



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

Twentieth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting 25-26 June 2025

Report of the Meeting

Introduction

1. The 20th Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA) took place virtually from 25–26 June 2025. The Committee reviewed progress in its work programme since the 2024 meeting and discussed the implications of the decisions made at the 56th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). The agenda was organized around the following session: (i) Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting; (ii) Update from the 56th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission; (iii) Area A – Coordination and Communication; (iv) Area B1 – SEEA Central Framework; (v) Updates from the London Group; (vi) Area B2 – SEEA Ecosystem Accounting; (vii) Area C – Development of Global Databases for the SEEA; (viii) Area D – Implementation and Statistical Capacity Building; and (ix) Election of the Co-Chairs and closing remarks.
2. This report provides an overview of the conclusions of the discussion. The agenda of the meeting and list of participants are included in Annexes I and II, respectively.

Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Mr. André Loranger, Chair of the UNCEEAA and Chief Statistician of Canada.
4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, reflected on the history of environmental-economic accounting work since the 90s, praising the community's resilience and collaboration despite financial and geopolitical challenges. He commended the Committee's achievements, including its influence on the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the development of international standards, and emphasized the importance of

integrated data systems, national capacity building, and policy relevance. He also commended past and current leadership of the UNCEEA Chairs, and going forward he encouraged continued innovation, user engagement, and strategic communication to demonstrate the value of the SEEA.

5. Mr. André Loranger welcomed participants to the 20th meeting of the UNCEEA, reflecting on his long-standing involvement in the committee since 2012 and expressing appreciation for the Committee's progress. He outlined the agenda of the meeting, which includes reviewing working group achievements, discussing implications of recent UNSC decisions, and providing strategic guidance for future work, while also expressing hope for a return to an in-person meeting next year.

Agenda item 1: Update from the 56th session United Nations Statistical Commission

6. Ms. Ilaria Di Matteo, Chief of Environmental-Economic Accounts Section at UNSD, provided an overview of the outcomes of the 56th session of the UNSC, emphasizing its endorsement of the SEEA Central Framework update process and the revised mandate and governance of the Committee. Key highlights included the Commission's approval of the list of issues for the framework update, recognition of financial and in-kind support from international organizations and countries, and the establishment of a new Steering Group to enhance strategic guidance. The Commission also welcomed the Committee's efforts in mainstreaming the SEEA across global initiatives such as Beyond GDP, climate change, and biodiversity, and encouraged continued work on global databases, national implementation, and capacity building. The London Group's contributions were acknowledged, with encouragement to continue supporting the SEEA update process.

Agenda item 2: Area A – Coordination and Communication

7. The session reviewed the progress of work of Area A on coordination with other relevant groups of experts to promote consistency and coherence and mainstreaming the SEEA in relevant initiatives. The session comprised presentations from Mr. Jonathon Khoo (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Area A Lead) on the activities of Area A and the Net Zero Sprint initiative; from Ms. Alessandra Alfieri (International Monetary Fund) on the Data Gaps Initiative (DGI-3); and from Mr. Richard Heys (Office for National Statistics, Co-Chair of EGWM) on the Expert Group on Well-Being Measurement (EGWM).

Outcome of the discussion

8. The Committee:
- Welcomed the progress made by the Working Group on Coordination and Communication over the past year and endorsed its work plan for the 2025-26 period, in particular with the focus on: (1) supporting the update of the SEEA Central

Framework, in close coordination with Area B1, by facilitating the communication of progress with the broader community of users and compilers; (2) engaging in ongoing global initiatives aimed at enhancing the policy relevance of the SEEA; (3) maintaining the landscape assessment; and (4) overseeing the preparation and dissemination of the “UNCEEA Quarterly Update”.

- Underlined the importance of communicating the SEEA and the uses of the SEEA for policy, and noted that the development of a “communication strategy” for the SEEA is a big undertaking that, due to the currently limited resources, may not be feasible but may be carried out at a later stage, especially after the SEEA Central Framework update has been completed.
- Suggested that Area A should, instead of developing a “communication strategy for the update of the SEEA,” actively seek opportunities to engage and communicate with different groups identifying the appropriate narrative/measures/ indicators that are relevant to that specific audience (e.g. beyond GDP).
- Welcomed the efforts to engage with the global initiatives as mentioned in the report, in particular the Net Zero Sprint and the links between the SEEA and the Net Zero agenda, and the importance of aligning with the IMF’s Data Gaps Initiative and the Expert Group on Well-being Measurement (EGWM). The need for coordination, especially in identifying key indicators and ensuring SEEA’s relevance in broader policy contexts, was emphasized.
- Stressed the importance of participation in the EGWM and recommended that the Bureau put forward nominations for experts from the UNCEEA that can contribute to the Task Team on the Environment.
- Recommended that the EGWM, when dealing with the environment, make explicit references and links with ecosystems and biodiversity and build upon/synthesize existing work.
- Suggested for Area A to collaborate with Area D on communication materials for capacity building activities.

Agenda item 3: Area B1 – SEEA Central Framework

9. The session discussed the work of Area B1 and in particular the work done by its Task Teams and the planned work towards the updated SEEA Central Framework, including some of the technical aspects of the update issues. The session comprised presentations from Mr. Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands, Area B1 Lead) on the activities of Area B1, an overview of the discussion on the scoping notes by Carl Obst (UNSD consultant and SEEA CF editor), and an overview of the related revision processes, namely the revision of the Classification of the functions of government (COFOG) was presented by Mr. Tom Orford (HM Treasury, United Kingdom, Chair of TT-COFOG) and the update of the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) was presented by Ms. Sagé De Clerck (International Monetary Fund).

Outcome of the discussion:

10. The Committee:

- Commended the progress of work of the Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework and its Task Teams towards the update of the SEEA Central Framework, in particular the structured and collaborative approach and a phased timeline for drafting and consultation.
- Welcomed the development of the Scoping Notes that aim to clarify the issues and identify the research questions to be addressed in the Guidance Notes.
- Emphasized the importance of broader visibility and input on the Scoping Notes before they are finalized, thus suggested that in addition to the review by the Technical Committee and the Scoping notes would also be circulated to the broader Committee as well as GFS and COFOG groups to ensure inclusiveness and alignment.
- Appreciated the efforts to coordinate the research agenda across the revision processes of GFS, COFOG and SEEA Central Framework and encouraged continued coordination especially on issues that are common across the revision processes.
- Recognized the critical role of financial and in-kind support from Eurostat, International Monetary Fund, participating countries and other international organizations, and encouraged further contributions from members.

Agenda item 4: Updates from the London Group

11. This session included a presentation from Mr. Sven Kaumanns (DESTATIS, Chair of the London Group) on the activities of the London Group and its coordination with the Committee to support and advance the update of the SEEA Central Framework.

Outcome of the discussion:

12. The Committee:

- Welcomed the ongoing coordination and collaboration with the London Group, in particular, in advancing the research agenda for the SEEA Central Framework update.
- Took note of the proposed review of the mandate of the London Group and recommended that, to ensure complementarity and coherence, the new mandate takes into account the mandates of the UNCEEA working groups.
- Expressed support for renaming the group to the “London Group on Environmental-Economic Accounting” to reflect its alignment with the SEEA and its broader scope.
- Noted that the next meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia in September 2025 and will prioritize discussions on SEEA Central Framework update issues, integrating related papers and scoping notes into structured sessions. The 2026 meeting will take place in Guatemala.
- Noted that the hosts of the 2027 and 2028 meetings of the London Group have not been identified yet. Appeal was made for members to volunteer to host one of these meetings.

Agenda item 5: Area B2 – SEEA Ecosystem Accounting

13. This session reviewed progress of Area B2 on the efforts to support the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting implementation through the development of practical guidance notes and methodological guidelines. The session comprised a presentation from Ms. Amanda Driver (South Africa, Area B2 Lead) on the activities of Area B2, an overview by Marko Javorsek (UNSD) on the EU-funded project aimed at operationalizing the compilation of the SEEA-related headline indicators for the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and a presentation on the GBF monitoring framework by Mr. Kieran Mooney (Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity).

Outcome of the discussion:

14. The Committee:

- Welcomed the progress of work of the Technical Committee on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting over the past year and supported the proposed work plan focusing on (1) developing practical guidance notes for countries for the compilation of SEEA Ecosystem Accounting; (2) supporting the development of SEEA related headline indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF); (3) contributing to the update of the SEEA Central Framework; (5) engaging with relevant initiatives; and (6) promoting the community of practice on ecosystem accounting.
- Welcomed UNSD's EU-funded project on the SEEA-related headline indicators of the GBF as an important initiative to advance the work in this area.
- Supported the re-establishment of a Task Team to support the development of operational guidelines for these indicators, highlighting the complexity of constructing and interpreting ecosystem service indices, particularly regarding aggregation, weighting, and the potential for misleading trends.
- Recommended that, given the importance of the operational guidelines, a broad consultation process and in-country testing be undertaken to ensure their robustness and relevance.
- Highlighted the relevance of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting to plural value perspectives on ecosystems and biodiversity, in line with the multiple value perspectives of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the GBF.
- Noted that, due to the ongoing update of the SEEA Central Framework and limited resources at both international and national levels—including within UNSD—the working groups on forest and ocean ecosystem accounting are currently dormant and may be revitalized once resources are available.
- Welcomed the offer from Area D to collaborate on activities related to capacity building such as, for example, the development of training materials on the operational guidelines for both online and in-person sessions, leveraging regional

hubs and technical support centres, and also activities targeted to the Network of SEEA National Focal Points.

- Noted with interest the development of the Ecosystem Services Accounting Compatibility Assessment Tool (ESA-CAT) and the ongoing efforts of the Technical Committee to finalize and disseminate it more broadly.
- Appreciated the efforts of the Technical Committee to coordinate with related initiatives—particularly Global Ecosystem Atlas, the World Ecosystem Extent Dynamics (WEED) project, and ARIES for SEEA—to foster synergies and avoid duplication.

Agenda item 6: Area C – Development of Global Databases for SEEA

15. This session reviewed the work of Area C in compiling global databases for air emissions, energy, land, material flow and water accounts and discussed priority areas for the next five years. Mr. Roberto Astolfi (OECD, Area C Lead) gave a presentation on the activities of Area C.

Outcome of the discussion:

16. The Committee:

- Commended the progress made by Area C in advancing global data collection and dissemination for air emission accounts, physical energy flow accounts, and material flow accounts, as well as the ongoing feasibility studies on water accounts and pilot test on land cover accounts.
- Proposed adoption of option 2 as presented in the report of Area C, i.e., identifying new priority accounts from the SEEA Central Framework or Ecosystems Accounting and carrying out a feasibility study in view of the future implementation of global databases, and recommended that the feasibility work on new accounts should not wait for the SEEA Central Framework update to conclude.
- Agreed to continue enhancing the quality, timeliness and geographical coverage of the air emission, physical energy flow and material flow account data collection and, if feasible, develop estimates based on methods discussed with the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee to fill the gaps and provide a complete global database.
- Agreed to discontinue the efforts to collect land cover accounts through a global questionnaire and further complete the feasibility study on physical water accounts (resources constraints permitting).
- Suggested an assessment on the feasibility of a data collection exercise on environmental protection expenditure accounts (EPEA), ensuring the coverage of expenditure related to biodiversity, and possibly also on environmental tax accounts given their relevance to the GBF and the DGI-3, and recommended to consider the inclusion of adaptation expenditures in addition to mitigation expenditures.

Agenda item 7: Area D – Implementation and Statistical Capacity Building

17. This session included a presentation from Mr. Sokol Vako (UN SIAP, Area D Co-Lead) on the Area D's activities to support SEEA implementation and coordinate capacity-building, along with plans for the coming year.

Outcome of the discussion:

18. The Committee:

- Welcomed the work carried out by Area D in the past year and endorsed its work plan for the 2025-26 period centred around the following areas: (1) coordination of capacity building and implementation activities; (2) organization of activities for the SEEA Focal Point network; and (3) organization and conduct of the 2025 Global Assessment.
- Noted the importance of organizing activities for the SEEA Focal Point Network to better inform and actively engage members in the work and priorities of the Committee. However, recognizing the resource constraints faced by both international organizations and countries, the Committee recommended that Area D develop a work plan that is feasible and manageable and encouraged Area D to identify opportunities to organize activities with other working groups of the Committee.
- Noted the importance of regional initiatives and communities of practice, such as the Africa community of practice, which can help with mitigating the resource limitations.

Agenda item 8: Election of the Co-Chairs

19. Mr. André Loranger announced his decision to step down as Chair of the UNCEEA due to new responsibilities at Statistics Canada and internationally. A call for expressions of interest was made to members of the UNCEEA and its Bureau and, based on the interest received, the UNCEEA Bureau proposed the election of Ms. Jacqui Vitas (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and Ms. Piedad Urdinola Contreras (DANE, Colombia) as the new Co-Chairs of the UNCEEA. The UNCEEA welcomed the proposal and elected the two new Co-Chairs.

20. The session concluded with expressions of gratitude to Mr. Loranger for his leadership.

Annex I: Agenda

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

7:30 – 7:40: Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting

7:40 – 8:00: Update from the 56th session United Nations Statistical Commission (Committee Chair)

This session will review the outcome of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 56th session and discuss implications for the work of the Committee.

8:00 – 9:00: Area A – Coordination and communication (Area lead: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

The session will review the work of Area A in coordinating with other relevant groups of experts to promote consistency and coherence with the Committee's and to mainstreaming the SEEA in relevant initiatives. Presentations on relevant selected initiatives or groups of experts are planned, with discussion focusing on identifying potential areas collaboration, coordination and methods of engagement.

9:00 – 9:10: Break

9:10 – 10:40: Area B1 – SEEA Central Framework (Area lead: Statistics Netherlands)

The session will discuss the update of the SEEA Central Framework, focusing on the work done by Area B1 and its task teams and the work planned towards the updated SEEA Central Framework. The session will also provide an overview of relevant related revisions processes, such as COFOG and GFS.

10:40 – 11:00: Updates from the London Group (Chair of the London Group)

This session will review the activities of the London Group and its coordination with the Committee to support and advance the update of the SEEA Central Framework.

Thursday, 26 June 2025

7:30 – 7:50: Review of previous day's conclusions

7:50 – 8:50: Area B2 – SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (Area lead: South Africa)

This session will review Area B2's efforts to support the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting implementation through the development of practical guidance notes and methodological guidelines. The session will also provide an overview of the EU-funded project aimed at operationalizing the compilation of the SEEA-related headline indicators for the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework (GBF). A presentation on the GBF monitoring framework will also be made by the Convention of Biological Diversity Secretariat.

8:50 – 9:00: Break

9:00 – 9:45: Area C – Development of global databases for SEEA (Area lead: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

This session will review the progress made in compiling global databases for air emissions, energy, land, material flow and water accounts and discuss priority areas for the next five years.

9:45 – 10:30: Area D – Implementation and statistical capacity building (Area leads: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific)

This session will review the activities of the working group to support SEEA implementation and coordinate capacity-building activities, along with plans for the coming year.

10:30 – 10:50: Election of the Co-Chairs (Committee Chair)

10:50 – 11:00: Closing remarks

Annex II: List of participants

Countries

Australia

Jonathon Khoo (Area A Lead)
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Jacqui Vitas
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Brazil

Sandra De Carlo
Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística

Rebeca de La Rocque Palis
Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística

Ivone Lopes Batista
Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística

Canada

André Loranger (Chair)
Statistics Canada

Augustine Akuoko-Asibey
Statistics Canada

Gabriel Gagon
Statistics Canada

China

Shi Faqi
National Bureau of Statistics

Colombia

Andrea Camila Pereira Vergara
Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística

Paula Andrea Acevedo
Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística

Denmark

Ole Gravgård
Statistics Denmark

Estonia

Kaia Oras
Statistics Estonia

Finland

Johanna Pakarinen
Statistics Finland

France

Jean-Louis Pasquier
Ministère de la Transition écologique, de la Biodiversité, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de la Pêche

Germany

Sven Kaumanns (London Group Chair)
Federal Statistical Office of Germany

India

Neha Singh
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Italy

Aldo Femia
National Statistical Institute

Angelica Tudini
National Statistical Institute

Jamaica

Cherice Bryan
The Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Malaysia

Mohd Azam Aidil Ab Aziz
Department of Statistics Malaysia

Fariza Kambut
Department of Statistics Malaysia

Mexico

Virginia Natalia Del Campo Sanchez
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Raúl Figueroa Díaz
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Jesarela López Aguilar
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Mauricio Márquez Corona
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Héctor David Olguín rojas
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Norway

Martin Lundeby Grimstad
Statistics Norway

Trine Randen
Statistics Norway

Philippines

Virginia Bathán
Philippine Statistics Authority

Mark Pascasio
Philippine Statistics Authority

Saudi Arabia

Abdullah Al Thunayan
General Authority for Statistics

Abdullah Alyabes
General Authority for Statistics

Russian Federation

Igor Repin
Federal State Statistics Service

Sofia Tereshkovich
Federal State Statistics Service

South Africa

Riaan Grobler
Statistics South Africa

Robert Parry
Statistics South Africa

Amanda Driver (Area B2 Lead)
Independent consultant

Sweden

Nils Brown
Statistics Sweden

The Netherlands

Sjoerd Schenau (Area B1 Lead)
Statistics Netherlands

United Kingdom

Sonia Carrera
Office for National Statistics

Richard Heys
Office for National Statistics

Jonny Mudge
Office for National Statistics

Kirsten Newton
Office for National Statistics

Tom Orford
HM Treasury

United States

Dennis Fixler
U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change

Alessio Bulckaen

International Organizations

Eurostat

Arturo De la Fuente Nuno

European Environment Agency

Roberta Pignatelli

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Alessandra Alfieri

Justine Ayebare

Sagé De Clerck

Steffi Schuster

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Roberto Astolfi (Area C Lead)

Miguel Cárdenas Rodríguez

Bopha Chhun

Bram Edens

Ivan Haščič

Pearl Herrero

Santaro Sakata

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

Kieran Noonan Mooney

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)

Sokol Vako (Area D Co-Lead)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Ekaterina Poleshchuk

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

David Boko

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Michael Nagy

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Ida Bjoerk

Teerapong Praphotjanaporn

United Nations Statistics Division

Stefan Schweinfest

Elsa Begné De Larrea

Robin Carrington

Ilaria Di Matteo

Pedro Farinas

Emil Ivanov

Marko Javorsek

Marcus Newbury

Reena Shah

Carl Obst (SEEA Editor)

World Bank

Matias Piaggio

Juan Pablo Valdez