



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

Draft SEEA-Energy

Comment Form

Comment Form: Draft SEEA-Energy

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on SEEA-Energy 5-7 October 2011

Deadline for responses: 27 September 2011

Send responses to: seea@un.org

Your name:	Click here and enter your name
Your country/organization:	Click here and enter your country/organization
Contact (e.g. email address):	Click here and enter your contact information

To submit responses please save this document and send it as an attachment to the following e-mail address: seea@un.org.

The comment form is designed to draw out views of Expert Group members on various aspects of chapters of draft SEEA-Energy. A summary report of these responses will be presented at the meeting of the Expert Group to be held 5-7 October 2011. Please note however that individual responses to this questionnaire will not be made public; either in the summary report or on the UNSD site.

Relevant documents

Before submitting responses you are encouraged to read the draft chapters of SEEA-Energy. These are available from the following link:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seeae/chapterList.asp>

Part I: General comments

In the box below please supply any general comments on the overall structure of the draft SEEA-Energy, the balance of material and its coverage; including any thoughts on missing content.

Comments on the overall style, tone and readability of the text are also welcome.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Part II : Specific Chapters of the draft SEEA-Energy

Draft Chapter 1: Introduction

Question 1: Purpose of SEEA-Energy and its relationship to other relevant frameworks

Does Chapter 1 give a good overview of the purpose of SEEA-Energy and its relationship to: the central framework of the SEEA; to the 2008 SNA; and to IRES?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 2: Target audience of SEEA-Energy

Please comment on who you consider to be the target audience of SEEA-Energy. Please also state whether you believe the draft SEEA-Energy successfully reaches this target audience.

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Draft Chapter 2: The SEEA-Energy Framework

Question 3: Explaining use of terms ‘economy’ and ‘environment’ in SEEA-Energy

SEEA-Energy is an integrated information system that commences with a view of physical energy resources and related physical flows of energy. It then defines the boundary between the broader grouping physical energy resources and those resources which are also economic assets. It also elaborates on those energy flows moving from the environment into economic production processes; subsequent use within economic production processes; and subsequent flow from these processes back to the physical environment. Thus, for example, draft SEEA-Energy is able to describe various flows as being ‘from the environment to the economy’; ‘within the economy’; or ‘from the economy to the environment’. Similarly, certain energy resources are economic assets and others are not.

In this context, a key requirement of SEEA-Energy is to elaborate on and clarify the boundary in two important areas. Firstly, between the broader notion of physical energy resources and energy resources meeting the definition of economic assets. And secondly, on energy flowing *from* the environment into economic production; *to* the environment from economic production and purely *within* economic production processes. Do you consider that SEEA-Energy successfully achieves this?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 4: Describe and explain Supply and Use tables

Supply and use tables are a fundamental tool in SEEA-Energy and are used throughout the document. Should a dedicated description of supply and use tables be placed in Chapter 2 of SEEA-Energy? (Alternatively, a simple reference to the text contained in the central framework of the SEEA may suffice – please comment if this is your preference.)

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 5: Other comments

Please comment on any other aspects of Chapter 2 The SEEA Energy Framework. You may wish to make general observations on whether Chapter 2 provides sufficient overview of the SEEA-Energy framework, and its coverage of accounting structure and concepts. Please also feel free to comment on specific issues, for example, on whether the chapter requires further elaboration of various accounting principles and techniques used in SEEA-Energy.

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Draft Chapter 3: Physical Asset Accounts

Question 6: Standard International Energy Classification (SIEC)

The Standard International Energy Classification (SIEC) provides the classification of energy products which are used in the general physical supply and use tables for energy products (and for inventories of products in the asset accounts). While no classification system will be perfect, concerns have been raised about the concordance between SIEC and ISIC which could, for example, hamper the use of hybrid accounts. Is SIEC the most suitable classification for use in these tables?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 7: SEEA-Energy classification of energy resources and correspondence to the general SEEA classification of natural resources

Within the SEEA general classification of natural resources, energy resources are included as the aggregate category 'EA.11 Mineral and Energy Resources' – which is itself part of the broader 'EA.1 Natural Resources'.

However, to further clarify matters, those natural resources which are also energy resources, are classified separately in SEEA-Energy. Table 3.1 in Chapter 3 presents this classification and shows its correspondence to the overall SEEA classification of natural resources. Did you find this correspondence useful?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 8: Other comments

Do you have any other comments on Chapter 3 Physical Asset Accounts including any comments on the readability of the chapter, its structure, balance of material and the coverage of the chapter including any thoughts on missing content?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Draft Chapter 4: Monetary Asset Accounts

Question 9: Should monetary energy assets include both ‘Proven’ and ‘Probable’ resources?

Within Table 4.1 of Chapter 4 of the draft SEEA-Energy, the SEEA-E classification category ‘A. Commercial Energy Resources’ is commonly referred to as “Proven” resources; ‘B. Potential Commercial Energy Resources’ as “Probable” resources; and ‘C. Non Commercial and Other Known Deposits’ as “Possible”. Following global consultation, it was decided that the draft central framework of the SEEA should include ‘probable’ as well as ‘proven’ resources within scope of the economic assets. At present, the draft SEEA-Energy includes only “Proven” resources in scope. Should SEEA-Energy adopt the same scope as the central framework of the SEEA?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 10: Consistent use of NPV measurement in SEEA and SEEA-Energy

The central framework of the SEEA and SEEA-Energy both recommend valuation of energy resources using NPV (where market values are unavailable). However, SEEA and SEEA-Energy have developed differences in their approaches; for example, SEEA-Energy adopts an approach in which all components of physical changes in stock levels (discoveries, reappraisals etc.) are valued through the NPV asset valuation model. Should the central framework of the SEEA and SEEA-Energy recommend consistent NPV methodology?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 11: Joint ownership of energy resources

This can be an important issue for countries where the government receives payment from extractors in relations to mineral and energy resources. It is particularly important for the SEEA which aims to record the depletion of these resources against the accounts of the extractor and to show the effect of depletion on the net worth of the economic owners reflecting that both are beneficiaries of the resources. Under certain defined circumstances, the central framework of the SEEA recommends partitioning of assets based on their share of the future stream of resource rent. Should SEEA-Energy recommend consistent treatment?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 12: Other comments

Do you have any other comments on Chapter 4 Monetary Asset Accounts including any comments on the readability of the chapter, its structure, balance of material and the coverage of the chapter including any thoughts on missing content?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Draft Chapter 5: Physical Flow Accounts

Question 13: Use of simplified supply and use tables

Draft SEEA-Energy includes simplified supply and use tables (e.g. tables 5.1 and 5.2) which omit both residuals on the use side, and energy resources on the supply side. The alternative, as used in the draft central framework of the SEEA, is to include all flows from both supply and use sides. Do you agree with the use of simplified supply and use tables?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 14: Other comments

Do you have any other comments on Chapter 5 Physical Flow Accounts including any comments on the readability of the chapter, its structure, balance of material and the coverage of the chapter including any thoughts on missing content?

You may also wish to comment on specific technical matters, for example, the draft SEEA-Energy shows flows of renewable energy only in the form of output of products. Do you think it may be preferable to show, as the draft central framework of SEEA does, flows of renewable energy as energy resources (natural inputs)?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Draft Chapter 6: Monetary and Hybrid Flow Accounts

Question 16: Treatment of goods sent abroad for processing

In the 2008 SNA the treatment of goods sent abroad for processing was amended such that if the goods sent abroad remain in the ownership of the business sending the goods and the processor is paid a manufacturing fee, then the required monetary accounting entries relate only to the payment of the manufacturing fee, recorded as the export of a service for the processing country. This treatment means that the actual physical movement of goods into and out of the processing country is not reflected in the monetary accounts.

The central framework of the SEEA requires a treatment for the physical flow accounts so that the actual physical flows are recorded. Do you think the SEEA-Energy should also adopt this approach?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 17: Sequence of accounts

Within the draft SEEA-Energy should the sequence of accounts be aligned with the sequence of accounts as used in the central framework of the SEEA (to the extent that this is possible and useful)?

Yes _____ No _____ No opinion _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 18: Other comments

Do you have any other comments on Chapter 6 Monetary and Hybrid Flow Accounts including any comments on the readability of the chapter, its structure, balance of material and the coverage of the chapter including any thoughts on missing content?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Draft Chapter 7: Presentation and Use of Energy Accounts

Question 19: How helpful is Chapter 7 of draft SEEA-Energy?

Chapter 7 of draft SEEA-Energy provides guidance on the presentation and use of energy accounts – is this guidance helpful?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 20: Draft SEEA-Energy potential to inform policies aimed at managing carbon emissions

Climate change is possibly the most prominent environmental issue of our time. The evaluation of policies to manage carbon emissions (e.g. schemes that use tradable permits to control carbon emissions) can best be undertaken using integrated environmental and economic information. Since energy-related emissions are a critical component of total carbon emissions, do you think that Chapter 7 of SEEA-Energy should explicitly guide the use of information in this policy area?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Question 21: Other comments

Do you have any other comments on Chapter 7 Presentation and use of Energy Accounts including any comments on the readability of the chapter, its structure, balance of material and the coverage of the chapter including any thoughts on missing content?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)

Annexes and Glossary

Question 22: Comments on the Annexes and Glossary

Do you have any comments on the draft Annexes and Glossary and/or any suggestions for additional items in the Glossary?

Yes _____ **No** _____ **No opinion** _____

Please include any comments in the text box below.

Click here and start typing (The length of your response is not limited by this text box.)