on other relevant macroeconomic standards. UNSD provided an overview of the SEEA CF update and expectations for the TC meeting and an overview of the finalization of the 2025 SNA and issues in the research agenda post 2025 SNA. The chair of the COFOG Task team outlined the COFOG revision process, and IMF provided an overview of the GFSM update process. Efforts are being made to coordinate the work across these standards to develop recommendations that are to the extent possible coherent and consistent.

Conclusions of the discussion on issues organized by Task Team

Task Team A: Overarching topics, including consistency with SNA

6. The Technical Committee discussed the drafts of three guidance notes prepared by Task team A for three issues: A4, A9.1 and A9.3. The main conclusions are presented below.
7. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue A4: How SEEA CF accounts can be made spatially explicit” were:
 - a. General agreement on relevance of describing the potential of accounting at different spatial scales (spatial accounting) noting the issue is primarily one of application and implementation rather than conceptual.
 - b. Decision needed on how to best submit the relevant issues to global consultation. General view that the lack of conceptual change does not warrant stand-alone consultation but note that given this issue is on the agreed list of issue then consultation in some form seems required. An option may be to link with other more “application” issues.
 - c. Further refinement needed on choice of terms to describe accounting at different spatial scales.
 - d. General agreement on having short introduction early in the updated 2028 SEEA CF (e.g. Chapter 2) but note also the need to highlight specific accounts where spatial accounting might be particularly relevant.
 - e. Support for development of a separate technical note.
8. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue A9.1: Alignment with the SNA - Focus on accounting for natural resources” were:

- a. General agreement on maintaining and enhancing split ownership approach, noting the need to develop examples for non-minerals and develop links to GFS treatments.
 - b. Further develop options on definition of depletion clarifying changes in quantity and quality. Highlight that a refinement of the definition of depletion in the SEEA CF may be required to recognise a change in volume.
 - c. Particular focus on accounting for depletion of forest land and also considering options with respect to land use change.
 - d. General position is to retain SEEA CF boundary for cultivated biological resources. Need to work through implications and clarify SNA motivation.
 - e. Consider proposal to focus GN A9.1 on split ownership and depletion and move discussion of cultivated biological resources to GN A9.3.
 - f. No discussion held on renewable energy resources and radio spectra – initial comments requested by 30 November. Propose to include discussion in A9.3 in terms of scope of environmental assets.
 - g. Consider shifting discussion of valuation of natural resources to second round SNA papers A9.2 and A9.4. No general conceptual concerns have been identified but improvements in description and application can be incorporated.
9. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue A9.3: Alignment with the SNA - Focus on classifications, terminology and definitions” were:
- a. Retain term environmental assets but recognise that natural capital is now a well understood term and links should be explained.
 - b. Consider options for, and develop specific proposals for amending the definition of environmental assets especially with respect to the inclusion of cultivated biological resources.
 - c. Prefer to retain scope of natural resources to exclude cultivated biological resources.
 - d. Prefer to retain the current classes for biological resources but correspondence needed to SNA classes.
 - e. Note need for further discussion on proposals to include renewable energy resources and radio spectra as environmental assets.
 - f. Note need for further discussion on proposals to update discussion of valuation of environmental assets.

Task Team B: Physical flow accounts

10. The Technical Committee discussed the draft guidance notes prepared by Task Team B for the following three issues: B1/5, B2 and B3.

11. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue B1/5: Description of PSUTs with relation to EW-MFA” were:

- a. General endorsement on the relevance of including a theoretical framework for physical flows and the general direction of the technical proposals noting the need to further clarify status of (relationship with) individual PSUT accounts (water, energy, etc).
- b. In finalising the GN, need to develop clear proposals for changes / additions to the SEEA CF and incorporate a motivation for the PSUT framework and hence explain the context for the global consultation.
- c. Recommend developing proposals and recommendations for specific issues (e.g. consumer durables, goods for processing, balancing items). Propose these are discussed in TT-B in the first instance.
- d. Recommend that the updated SEEA CF needs to clarify the relationship between ecosystem service flows and the theoretical framework, but they should not be included in the framework.
- e. Propose expanding discussion on connections to physical stocks including links to accounting for natural resources and the accumulation of residuals in the environment.
- f. Recommend clarifying the approach to recording waste and energy transformation.

12. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue B2: Further clarifying treatment of losses” were:

- a. Recommend that a typology of losses be treated as a statistical concept with associated definitions.
- b. Update the GN to clarify treatments of specific issues (incl. dissipative losses, heat, theft, natural resources, international energy distribution).
- c. Update the GN to clarify options for recording losses in PSUT (i.e. within product and residual flows categories).

13. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue B3: Treatment of carbon flows in the SEEA CF” were:

- a. Recommend including the concept of human induced flows within the environment to apply beyond carbon.
- b. Recommend recording of LULUCF in air emissions accounts (AEA). Preference for allocation of LULUCF emissions in industry but recognise challenges in

practice. Economic ownership (of land) a useful starting point in terms of criteria for allocation.

- c. Options for the recording of flows to be reconsidered but no definitive conclusion.
- d. Links between the recording of LULUCF emissions (and their allocation) and uses of AEA data (e.g. in input-output tables) to be considered.
- e. No conclusion on the location of the environment-economic boundary for stored carbon. Options to be developed considering criteria such as levels of management of the stored carbon.

Task Team C: Environmental activity accounts and related flows

14. The Technical Committee discussed the draft Guidance notes prepared by Task Team C for the following four issues: C2, C3, C4 and C5. In addition, an initial discussion was held on issues C6 and C7, planned for tranche 2 of the global consultation.

15. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue C2: Inclusion of the integrated framework for monetary accounts” were:

- a. Recommend including integrated framework in the updated SEEA CF.
- b. Update GN to clarify the role of the integrated framework with respect to specific accounts (EPEA, EGSS, CCM, etc) and clarifying whether any aspects of those accounts need to change in light of the integrated framework.
- c. Incorporate additional rows as proposed in the presentation of the GN.
- d. Discuss the potential to incorporate transactions on environmental taxes (and potentially PEDS) in the framework.
- e. Develop proposals for further expanding the financing component of the framework to enable recording of flows between sectors (from whom to whom) and by type of financial instrument. Consider potential for this to be discussed at more length under issue C8 on sustainable finance (noting also the link to C5 with respect to climate finance).
- f. Clarify the treatment of intermediate consumption in different contexts – link to C4 on primary and secondary purpose.
- g. Discuss implications associated with possible extension of the CEP.

16. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue C3: Extending the scope of environmental activities” were:

- a. Develop motivation for proposed change to the SEEA CF – e.g. with respect to user demand/ alternative perspectives (slices of pie).

- b. General agreement on themes and activities proposed for inclusion but rationale and choice of terms – environmentally friendly and related - to be established and additional explanation provided for things excluded.
 - c. In updating the GN, clarify the links between environmental activities and environmental purposes.
 - d. Clarify the treatment of intermediate consumption in different contexts – link to C4 on primary and secondary purpose.
 - e. In updating GN ensure that definitions for activities (CCM, CCA, Circular Economy and Bioeconomy) are linked to the discussion about the extension of the scope of environmental activities in terms of the current definition of environmental activities as being those for EP and RM purposes.
 - f. Clarify links to C2 Integrated framework and C5 Climate expenditures in terms of implications for changing the scope and range of accounts.
17. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue C4: Primary and secondary purpose” were:
- a. General agreement on including data on secondary purpose but rationale for additional measurement needed as well as clarification on the target of secondary purpose – activities or expenditures.
 - b. Richer explanation needed (including challenges) of the proposal to use technical nature and lists to establish purpose including implications for products/activities compared to expenditures.
 - c. Clarify links to classes of CEP and whether extensions to CEP are required.
 - d. Clarify whether using full cost or extra cost methods corresponds to measuring alternative concepts.
 - e. Consider including examples of secondary purpose in the case of non-financial corporations.
 - f. Consider connections between CEP and COFOG (or perhaps in C1).
18. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue C5: Climate change mitigation (CCM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) expenditure” were:
- a. General agreement on direction and proposals.
 - b. Describe various options for dealing with overlap of CCM and CCA.
 - c. Develop links to CEP and potential extension/refinement of the CEP for CCM.
 - d. For GN aim to develop a basic structure for a list of CCA expenditures recognising further time needed to develop fully.

- e. Aim to base CCM and CCA account designs on integrated framework (Issue C2), recognising the need to clarify the complete set of variables and also noting the relevance of recording data on climate finance.
- f. Need to make link to recent UNFCCC reporting on mitigation and adaptation activities and also outcomes from testing of >100 adaptation indicators.
- g. Beyond GN need to consider thematic accounting for climate change (e.g. climate damages).

Task Team D: Asset accounts

19. The Technical Committee discussed the draft Guidance Notes prepared by Task Team D for the following two issues: – D1 and D4, as well on the Clarification Note on the Definition of Environmental Assets.

20. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue D1: Inclusion of the carbon stock account” were:

- a. Agreement that accounting for carbon stock in physical terms is appropriate and important.
- b. Recognition that the current definition of environmental assets could be interpreted to treat carbon stocks as environmental assets. However, general direction that the rationale for treating carbon stock as an environmental asset needs to be further discussed and elaborated.
- c. Irrespective of the treatment of carbon as an environmental asset, need to determine whether content should be included in the SEEA CF. Some support for inclusion, some against. If not included, then could still further develop/update the current content in SEEA EA.
- d. Determining a measurement boundary will be important as “all” carbon not an appropriate focus for measurement. Option to consider a focus on change in stock rather than stock levels, although this is a more pragmatic measurement choice (analogous to water resources).
- e. Valuation of the carbon generally seen as problematic – no clear support for a monetary carbon stock account.
- f. However, recognised that in carbon market related contexts the associated carbon stock may be both an economic and environmental asset - to be further investigated.
- g. Support for linking to general conceptual framing of accounting for physical stocks.
- h. Describe connections to ecosystem accounting and links to economic analysis.

21. The main conclusions of discussions on “Issue D4: Consideration of water as a produced asset” were:
- a. No clear agreement on the recommended treatment. Agreed to take issue to global consultation but GN to be reworked to present options rather than recommendations.
 - b. Include the option to treat evaporation as a human induced flow within the environment (issue B3).
 - c. Need to clarify rationale / motivation for a change to the SEEA CF.
 - d. Consider further the distinction between water itself as produced and water as an inventory arising from activity of storage.
 - e. Need to examine further the links to national accounts treatments and recording for associated economic activity and the storage of water.
 - f. The distinction between the treatment of artificial reservoirs and natural reservoirs for water supply to be rationalised. As well, clarify the scope with respect to other “diverted” water (e.g. canals, storage tanks).
 - g. The implications on treatments of different purposes of reservoirs (and cases of multi-purposes) to be further considered.
 - h. In particular, further examination needed of the links to hydropower, especially if hydro-power is recorded as a non-produced asset (renewable energy resource).
22. The main conclusions of discussions on “Clarification Note on the Definition of Environmental Assets” were:
- a. Amended definition of environmental assets required as well as associated descriptions.
 - b. Agree not to extend “living and non-living components of the Earth” to consider accounting for environmental systems such as the climate system.
 - c. Propose to mainly incorporate recommendations from this note into GN A9.3.

Next steps and timeline

23. The global consultation tranche 1 is scheduled to commence at the end of January, hence, the proposed timeline to finalize the Guidance Notes is as follows:
- Technical Committee members to provide written comments on all Guidance Notes discussed at the SEEA CF TC by 30 November with a focus on proposals and recommendations (through wiki).

- Task Team co-chairs and lead authors to finalise proposed recommendations and questions for global consultation for discussion with each Task Team by 4 December.
 - > The key focus of the recommendations and questions is “what is (or might be) changing in the SEEA Central Framework”
 - > Expect no more than 5 or 6 questions for global consultation on each issue
 - UNSD & Editor to provide additional drafting suggestions to lead authors by 10 December. UNSD to also advise on expected interactions with other processes (e.g. GFS, COFOG) before GC for specific issues and topics.
 - All four Task Teams have meetings scheduled in the first half of December to go over the proposed recommendations and questions for global consultation.
 - Revised drafts of Guidance Notes incorporating recommendations and questions to be sent to UNSD by 5 January. Authors and drafting teams can commence work from late November on updating the GNs.
 - Recommendations and questions to be circulated to SEEA CF TC for final comments (with draft as background document) by 14 January.
24. Other action items relevant for the process and discussed in the Technical Committee meeting:
- UNSD and Editor to outline proposed agenda and timing of meetings and deadlines for 2026 by early December.
 - > Task Team meetings to discuss tranche 2 Guidance Notes will be scheduled for: late Jan; mid Feb; early April.
 - Co-chairs (with UNSD) to identify for each GN:
 - > Relevant specialist communities and organizations (e.g. AEG, BOPCOM, SEEA EA, UNEP) and matching specific topics and issues
 - > Develop plans for engagement during global consultation but note exceptions where engagement prior to global consultation would be appropriate/necessary
 - > For GFS and COFOG related issues co-ordinate specifics for relevant GN and associated timing
 - Editor to provide updated paper on 2028 SEEA CF structure by March 2026.
 - Editor to commence development of Glossary.

Annex I: Agenda

DAY 1: Monday, 17 November 2025

9:30 – 9:40	Welcome and introductions Opening words: Ilaria Di Matteo (UNSD) and Sjoerd Schenau (Chair TC)
9:40 – 10:30	General context for the update of the SEEA CF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the SEEA CF update and expectations for the TC meeting (Marko Javorsek) • Overview of the finalization of the 2025 SNA and Issues in the research agenda post 2025 SNA (Matthias Reister) • Overview of COFOG revision (Tom Orford, online) • Overview of GFSM update (Foyz Khatun)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Issue A9.1: Focus on accounting for natural resources Moderator: Peter Meadows Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Issue A9.3: Focus on classifications, terminology and definitions Moderator: Peter Meadows Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Clarification Note on the Definition of Environmental Assets Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst

DAY 2: Tuesday, 18 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	Issue C2: Inclusion of the integrated framework for monetary accounts Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Angelica Tudini (online)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Issue C3: Extending the scope of environmental activities Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Isabelle Remond-Tiedrez (online)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Issue C4: Primary and secondary purpose Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Arturo De La Fuente and Rodrigo Pizarro (online)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Issue C5: Climate mitigation and climate adaptation expenditure Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Julie Hass (online)
18:30 –	Optional group dinner

DAY 3: Wednesday, 19 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	Issue B1/5: Description of PSUTs with relation to EW-MFA Moderator: Matthew Prescott Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Stephan Moll (online)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Issue B2: Further clarifying treatment of losses Moderator: Matthew Prescott Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Stephan Moll (online)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Issue B3: Treatment of carbon flows in the SEEA CF Moderator: Roberto Astolfi Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Sjoerd Schenau
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Issue D1: Inclusion of the carbon stock account Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst

DAY 4: Thursday, 20 November 2025

9:00 – 10:30	Discussion on the chapter structure of the updated SEEA CF Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Overview presentation: Carl Obst
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Status of other issues included in Tranches #2 and #3 Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Overview presentation: Carl Obst Open discussion
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Issue A4: How SEEA CF accounts can be made spatially explicit Moderator: Joe St. Lawrence Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Peter Meadows
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Issue D4: Consideration of water as a produced asset Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Carl Obst

DAY 5: Friday, 21 November 2025

8:30 – 9:30	Issue C6: Inclusion of potentially environmentally damaging subsidies/related transfers and C7: Elaborating environmental tax abatements Moderator: Neil Wilson Presentation on the draft Guidance Note: Ivo Litera Open discussion
9:30 – 10:30	Issues C2-C5: Integration of updates on environmental activities Moderator: Sjoerd Schenau

	Synthesis presentation: Neil Wilson and Carl Obst Open discussion
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Planning and co-ordination of next steps Moderator: Ilaria Di Matteo Overview presentation: Carl Obst Open discussion

Annex II: List of participants

Title	Name	Organization	Country
Mr.	Adriaan Grobler	Statistics South Africa	South Africa
Ms.	Alessandra Alfieri	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
Ms.	Amanda Driver	SEEA EA Technical Committee	South Africa
Ms.	Angelica Tudini	Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat)	Italy
Mr.	Arturo de la Fuente	Eurostat	European Commission
Mr.	Carl Obst	Consultant	Australia
Ms.	Carolina Ardi	Eurostat	European Commission
Mr.	David Bailey	IMF	United States of America
Mr.	Dennis Fixler	Bureau of Economic Analysis	United States of America
Ms.	Foyzsunnesa Khatun	IMF	United States of America
Ms.	Isabelle REMOND-TIEDREZ	Eurostat	European Commission
Mr.	Ivo Litera	Federal Statistical Office	Germany
Mr.	Joseph St. Lawrence	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
Ms.	Julie Lindsay Haas	Consultant	United States of America
Ms.	Justine Ayebare	IMF	United States of America
Ms.	Kaia Oras	Statistics Estonia	Estonia
Ms.	Kirsten Oleson	University of Hawaii	United States of America
Mr.	Lewis Murara	IMF	United States of America
Mr.	Matthew Prescott	Statistics Canada	Canada
Mr.	Michael Vardon	Australian National Union	Australia
Ms.	Monica Rodriguez Zuñiga	Central Bank of Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Mr.	Neil Wilson	ONS	United Kingdom
Mr.	Nils Brown	Statistics Sweden	Sweden
Mr.	Ole Gravgaard Pedersen	Statistics Denmark	Denmark
Mr.	Peter Meadows	Independent expert	Australia

Ms.	Rebecca De La Roque Palis	Fundaç�o IBGE	Brazil
Ms.	Ria Arinda	BPS-Statistics Indonesia	Indonesia
Mr.	Robert Smith	Consultant	Canada
Mr.	Roberto Astolfi	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	
Mr.	Scott Wentland	Bureau of Economic Analysis	United States of America
Mr.	Sjoerd Schenau	Statistics Netherlands	Netherlands
Ms.	Steffi Schuster	IMF	United States of America
Mr.	Stephan Moll	Independent expert	Germany
Mr.	Sven Kaumanns	Federal Statistical Office	Germany
Mr.	Tom Orford	UK Treasury	United Kingdom
Ms.	Viveka Palm	Statistics Sweden	Sweden
Ms.	Ilaria Di Matteo	UN Statistics Division	UN
Mr.	Matthias Reister	UN Statistics Division	UN
Mr.	Steve King	UN Statistics Division	UN
Ms.	Elsa Begne	UN Statistics Division	UN
Mr.	Marko Javorsek	UN Statistics Division	UN
Mr.	Julian Chow	UN Statistics Division	UN
Mr.	Emil Ivanov	UN Statistics Division	UN