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**Technical Committee on SEEA Central Framework (Area B1)  
Summary of activities**

Paper prepared by Technical Committee on SEEA Central Framework

*(for discussion)*

# Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework (Area B1): Summary of activities

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## Background papers and resources

- Project management framework for update of the SEEA Central Framework
- Draft list of issues for the update of the SEEA Central Framework
- Prioritization of issues for the SEEA Central Framework update

## Introduction

1. At its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2023, the UNCEEA “agreed to an update of the SEEA CF with a focused scope while requesting the SEEA CF TC to further elaborate the criteria for prioritization of the issues, further evaluate the costs and benefits of addressing the issues and develop a timeline for addressing each issue.”<sup>1</sup> Thus, since the last UNCEEA meeting, the SEEA CF TC has focused on refining the project management framework for the update as well as prioritizing and refining the draft list of issues, both of which were presented to the Committee at its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting. In addition, the SEEA CF TC has been involved in the review of methodological guidelines and the updates of other international standards and classifications, such as the 2025 SNA, Classification of Environmental Purposes (CEP), Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), and Government Finance Statistics (GFS).

2. The current note provides a summary of the SEEA CF TC’s activities since the last UNCEEA meeting in June 2023. Section 2 focuses on the development of and next steps for the project management framework for the SEEA CF update; Section 3 describes the refinement and prioritization of the draft list of issues and outlines the next steps, including a global consultation; Section 4 provides a short summary of the SEEA CF TC’s activities with regards to the updates of other international standards and classifications; Section 5 describes the SEEA CF TC’s review of the Statistical Guideline on Measuring Flows of Plastics Along the Life Cycle; and Section 6 provides a set of questions to the Committee.

## Project management framework for the SEEA CF update

3. During late 2023 and early 2024, the SEEA CF TC refined and significantly expanded the project management framework initially presented to the UNCEEA at its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The project management framework currently provides detail on the overall approach of the update; a timeline of the update process (see below); governance arrangements for the update process, which include specific roles and responsibilities for the relevant groups; decision-making processes; planned meetings related to the update; project support; and funding.

4. As indicated in the project management framework, the SEEA CF TC, with UNSD as Secretariat, will lead the management of the SEEA CF update process. The update will follow a three-pronged approach: (a) undertaking technical research and reaching recommended guidance on a set of

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/unceea\\_conclusions\\_final.pdf](https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/unceea_conclusions_final.pdf).

specific issues; (b) engaging in progressive rounds of inclusive, global consultations and review; and (c) coordination and collaboration with different stakeholders.

Table 1. Draft timeline of the update process

Activity	Timeline	Agency/country responsible
List of issues and preliminary work		
• Identify sources of funding	Q1-Q3 2024	Bureau, Secretariat
• Agreement on the updated list of issues and prioritization by the Bureau and broader UNCEEA	Q1-Q2 2024	SEEA CF TC, Bureau, UNCEEA
• Discussion at UNSC	Q1 2024	UNCEEA
• Identification of task team leads, authors of topic papers	Q1-Q2 2024	SEEA CF TC, Secretariat
• Agreement on project management framework by UNCEEA	Q2 2024	UNCEEA
• Global consultation on list of issues	Q2-Q3 2024	Secretariat
• Commence work on high priority issues which can begin already	Q2-Q4 2024	SEEA CF TC, London Group
• Finalize list of issues for presentation to UNSC, taking into account resources secured	Q4 2024	SEEA CF TC, Bureau, UNCEEA
Issue papers		
• Drafting of all issue papers by task teams	2025	SEEA CF TC, London Group
• Staggered global consultation on the issue papers	Q1 2025 – Q2 2026	Secretariat
• Revision of issue papers	Q4 2025 - Q3 2026	SEEA CF TC
Updating SEEA CF text		
• Drafting relevant text to replace the text in the SEEA CF	Q2 2026 - Q3 2027	Editor
• Global consultation on the chapters	Q2-Q4 2027	Secretariat
Adoption of the SEEA CF	Q1 2028	UN Statistical Commission

5. The project management framework was reviewed by the UNCEEA Bureau in 2024 Q1, during both the in-person UNCEEA Bureau meeting on the sidelines of the 55<sup>th</sup> UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) as well as during its usual quarterly virtual meeting. The project management framework was then sent to the UNCEEA for review in 2024 Q2. It is envisaged that the project management framework can be finalized after the 19<sup>th</sup> UNCEEA meeting and presented to the UNSC during its 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2025, as was requested by the UNSC during its 55<sup>th</sup> Session.<sup>2</sup>

## List of issues

6. Since the last UNCEEA meeting, the SEEA CF TC has reviewed the list of issues in detail and refined the list in consultation with stakeholders, including the Technical Committee on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. The list of issues is tentatively grouped into four areas (physical flow accounts, asset accounts, monetary activity accounts and an overarching group of issue that include alignment issues with the 2025 SNA), which will serve to structure the task teams which undertake the technical work.<sup>3</sup>

7. The SEEA CF TC also elaborated the criteria for the prioritization of the issues. The prioritization of the issues will be key to finalizing the list of issues given that the available resources (both financial and in-kind) are not limitless. The prioritization of issues can be thought of as a general guide in which to approach the update, with the number of issues that is actually tackled ultimately being dictated by the resources the Committee is able to secure.

8. As presented to the UNCEEA during its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the SEEA CF TC agreed to prioritize the issues based on policy impact and benefit; conceptual impact; complexity; and time requirements. Based on

<sup>2</sup> See [https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session\\_55/documents/2024-36-FinalReport-EE.pdf#page=18](https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_55/documents/2024-36-FinalReport-EE.pdf#page=18)

<sup>3</sup> The groups are: 1) Overarching topics, including consistency with the SNA; 2) Physical flow accounts (chapter 3); 3) Environmental activity accounts and related flows (chapter 4); and 4) Asset accounts (chapter 5).

these criteria all issues were grouped into four categories of prioritization, 1-4, with 1 being highest priority.

9. Based on further discussion, the SEEA CF TC decided to add an additional category of issues, which are considered “musts” with an update of the SEEA CF. These are issues that are fundamental to the SEEA CF, and include, for example, issues of alignment with the 2025 SNA. They also include issues that have high policy demand or issues for which work has already been done and needs to be reflected in the updated SEEA CF.

10. The list of issues and prioritization criteria were reviewed by the UNCEEA Bureau in 2024 Q1, during both the in-person UNCEEA Bureau meeting on the sidelines of the 55<sup>th</sup> UNSC as well as during its usual quarterly virtual meeting. The list of issues and prioritization criteria were then sent to the UNCEEA for review in 2024 Q2 and revised based on feedback. It is envisaged that the list of issues and prioritization document can undergo a global consultation during 2024 Q3 after the 19<sup>th</sup> UNCEEA meeting. The global consultation will last for 6-8 weeks, and the SEEA CF TC will summarize the results of the global consultation and revise the list of issues based on the feedback. At this point, the list of issues will also be refined based on the amount of resources secured for the revision. It is proposed that the SEEA CF TC then present the summary and revised list of issues to the UNCEEA Bureau, and then the broader UNCEEA for approval. The list of issues will then be presented to the UNSC at its 56<sup>th</sup> Session.

## Coordination with the revision of other international statistical standards and classifications

11. The SEEA CF TC has participated in the updates of various related international statistical standards and classifications over the past year, namely the 2025 SNA, CEP, COFOG and GFS.

12. For the 2025 SNA, the Chair and Secretariat of the SEEA CF TC participate in the OECD informal Expert Group on Natural Capital (EGNC), which is producing a handbook on natural capital related aspects of the 2025 SNA. The Chair and Secretariat of the SEEA CF TC as well as the Chair of the EGNC provide regular updates to the SEEA CF TC on the work of the EGNC.

13. The EGNC has focused its work on four thematic topics: 1) subsoil assets + depletion; 2) renewable energy; 3) biological resources – timber; and 4) biological resources – fish, as well as the crosscutting topic of discount rates. The EGNC has drafted discussion notes/short guides and workbooks on these topics. Countries are currently testing the notes, and their feedback will be considered in the first full draft of the handbook, which will be completed in September 2024. It is planned that the UNCEEA will review the handbook in November 2024 and the handbook published in early 2025.

14. The SEEA CF TC also contributed to the final review of the Classification of Environmental Purposes (CEP), along with the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications. The CEP underwent global consultation in 2023, and based on the results of the global consultation and revised classification, the SEEA CF TC and broader Committee endorsed the CEP, which was subsequently adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its 55<sup>th</sup> Session in 2024.

15. For COFOG, a task team has been set up by the UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNEISC) for the revision. The Chair and Secretariat of the SEEA CF TC will participate in the task team, with the input of the broader SEEA CF TC. The COFOG task team is currently in the process of collecting issues for the COFOG revision, and the SEEA CF TC will

contribute issues relevant to the SEEA. A global consultation on the COFOG list of issues is planned for 2024 Q3.

16. The GFS Advisory Committee launched the update of GFS at its April 2024 meeting, where the Chair of the SEEA CF TC provided a presentation on the update of the SEEA CF. One of the themes of the GFS update will be “natural resources and environment”, and a subgroup on the environment will likely be proposed. The SEEA CF TC also plans to engage in the update of GFS. In addition, given that there may be joint issues relevant to the updates of the SEEA CF, GFS and COFOG, the SEEA CF TC will may work together with the GFS Advisory Committee and COFOG task team to jointly address these issues.

## Statistical Guideline on Measuring Flows of Plastics Along the Life Cycle

17. In 2024 Q2, UN Environment Programme presented a draft of the Statistical Guidelines on Measuring Flows of Plastics Along the Life Cycle. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide national statistical offices and other relevant organizations with methodological guidance on compiling high-quality and comparable statistics on plastics to inform policies on responsible consumption and production, circular economy, etc. The Guidelines provide a physical flow accounting framework for plastics and plastic waste consistent with the SEEA; information on potential data sources and units of measurement; core indicators that can be derived from plastic statistics and accounts; and country examples.

18. The SEEA CF TC provided feedback on the Guidelines, focusing on their consistency with the SEEA CF. The Guidelines which will undergo global consultation later this summer, and it is envisaged that the publication will be made available at the end of this year.

## Questions for the Committee

1. Does the UNCEEA agree that the revised list of issues can be sent for global consultation?
2. Does the UNCEEA agree with the proposed process for the list of issues after the global consultation and leading up to the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNSC?

