Initial thoughts on a Global Strategy for the Implementation of the SEEA Central Framework

Ivo Havinga
United Nations Statistics Division
Outline

• Purpose of paper
• Objective of the strategy
• Role of the UNCEEA
• Principles of the strategy
Purpose of the paper

• Initial thoughts on a global strategy for the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework
• Context for discussion at the UNCEEA on the global implementation strategy and possibly
• Contours of an organisational structure for the formulation of such strategy
Objective of the strategy

Twofold:

• to assist countries in the adoption of the SEEA Central Framework as the measurement framework for environmental-economic accounts and supporting statistics

• to establish incrementally the technical capacity for regular reporting on a minimum set of environmental-economic statistics, tables and accounts with the appropriate scope, detail and quality.
Role of the UNCEEA

• its programme of work contains the area of “implementation and statistical capacity building” with the objective “to develop concerted implementation strategies encompassing relevant supporting statistics and their integration in SEEA”.

• the UNCEEA should clarify its role in the overall implementation of the SEEA

• the UNCEEA a body of UNSC should consider possible partnerships
Principles of the strategy

Three main principles guiding the strategy:

- Strategic planning
- Monitoring, coordination and reporting
- Improving statistical systems

- Seek synergies with other global statistical initiative like 2008 System of National Accounts
Strategic planning

This principle pertains to strategic analysis, choice and implementation:

At international level:
• strategic partnerships between international and regional agencies, UN regional commissions and countries

At national level:
• Establishment of national assessment (preferred system wide)
• Development of national vision/strategy
• Formulation of national implementation plan
National assessments

Common diagnostic tools to be developed for:

• Evaluation of the existing institutional arrangements for managing integrated statistics like
  – legislative, operation and process management frameworks
  – coordination and governance arrangements like advisory committees, service level agreements
  – human and financial resources.
National assessments

Common diagnostic tools to be developed for:

- Evaluation of the existing statistical production processes which cover the components of:
  - the use of agreed standards and scientific statistical methods, data editing, metadata and data warehousing and data quality frameworks
  - business registers and frames
  - use of survey and administrative data sources
  - dissemination and communication practices.
Development of strategic vision

• Common guidance to be developed for drafting strategic vision (for consultation, political motivation and resource mobilization) consisting of following components:
  – overall mission of statistical program of work: e.g. information on environmental sustainability with minimum set of SEEA statistics, tables and accounts
  – goals: e.g. be cost effective, reduce response burden, meet statistical needs with improved scope, detail and quality, link to economic accounts, promote use of statistics, etc.
  – main desired actions: description identified needs and gaps in institutional and statistical environment for national assessments
Formulation of national implementation plan

- Common guidance to be developed for drafting implementation plans for SEEA modules with following components based on missions, goals and actions detailed in the vision:
  - Outcomes
  - Outputs
  - Activities
  - Performance indicators
  - Time schedule
  - Financial and human resources
Monitoring, coordination and reporting

- This principle covers the actual implementation of the programme of work
- Three distinct stages in a multi-year programme that takes into account the different levels of statistical development.
  - Stage I: Undertaking national assessments and formulating national visions and implementation programmes;
  - Stage II: Adapting institutional arrangements and statistical production process;
  - Stage III. Applying adapted institutional arrangements and statistical production process and release of environmental–economic statistics, tables and accounts.
Monitoring, coordination and reporting

• Common monitoring tools to be developed for measuring:
  – scope and detail of implementation through the identification of minimum required data sets by specific SEEA modules
  – compliance with SEEA concepts for specific SEEA modules
  – data quality assurance frameworks for specific SEEA modules
Monitoring, coordination and reporting

Additional reporting tools and mechanisms to be developed:

• Common questionnaires/core tables to be developed for country reporting
• Data exchange mechanisms to be agreed to between international and regional agencies
Improving statistical systems

• This principle relates to the strengthening of the institutional arrangements and each of the building blocks of the statistical production process for SEEA modules

• UNCEEA could consider a programme of work for specific SEEA modules in progressively providing:
  – modular classroom and e-learning training courses
  – compilation guidance and handbooks
  – advocacy material
  – web-based knowledge base on methods and country practices in environmental-economic accounting, sourced from and hyperlinked to other relevant organizations
Questions to UNCEEA

• Q1. Considering the limited human and financial resources of the national and international statistical community, which priorities for the implementation strategy should be set?

• Q2. What are the mechanisms for UNCEEA to coordinate the activities from various international organisations?

• Q3. Should a UNCEEA sub-committee be set up to work out further details of the global implementation strategy?
Thank you!

seea@un.org