



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

**Twenty-first Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting
New York and online, 15, 17 and 18 June 2026**

**Working Group on Implementation and Statistical Capacity Building (Area D)
Summary of activities**

for discussion

UNCEEA WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION AND STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (AREA D)

1. Area D focuses on the coordination of implementation initiatives and statistical capacity building activities for the SEEA in countries, and the administration of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics. The present note provides an update on the activities undertaken by Area D since the last Committee meeting. It summarizes progress made in 2025–2026, outlines planned activities for the next period, and presents questions for the consideration of the Committee.

1 Activities carried out in 2025-26

2. The activities of Area D since the UNCEEA meeting last year have continued to focus, in line with the guidance provided by the Committee, on three main areas: (1) coordination of capacity building and implementation activities; (2) activities for the SEEA Focal Point network; and (3) oversight of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics.

3. In addition, given the resource constraints currently being faced by countries and international organizations, including UNSD - in the past year Area D focused its work activities on those aimed at common and shared priorities of the Committee, in particular, in support of the update of the SEEA Central Framework, within its areas of responsibility.

1.1 Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities

4. Area D members (UN regional commissions, development banks and international agencies providing technical assistance on the SEEA) continued to meet regularly, albeit at a reduced frequency to exchange updates on their activities related to capacity building and implementation of the SEEA, ensuring improved coordination of SEEA related activities at the regional and global levels. These exchanges facilitated improved coordination of capacity-building initiatives at the global and regional levels, including the identification of synergies, sharing of lessons learned and better alignment of support to countries.

5. A background document summarizing capacity building activities conducted in 2025 and planned for 2026 by the Area D members was prepared for the UN Statistical Commission this year¹. The document provided a comprehensive overview of activities that would otherwise be difficult to capture in the main report. It is proposed that such a background document continue to be prepared for future sessions of the Statistical Commission.

1.2 Activities of the SEEA Focal Point Network

6. UNCEEA Areas A, B1 and D jointly organized a global webinar for the SEEA Focal Points and other stakeholders on the consultation process for the first tranche of guidance notes for the update of the SEEA Central Framework. The webinar provided an overview of the update process, including timelines and modalities for participation, as well as a presentation of the nine guidance notes and

¹ Capacity Building activities on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting can be found at https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_57/documents/BG-3f-Capacity_building_activities_2025_UNSC-E.pdf

the main issues under consideration. Two sessions were organized to accommodate participants from different time zones. Over 200 participants from all regions joined the webinars. Feedback from participants was very positive. Building on this experience, additional webinars are planned to support subsequent tranches of guidance note that are sent out for global consultation (see next section).

7. SEEA Focal Points also continued to participate in several in-person and online capacity building activities since the last Committee meeting. These training courses have provided a good opportunity to share experiences and discuss challenges in the implementation of the SEEA.

1.3 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

8. The Global Assessment provides an overview of national SEEA implementation, including institutional and funding arrangements; countries' priorities and plans for implementing accounts; technical assistance received and provided; and the use of the accounts. The Assessment also supports the monitoring of indicator 15.9.1(b) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

9. The 2025 Global Assessment was conducted at the end of 2024 as an abbreviated assessment. The result of the 2025 Global assessment was submitted to the UN Statistical Commission's session in March 2026 as a background document.²

10. Overall progress has been made in the implementation of the SEEA. Based on the responses to the 2025 Global Assessment, 98 countries reported having compiled SEEA accounts at least once within the last five years. Seventy-one (71) countries of the total (72 per cent) fall into Stage III (i.e. they regularly compile and disseminate at least one account), 13 countries (13 per cent) fall into Stage II (i.e. they have compiled and disseminate at least one account), and 14 countries (14 per cent) fall into Stage I (i.e. they have compiled at least one account). More details can be found in the background document to the UN Statistical Commission.

2 Proposed activities for 2026-2027

11. The proposed activities of Area D for the next period (2026-2027) continue to be structured in three areas, as for the last few years: (1) coordination of capacity building and implementation activities; (2) activities for the SEEA Focal Point network; and (3) organization of the 2026 Global Assessment. Area D will also continue to contribute to the update of the SEEA Central Framework, including by supporting outreach and consultation processes in coordination with other areas of the Committee. This will include the organization of webinars and other engagement activities to facilitate broad participation and awareness in countries. Looking ahead to the finalization of the update process, Area D proposes that, in collaboration with other group of the UNCEEA, and under the overall guidance of the Committee, it initiates the discussions and contributes to the drafting of the implementation strategy for update of SEEA CF.

² The Global Assessment report can be found at:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_57/documents/BG-3f-Global_Assessment_2025_UNSC-E.pdf

2.1 Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities

12. Area D will continue to provide a venue to foster the coordination of capacity development and implementation activities at the global and regional levels, seek synergies of activities among international and regional organizations, discuss ways to be more effective and share lessons learnt. To realize this priority, Area D members will continue to meet regularly, and update each other on capacity development projects, requests from countries, and share experiences in their projects.

13. A background document elaborating on the activities of the Area D members will be prepared again for the next session of the UN Statistical Commission.

14. Area D proposes that it initiates discussions around the implementation strategy for the 2028 SEEA CF. The strategy will be developed under the overall auspices of Committee also taking into consideration the 2025 SNA implementation strategy in order to coordinate capacity-building efforts in common areas of the 2025 SNA and the updated SEEA CF.

2.2 Activities for the SEEA Focal Point network

15. Building upon the successful webinar on the update of the SEEA Central Framework jointly conducted with Area A and B1, there will be efforts to organize other activities, mainly in the form of webinars, for the SEEA Focal Points to inform and further engage them in the work of the Committee. It is envisaged, however, that, in the upcoming year, these activities will be limited in scope due to resource constraints currently being faced by several international organizations including UNSD. These activities will be closely coordinated with the other working groups of the Committee.

2.3 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

16. The Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics will continue to be implemented as a key monitoring tool. The 2026 round will be conducted as a full benchmark assessment. The assessment instrument will be reviewed by Area D and the UNCEEA; it is expected to be launched in the third quarter of the year. It will collect detailed information on the compilation of SEEA Central Framework and Ecosystem Accounting, as well as on institutional arrangements, technical assistance, implementation plans and policy use. UNSD will administer the assessment with support from Area D members, who will assist in promoting responses and reviewing outputs. The results will be analyzed in early 2027 and presented to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-eighth session.

3 Questions to the Committee

17. The Committee is invited to take note of the progress made by Area D and to provide guidance on the proposed programme of work for 2026–2027. In particular, the Committee may wish to comment on:

- a) strengthening coordination of capacity-building and implementation activities, including initiating discussions on the development of an implementation strategy for the updated SEEA Central Framework;
- b) supporting the SEEA Focal Point network, and
- c) exploring options for further enhancing the Global Assessment.

18. The Committee is invited to provide guidance, in particular, on the additional priority areas, including support for the implementation of the updated SEEA Central Framework; the exploration of synergies in capacity-building efforts across common areas of the 2025 SNA and SEEA; and the strengthening of coordination and resource mobilization for capacity-building initiatives.