

Fifth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Minutes of the Meeting (United Nations, New York, 23-25 June 2010)

1. The Fifth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was hosted in New York on 23-25 June 2010. It was opened by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and chaired by Mr. Peter Harper, Chair of UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician.
2. The Fifth Meeting of the UNCEEA discussed progress made in solving the issues in the issue list and in the drafting of the chapters of Volume 1 of the revised SEEA, the issues for Volume 2 and selected topics related to Volume 3 on the applications of the SEEA. In particular, the meeting discussed the contribution of the SEEA to climate change analyses and to sustainable consumption and production. Furthermore, the use of the SEEA for the calculation of the Ecological Footprint was also discussed. The meeting discussed progress made in energy accounts and statistics.
3. A list of tasks and activities to be undertaken by the UNCEEA as agreed during the meeting is presented in Annex I. The organization of work and list of participants is included in Annexes II and III respectively.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting

Summary of the statements:

4. In their opening statements, both Mr. Harper and Mr. Cheung reaffirmed the strong support expressed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-first session in February 2010 for the project on the revision of the SEEA. Many countries at the Statistical Commission expressed their satisfaction with progress made. The appointment of the Editor and the Editorial Board marked the new phase in the revision process with the discussion on the issues close to completion and the beginning of the consultation phase.
5. Mr. Harper and Mr. Cheung stressed that the next six months are critical for the success of the project. A milestone will be the submission of the agreed recommendations on the 21 issues in the issue list for Volume 1 to the Statistical Commission for endorsement.
6. Both speakers addressed the need to better communicate the benefits of the environmental-economic accounts both within the statistical community and beyond. The benefits of compiling the accounts are not as well understood as it is wished for. The consultation process provides an opportunity to engage the statistical community and other stakeholders. Both Mr. Harper and Mr. Cheung encouraged the UNCEEA to

develop a communication strategy to bridge this gap. A clear message of why to compile accounts would be key for the implementation in countries.

7. Both Mr. Cheung and Mr. Harper stressed that the preparation of the "glossy" publications and the drafting of Volume 3 will be important contributions in the communication strategy to be developed.

8. Mr. Harper noted that the newly established process on the revision on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) is a complementary process to the revision of the SEEA considering that most of the data needed for the compilation of the SEEA will come from the FDES.

Agenda Item 2 – Revision of the SEEA- Volume 1 (for discussion)

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Noted that the timeline for the revision of the SEEA is tight but agreed with the timeline proposed. It urged all stakeholders to make every effort to stick to the timeline to ensure the timely submission of the set of recommendations on the issues of Volume 1 to the Statistical Commission in 2011 and Volume 1 in 2012.*
- *Recommended to modify the process map to include the names of the members on the editorial board.*
- *Agreed that NSOs should be the focal points for the global consultation on the issues and the chapters of Volume 1 of the revised SEEA. The Chair of the UNCEEA and the Director of UNSD will send a letter to all statistical agencies informing them on the consultation process and requesting their assistance in coordinating the consultation with relevant stakeholders.*
- *Recommended that Regional Commissions would facilitate the consultation process through reaching out to the countries and making every effort to translate the note summarizing the issue and the outcome of the discussion accompanying the outcome paper. The UNCEEA stressed the importance of maintaining the focus on Volume 1 as “satellite” of the System of National Accounts maintaining close links to its concepts, definitions and classifications.*
- *Urged the London Group to complete the outcome papers for Volume 1 according to the schedule.*
- *Recommended that the revised SEEA present both the economic and ecosystem approaches as complementary systems integrated in the SEEA framework. It noted that the economic approach, the satellite to the SNA would be presented as the statistical standard in Volume 1. The conceptual framework for the ecosystem approach will be presented in Volume 2 and it could become a very important extension of the SEEA and therefore should be integrated .*

- *Requested the World Bank, the European Environment Agency and UNSD to develop a road map for Volume 2 to be discussed first by the Bureau and presented at the next meeting of the UNCEEA in June 2011.*
- *Requested UNSD to edit the paper on the economic and ecosystem approaches to the environment and its links to the economy taking into account the discussions that took place during the meeting and circulate the paper before the next UNCEEA meeting.*

Summary of discussion:

2a. Process map for the drafting and completion of Volume 1 of the revised SEEA *(Carl Obst, SEEA Editor)*

9. The presentation informed the Committee on the progress made on the SEEA revision. It highlighted the steps to be undertaken in the next 6 months to develop the recommendation on the issues in the issue list for submission to the Statistical Commission 2011. The steps include: (a) finalization of all outcome papers by the London Group; (b) global consultation on the outcome papers upon agreement by the editorial board; (c) finalization of the outline of Volume 1 including specifying the boundaries with Volume 2 and Volume 3; (d) develop a coherent set of recommendations for all the issues; and (e) commencing drafting the chapters.

10. The UNCEEA agreed with the process map and timeline proposed in the presentation. It requested to add in the process map the names of the members of the editorial board. The UNCEEA noted that although the timeline is tight, it is feasible. It reaffirmed that every effort should be made by everyone involved to maintain it to ensure the delivery of a coherent set of recommendations to the Statistical Commission in 2011 and Volume 1 in 2012. To this end, the Committee recommended to maintain the focus on completing Volume 1 and requested the editor and the editorial board to prepare a more detailed time schedule covering each individual issue.

11. With regard to the global consultation on the issues and the chapters of Volume 1, the UNCEEA recommended that the NSOs be the focal points for the global consultation on the outcome papers and chapters of the revised SEEA. The UNCEEA considered the consultation process an opportunity for NSOs to establish a coordination mechanism within the countries. It recommended that NSOs be proactive in identifying relevant groups and coordinating inputs from stakeholders within the statistical community and beyond including policy makers. Agencies consulted should be reported to the UNCEEA Secretariat in order to keep the consultation process as transparent as possible. The UNCEEA requested that a letter be sent to all statistical agencies informing them on the consultation process and requesting their assistance in coordinating the consultation with relevant stakeholders.

12. The Regional Commissions will facilitate the consultation by reaching out to the countries in the respective regions and will make every effort to translate the cover notes introducing and summarizing the issues.

2b. Progress report of London Group *(Mark de Haan, Chair London Group)*

13. The UNCEEA congratulated the London Group with the progress made in solving the issues in the issue list. It urged the London Group to complete the outcome papers

according to the schedule presented to ensure timely global consultation and preparation of a coherent set of recommendations.

14. The UNCEEA discussed the future role of the London Group in the revision process. It concluded that the role of the London Group concerning the revision process of SEEA Volume 1 should end once all the outcome papers are completed. The members of the London Group would still be involved in the global consultation on the issues and on the text of the chapters.

15. The UNCEEA discussed the involvement of the London Group in the preparation of Volume 2 and 3. It recognized that the London Group could provide an advisory role in developing Volume 2 mainly related to its expertise on official statistics. As for Volume 3, the London Group could actively contribute to the text on the applications of the SEEA considering that there is substantial experience in countries on the use of the SEEA accounts.

2c. Integrating the economic and ecosystem approach to the environment in the revised SEEA (Alessandra Alfieri, UNSD)

16. The UNCEEA discussed the paper and considered it important to have a discussion on the ecosystem approach as a useful way to look at the contribution of the environment to the economy and the pressures from the economy. The UNCEEA discussed how the economic and ecosystem approaches could be exemplified and presented in the revised SEEA as complementary systems integrated in the SEEA framework.

17. The UNCEEA considered important to clearly articulate what Volume 1 provides and what instead will be included in Volume 2. In particular, it suggested that Volume 1 will discuss the economic approach which constitutes the statistical standard and is the satellite of the SNA while Volume 2 will present a conceptual framework for the ecosystem approach acknowledging that this is still an evolving area.

18. The UNCEEA welcomed the proposal of UNEP to work with the UNCEEA on further developing the ecosystem approach, considering the experience in TEEB and the recent establishment of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), an independent platform which will in many ways mirror the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) responsible for bridging the gulf between the wealth of scientific knowledge – documenting accelerating declines and degradation of the natural world – and the decisive government action required to reverse these damaging trends.

19. The UNCEEA stressed the importance of maintaining the focus on Volume 1 as “satellite” of the System of National Accounts maintaining close links to its concepts, definitions and classifications.

20. The UNCEEA requested the World Bank, the European Environment Agency and UNSD to develop a road map for Volume 2 to be discussed first by the Bureau and presented at the next meeting of the UNCEEA in June 2011.

21. The UNCEEA requested UNSD to edit the paper to take into account the discussions that took place during the meeting and circulate the paper before the next UNCEEA meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Revision of the SEEA - Volume 2 *(for discussion)*

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Requested its members to provide comments on the classification of ecosystem services to the European Environment Agency.*
- *Requested the World Bank to develop a list of issues on valuation for discussion at the next London Group meeting, prepare a new draft of the paper submitted by the consultant Giles Atkinson as soon as possible and reconvene the meeting scheduled to take place in April 2010.*

Summary of discussion:

3a. Classification of ecosystem services *(Jean-Louis Weber, European Environment Agency)*

22. The UNCEEA concluded that the exercise led by EEA to develop a classification of ecosystem services (CICES) was very useful and promising. There was agreement that the classification of ecosystem services was a candidate for inclusion in Volume 2 of the SEEA. The discussion on the classification was still on-going and members of the UNCEEA were invited to send comments to EEA.

3b. Valuation and greening the national accounts: significance, challenges and initial practical steps *(Glenn-Marie Lange, World Bank)*

23. The UNCEEA discussed the way forward on the valuation of degradation and ecosystem services. It considered urgent that a list of issues be developed to ensure the timely delivery of Volume 2. It expressed concerns for the uncertainties expressed by the World Bank to advance the agenda on valuation. Valuation has been a controversial issue in the past and issues related to valuation should be put on the table at an early stage to avoid problems in the future.

24. The UNCEEA urged the World Bank to prepare a list of issues for Volume 2 for discussion at the next London Group meeting, prepare a new draft of the paper submitted by the consultant Giles Atkinson as soon as possible and reconvene the meeting scheduled to take place in April 2010 to establish a dialogue with the academic community at an early stage. The World Bank will communicate to the UNCEEA its plans on continuing leading the agenda on valuation as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 4 – Revision of the SEEA - Volume 3 - Frameworks *(for discussion)*

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Did not reach a conclusion on whether to include the Ecological Footprint or, more in general, composite indicators in Volume 3 and requested that further consideration be given to the issue.*

- *Welcomed the proposal of the World Bank to use the Wealth of Nations publication as a vehicle to communicate and promote the SEEA.*

Summary of discussion:

4a. *Harmonizing the national footprint accounts with the SEEA* (Pablo Muñoz, Global Footprint Network)

25. The Global Footprint Network presented a paper and the proposal to align the National Footprint Accounts database with the SEEA concepts. There was considerable discussion about the proposed Ecological Footprint application.

26. The UNCEEA discussed whether to include the Ecological Footprint and other composite indicators in Volume 3. Policy makers are interested in these indicators and the statistical community has the responsibility to provide the basic data that support the calculation of these indicators. If composite indicators are not included in Volume 3, the scope of the applications of the SEEA would be limited. It should however be noted that the inclusion of such indicators in Volume 3 would not imply endorsement by the statistical community

27. The UNCEEA did not reach a conclusion on whether to include composite indicators in Volume 3 and requested that further consideration be given to the issue.

4b. *Wealth of nations and genuine savings* (Glenn-Marie Lange, World Bank),

28. The World Bank informed the UNCEEA that as part of the project on the wealth of nations and genuine savings, it plans to develop asset accounts in a systematic way in countries starting with mineral and energy accounts.

29. The UNCEEA welcomed the proposal of the World Bank to use the Wealth of Nations publication as a vehicle to communicate and promote the SEEA.

Agenda Item 5 – SEEA-Agriculture and rural development (Pietro Gennari, Food and Agriculture Organization) (for information)

Outcome and actions:

- *The UNCEEA requested FAO to prepare a concrete proposal on the development of the SEEA Agriculture and Rural Development describing its scope and coverage.*

Summary of discussion:

30. This agenda item was presented and discussed through a videoconference link with the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. The presentation was derived from a concept note prepared for the ISI session last year discussing the uses of the SEEA-Agriculture and Rural Development (SEEA-ARD). The Committee noted that there is great demand for linking agriculture and other statistical domains with the environment for which SEEA can provide a framework. In the discussion the interrelationships between economy, environment and society and their implication for agriculture were emphasized noting that because of its important, far-reaching social impact agriculture can not be treated as just another industry.

31. It was acknowledged that the two components, agriculture and rural development present different difficulties for methodological development. Rural development has a broader scope and therefore needs fuller conceptual development and clarification, e.g. linkages with income concepts.

32. FAO made limited use so far of the 1996 System of Economic Accounts for Food and Agriculture (SEAFSA) Manual for capacity reasons. It is resuming activities and will work more actively in economic accounting. It reaffirmed its support to the SEEA revision process and greater involvement in its development in specific areas, namely land and forest classifications and carbon sequestration of forests.

Agenda Item 6 – Revision of the SEEA - Volume 3 – Climate change (for information)

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Recommended that the paper on the SEEA and climate change prepared by Statistics Netherlands be generalized to go beyond the experience of the Netherlands and restructured starting from the presentation of the policy questions and then describing the accounts and the data items needed to answer the policy questions. The paper should stress the value added of integrating the data in the accounting system.*
- *There were discussions due to the information how to engage with the climate change community in particular to advocate the use of official statistics as inputs in the calculation of emission inventories.*
- *UNCEEA discussed the continued involvement in any activity of the statistical community to promote official statistics in the context of climate change.*

Summary of discussion:

6a. SEEA as a framework for assessing policy responses to climate change (Mark de Haan, Statistics Netherlands)

33. The UNCEEA welcomed the paper and considered it an important contribution for the development of Volume 3. It remarked that the paper describes how the various accounts can inform climate change thus focusing more on an audience of statisticians. To address the users, it recommended restructuring the paper starting from the policy questions and presenting which accounts and data items would be needed to answer those questions.

6b. How to improve the bonds between official statistics and climate change (Emission inventories and the link to emission accounts) (Olav Ljones, Statistics Norway)

34. The presentation reviewed the bonds between official statistics and climate change inventories. The role of official statistics in climate change strategies is still unclear. The presentation proposed a three-part structure of climate change and the need for statistics: 1- Meteorology problems, 2 - GHG in the atmosphere and the emission of anthropogenic

GHG, 3 - Impact and adaptation to climate change. The presentation discussed if 3 has been given priority and there is a need for more review of 2. The presentation explained some features of the GHG emission inventories. One conclusion is that the emission calculation procedure uses official statistics combined with other data but that there are some fundamental discrepancies compared with standard procedures in official statistics. This is e.g. linked to the definition of basic units. (e.g. business units). The presentation recommended a process in close contact with UNFCCC/IPCC to review if it will be beneficial for both UNFCCC/IPCC and official statistics to build better bridges between official statistics and climate change inventories.

35. The need to engage with the climate change community and raise awareness of the benefits of integrating emission statistics in the statistical system was stressed.

6c. Climate change and the SEEA – A strategic perspective (Peter Harper, Australian Bureau of Statistics)

36. The presentation reviewed the 13 recommendations on statistics related to climate change prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and broadly accepted by the Statistical Commission in 2009. It argued that the SEEA, complemented by the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) provides the framework for climate change related statistics and largely responds to the needs outlined in the recommendations.

37. The UNCEEA agreed that it should continue to remain involved in any activity of the statistical community to promote official statistics in the context of climate change.

Agenda item 7 – Revision of the SEEA – Volume 3 Green economy and other major policy initiatives

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Followed with interest the work of the OECD on the development of a green growth strategy and of related indicators. The Committee underlined the usefulness of the SEEA as a framework for measuring the relationship between the economy and the environment through efficiency indicators of production, consumption and natural resource use. It noted with satisfaction that the indicators framework of the OECD green growth strategy draws upon the SEEA and recommended that the SEEA be explicitly mentioned as the reference framework for developing indicators., It looked forward to the outcomes of research in this area relevant to the SEEA by OECD.*
- *Welcomed the decision of UNEP to use the SEEA as a basis for assessing transition to a green economy. It requested UNEP to remain in contact with the Bureau of the UNCEEA and UNSD between the Committee's current and next sessions to follow up on activities and UNEP's Green Economy Partnerships.*
- *Agreed with the outline of the "glossy" publication on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and suggested that it should be published by the United Nations rather than DEFRA. It agreed that the publication should start from the*

description of the policy issue and describing the accounts and data items that are needed to inform the particular policy issue.

- *Supported that the "glossy" publication should have broader coverage than the United Kingdom and encouraged members of the UNCEEA to provide examples to be used as inputs. The author will follow up with contributors including UNDSO. As for the timeline, it was noted that it would be useful to have the publication launched during the next Commission of Sustainable Development in May 2011 since SCP is on the agenda.*
- *Acknowledged that in the frame of a sponsorship with the European Union Member States 4 new working groups were established by European Statistical System (in the areas of distribution aspects of SNA; wellbeing aspects; environmental sustainability and cross-cutting issues) and asked be kept informed of their activities.*
- *Noted the suggestion of UNDSO to contribute to the Prep Com to ensure that the SEEA is recognized as the overall framework for monitoring and evaluation of sustainability and the green economy, pertaining to the environment and its relationship with the economy. The UNCEEA encouraged the Bureau to be in contact with the Secretariat of Rio+20.*
- *Recognized that since Volume 3 will not be ready by 2012 in time for the UN Rio+20 Conference, the release of the "glossy" publications around the policy themes gains prominence and work on them shall have priority. In this context it is important to maintain contact between UNCEEA and UNDSO to establish appropriate timeline to feed contributions into the process of the Conference.*
- *Established a subgroup composed of the following members: Inger Eklund, Dennis Fixler, Mark de Haan, Rocky Harris, Myriam Linster, Shri V. Parameswaran. The subgroup should work with the editor, Carl Obst, and UNSD to develop a proposal on the scope and purpose of Volume 3 for discussion by the Bureau and afterwards by the UNCEEA on the following issue. The proposal should covers: a) the focus of Volume 3 (should it be on applications, should it be policy neutral); b) structure and content of Volume 3; c) timing with targets by 2012 (part) 2013 (full); d) status of Volume 3 relating to the standard; and (e) process for endorsement of Volume 3.*

Summary of discussion:

7.a Monitoring progress towards green growth: Indicators for the OECD green growth strategy (Myriam Linster, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)

7.b Green Economy Initiative (Derek Eaton, United Nations Environment Programme)

7.c Environmental accounting applications for sustainable consumption and production policies (Rocky Harris, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom)

7.d Measuring and fostering the progress of societies (Myriam Linster, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)

7.e GDP and beyond – State of play in the European Union (Pedro Diaz, Eurostat)

7.f United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Matthias Bruckner, UNDSO)

38. Under this agenda item 6 papers were discussed. The UNCEEA appreciated the presentations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, Eurostat and UNDSO highlighting various aspects of the green economy and other major policy initiatives. The ensuing discussion generated interesting ideas summarized in the conclusions of the Committee on which the UNCEEA will follow up. The discussion of the papers also contributed to clarifying the views of the Committee on the scope and purpose of Volume 3.

39. The UNCEEA recognized the usefulness of the "glossy" publications for the promotion of the SEEA and suggested that their target audience should not be limited to the statistical community. The publications should also inform broader groups of users of environmental data and include those responsible for monitoring evaluation frameworks on environmental-economic policy. The Committee requested to maintain a balanced presentation of the various "glossy" publications around the different themes (sustainable consumption and production, SEEA for water, climate change) in terms of theory and policy.

40. Before concluding the consideration of agenda item 7, the UNCEEA had an extensive discussion on **the scope and purpose of Volume 3** on which Committee members expressed different views. The discussion covered how to organize Volume 3 around issues and topics explaining the links to the accounts and statistics needed as examples for guidance around tools/accounts to explain how they can be used. The Committee felt that Volume 3 should have a strong orientation towards the promotion of SEEA and support the multipurpose use of the SEEA. There was agreement that the nature of Volume 3 is distinct from that of Volume 1 whereby Volume 1 is the SEEA standard and Volume 3 provides guidance on the use of the SEEA along with the "glossy" publications. Since Volume 3 will be a guidance document, it will be subject to a simpler review process and will not require formal adoption by the Statistical Commission. Some members raised the issue that Volume 3 was a working title of this document and it did not necessarily implied that it would be retained for the publication as a separate volume, others expressed preference for calling the guidance document Volume 3. There was considerable discussion whether there should be a physical volume 3 or a plan to use the UNCEEA web site as a place to post various applications of the SEEA concept. In order to formulate a unified position on Volume 3, the Committee created a subgroup and asked it to report back to the UNCEEA.

Agenda item 8 – Programme of work of the UNCEEA (Oral introduction by UNSD)

The UNCEEA:

- *Urged those agencies that have not submitted their programme of work to do so as soon as possible:*
- *Requested UNSD to revise and reissue the document as orally amended and complete the Annex including the relevant activities of international agencies and Regional Commissions.*

41. Members of the Committee made several suggestions to update and amend the text of the document, in particular for an improved consistency of the priorities of outputs. UNSD will follow up on the suggestions and circulate the revised text to the Committee members for review.

42. It was suggested to consider as part of the work programme of the UNCEEA advance planning for the implementation of SEEA activities related to training of middle level officers who will be involved in the actual compilation work of environmental accounts.

43. In order to prepare the annex containing the relevant activities of other international agencies and Regional Commissions, the UNCEEA urged those agencies that have not yet done so to send their programme of work to UNSD.

Agenda item 9 – Mapping environmental data in Sweden (*Viveka Palm, Statistics Sweden*) (for information)

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Considered the experience of Sweden and similar activities going on in other countries like Canada and Finland valuable. It recommended that such experiences be disseminated broadly. In particular it recommended including an article in the SEEA News and Notes.*
- *Requested Statistics Canada to present the outcome of its exercise at the next UNCEEA meeting.*

44. Statistics Sweden shared its experience in mapping the environmental data. The objective of the exercise was to keep track of which agency is producing what data and who is using it in order to assess gaps, streamline the data collection and improve coordination. Similar efforts are being undertaken by Statistics Canada and Statistics Finland.

45. The UNCEEA considered the Swedish exercise as a good practice and recommended that it be disseminated broadly. Countries embarking on the implementation of the SEEA may find this exercise very useful.

46. The UNCEEA requested Statistics Canada to present the result of their ongoing exercise to map environmental data.

Agenda item 10 – Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (*Eszter Horvath, UNSD*)

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Stressed the importance of ensuring that the FDES and the SEEA are complementary and not competing parts of an integrated system of environment statistics and its links with the economy.*
- *Recommended that the process of the revision of the FDES be followed closely to ensure consistency. It welcomed the invitation to the UNCEEA to become a member of the Expert Group and encouraged the Chair of the UNCEEA to contact the Chair of the Expert Group on the FDES to establish close collaboration.*

Summary of discussion:

47. The presentation of UNSD covered the purpose of the FDES revision, its content, the revision process, and its relation to the revised SEEA. In the discussion UNCEEA members expressed differing views about the outlined FDES and its development plan. The starting point was the concern that by 2012 the statistical community might end up with two competing systems, but it was clarified that the goals of the FDES are complementary to and not in competition with those of the SEEA. The UNCEEA noted that the FDES provides general guidance rather than statistical standard, and that its revision would result in a rather compact, user-friendly document (of about 50 pages). It was stressed that the FDES revision was to be seen as an opportunity for encouraging greater coherence between environment statistics and environmental accounts, and that appropriate coordination would ensure consistency and complementarity with the SEEA.

Agenda item 11 – Energy accounts and statistics (for discussion)

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Urged UNSD to finalize the SEEA-Energy in time for its submission to the Statistical Commission in February 2011. To this end an expert group meeting is planned in November 2010.*
- *Welcomed the progress made in the drafting of IRES and stressed the need to ensure that IRES and the SEEA-Energy are consistent to the extent possible.*
- *Recommended that an implementation strategy covering both IRES and the SEEA-Energy be developed.*
- *Expressed interest in Eurostat's medium term plans for the development of energy accounts, recommended Eurostat to follow the SEEA-Energy and the SEEA and requested to be provided periodic updates.*

Summary of discussion:

11.a SEEA-Energy: Progress report (UNSD)

48. The UNCEEA received an update on the current status of the drafting of the SEEA-Energy. At present all the chapters of the SEEA-E are available in draft form, except for the chapter on applications for which only the annotated outline is available. Because of lack of funding the project had stopped.

49. The UNCEEA underlined that the energy accounts are crucial for the revision of the SEEA. It also stressed the need to ensure that the SEEA-Energy and IRES are consistent to the extent possible and that Eurostat initiative to develop energy accounts is completely aligned with the SEEA-Energy and the SEEA.

50. The UNCEEA noted that finalizing the SEEA-Energy for adoption by the Statistical Commission in 2011 required adequate funding to complete the project. The UNCEEA welcomed the offer of the Federal Statistical Office Germany to look into the possibility of funding the project and of Australia to cover any additional funding beyond Germany's contribution. Depending on the funding situation, the timeline would need to be adjusted taking also into consideration the time needed for the global consultation.

11.b International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (*Ilaria DiMatteo, UNSD*)

51. The UNCEEA was presented with the full text of the draft IRES, prepared in cooperation with the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, which is expected to be submitted for global consultation in July 2010. A brief questionnaire will be prepared to accompany the provisional draft to assist countries in the evaluation of the draft IRES. A summary report of the outcome of the consultation will be prepared in October 2010.

52. The UNCEEA received briefing on the next steps ahead for the completion of IRES. An expert group meeting in November 2010 will review the results of the global consultation and advise on their incorporation into the IRES. The final version of IRES will be submitted for adoption to the February 2011 Statistical Commission by December 2010. In May 2011 the next Oslo Group meeting will discuss the implementation of IRES and the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual.

11.c Activities on energy accounts by Eurostat (*Pedro Diaz, Eurostat*)

53. Eurostat presented a roadmap for the development of energy accounts (also referred to as NAMEA Energy) in the medium term, 2-3 years, comprising 3 phases: (1) Development of methodological standards in close relation to international developments such as SEEA-Energy, IRES, InterEnerStat, SNA/ESA, EU legislation, and IEA/Eurostat Manual; (2) Data collections in testing phase from NSOs on a voluntary basis; and (3) Adding energy accounts to the legal base for environmental accounts.

Agenda item 12 – Implementation of SEEA-Water and International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS) (*Australian Bureau of Statistics*)

Outcome and actions:

The UNCEEA:

- *Welcomed the proposal to develop a “glossy” publication on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water and recommended that the structure of this publication be aligned with that of the “glossy” publication on*

Sustainable Consumption and Production starting from the description of the policy issue and describing the accounts and data items that are needed to inform the particular policy issue.

- *Members were invited to send suggestions and comments about the publication to ABS.*

Summary of discussion:

54. The UNCEEA considered the proposal to develop a “glossy” publication on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water useful to promote the SEEA to governments and other potential users. It recommended that the publication follow a similar structure than the glossy publication on Sustainable Consumption and Production starting from the description of the policy issue and describing the accounts and data items that are needed to inform the particular policy issue.

55. It welcomed the proposal to include the experience of Jordan, which is close to finalize its water accounts. UNCEEA members are requested to send additional comments and contributions directly to the ABS.

56. The UNCEEA was informed about the ESCWA-Water project that has been completed with the involvement of a number of countries in the region and, resources permitting, the implementation is expected to be expanded. ECLAC also informed the UNCEEA that they will be launching a project on the SEEA-Water implementation in selected countries of the region.

57. Under this agenda item, the UNCEEA was informed that the ISI 2011 has a Water Theme Day, co-organized by Eurostat and UNSD with four sessions and two workshops.

Agenda item 13 – Global assessment of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting *(Oral introduction by UNSD)*

Outcome and actions:

- *The UNCEEA recommended that the assessment on the involvement of NSOs on emission inventories planned to be undertaken by UN ECE be expanded to cover a few countries beyond the UN ECE region.*

Summary of discussion:

58. The UNCEEA was informed that because of resource constraints the Phase 2 of the Global Assessment on Air Emission Statistics and Accounts would be delayed.

59. Considering the request of the Conference of European Statistician to develop an assessment on the role of NSOs in air emission inventories, the UNCEEA recommended that ECE undertakes its assessment possibly extending it to a few countries beyond the ECE region.

Agenda item 14 – Report of Groups working under the auspices of or in collaboration with the UNCEEA *(for information)*

Outcome and actions:

- *The UNCEEA thanked for the update in the progress reports of the groups working under the auspices of or in collaboration with the UNCEEA and asked that information reports of the groups continue to be included on the agenda of its next meeting.*

Summary of discussion:

60. The UNCEEA took note that the next meeting of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics planned in February 2011 in Australia.

61. The UNCEEA welcomed UNECE activities in the areas of environmental indicators, climate change and sustainable development statistics and looks forward to an update report.

62. The UNCEEA was informed about the work undertaken by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics as included in its report to the 2010 Statistical Commission. The OECD/Eurostat Task Force on Emission Permits provided an update report. The Committee also received information on OECD work. It discussed the outcome of the OECD Workshop on improving the information base of water management (Zaragoza, Spain 4-7 May 2010).

Agenda item 15 – Conclusion**Outcome and actions:**

- *The Chair of UNCEEA announced the proposed dates of the Sixth Meeting of the UNCEEA: 15-17 June 2011.*

Annex I Time schedule and tasks

The table below outlines the detailed time schedule agreed at the fifth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and the tasks of countries and organizations.

	Tasks	Countries/ organizations	Timeline
1.	Modify the process map to include the names of the members on the editorial board	UNSD	August 2010
2.	Send advance notification letter to all statistical agencies informing them on the global consultation process on the issues and chapters of Volume 1 of the revised SEEA	UNSD and Chair of UNCEEA	July 2010
3.	Translation into official UN languages of the cover notes summarizing issues, accompanying the outcome papers for global consultation and reaching out to countries to facilitate consultations	Regional commissions	September-December 2010
4.	Develop a road map for Volume 2 for the Sixth UNCEEA meeting (after discussion by the Bureau)	World Bank, European Environment Agency, UNSD	June 2011
5.	Finalize the outline of the Volume 1	Editor	As soon as possible
6.	Prepare a more detailed time schedule for each individual issue of Volume 1	Editor and editorial board	As soon as possible
7.	Revise paper on the economic and ecosystem approach to the environment and its links to the economy	UNSD	As soon as possible
8.	Provide comments on the classification of ecosystem services to the European Environment Agency	UNCEEA members	October 2010
9.	Communicate to the UNCEEA the plans on continuing leading the agenda on valuation	World Bank	As soon as possible
10.	Prepare a concrete proposal on the development of the SEEA Agriculture and Rural Development describing its scope and coverage	FAO	June 2011
11.	Revise (generalize) paper on SEEA and climate change to go beyond the experience of the Netherlands and restructure starting from policy questions then presenting the accounts and data items needed to answer those	Statistics Netherlands	June 2011

	questions		
12.	Continue discussion with the Bureau of the UNCEEA and UNSD in-between Committee's sessions to follow up on ecosystem approach and the monitoring and evaluation framework for the green economy	UNEP	On-going
13.	Provide material to DEFRA to be included the glossy publication on sustainable consumption and production	UNSDSD and other UNCEEA members	October 2010
14.	Completion of "glossy" publication on sustainable consumption and production for publication by the UN	DEFRA, with OECD, UNEP and UNSD	December 2010
15.	Provide regular updates on the activities of the working groups in the areas of distribution aspects of SNA; wellbeing aspects; environmental sustainability and bridging environmental accounting and ecosystem approach	Eurostat	June 2011
16.	Maintain contact with the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 (2012)	Bureau of UNCEEA	On-going
17.	Prepare proposal of the Subgroup on the scope and purpose of Vol. 3 for the Bureau of UNCEEA and next UNCEEA meeting	Subgroup on Vol. 3	February 2011 and May 2011
18.	Submit contributions to UNSD on activities of agencies for inclusion in the Annex of the programme of work	All (except those who already did)	As soon as possible
19.	Revise, circulate to the UNCEEA and reissue the Programme of work of the UNCEEA according to the suggested updates	UNSD	As soon as possible
20.	Disseminate the experience of Sweden in mapping environmental data by including an article in the SEEA News and Notes	UNSD	October 2010
21.	Prepare a paper on the results of the ongoing exercise to map environmental data for the next UNCEEA meeting	Statistics Canada	June 2011
22.	Contact the Chair of the Expert Group on the FDES to establish close collaboration as member of the Expert Group	Chair of UNCEEA	As soon as possible
23.	Finalize the SEEA-Energy in time for its submission to the Statistical Commission in February 2011 and organize expert group meeting in November 2010	Donors/ UNSD with consultant	July/ Nov. 2010/ Feb. 2011

24.	Develop implementation strategy covering both IRES and the SEEA-Energy	Oslo Group, London Group, UNSD, Bureau of UNCEEA	On-going
25.	Send suggestions and comments about the “glossy” publication on SEEA for water to ABS	UNCEEA Members	October 2010
26.	Align the structure of the “glossy” publication on SEEA for water with that of the “glossy” publication on Sustainable Consumption and Production starting from the description of the policy issue and describing the accounts and data items and finalize draft	ABS	October 2010
27.	Undertake assessment on emission inventories to cover a few countries beyond the UN ECE region	UN ECE	May 2011
28.	Request update information reports of the Groups working under the auspices of or in collaboration with the UNCEEA for its next meeting	Bureau of UNCEEA	May 2011

Annex II Organization of work

Wednesday, 23 June 2010

Registration of participants (9:30-10:00) – Conference Room E

Morning Session (10:00 – 1:00)

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
 - a. Opening statement by Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division
 - b. Opening remarks by Peter Harper, Chair UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician
 - c. Adoption of the agenda (UNCEEA/5/1)
- 2. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 1 (for discussion)**
 - a. Process map for the drafting and completion of Volume 1 of the revised SEEA (UNCEEA/5/5 by UNSD) and Report of the SEEA editor (Presentation by the SEEA editor)
 - b. Progress report London Group (UNCEEA/5/6 by Chair London Group)
 - c. Integrating the economic and the ecosystem approaches to the environment in the revised SEEA (UNCEEA/5/9 by A. Alfieri, I. Havinga, J. Webb, UNSD)
- 3. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 2 (for discussion)**
 - a. Classification of ecosystem services (UNCEEA/5/7 by European Environment Agency)

Afternoon Session (2:30 – 5:45)

- 3. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 2 (for discussion) (Continued)**
 - b. Valuation and greening the national accounts: significance, challenges and initial practical steps – draft (UNCEEA/5/8 by World Bank)
- 4. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 3 - Frameworks (for discussion)**
 - a. Harmonizing the national footprint accounts with the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (UNCEEA/5/11 by Global Footprint Network)
 - b. Wealth of nations and genuine savings (UNCEEA/5/12 by World Bank)

Reception hosted by the United Nations Statistics Division - Two United Nations Plaza 15th floor (6:00PM)

Thursday, 24 June 2010

Morning Session (8:30 – 9:15) – Conference Room 6 by Videoconference

- 5. SEEA-Agriculture and rural development** (*for information*)
Presentation by Food and Agriculture Organization (UNCEEA/5/26)

Morning Session (9:30 – 12:30) – Conference Room E

- 6. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 3 Climate change and the SEEA** (*for information*)
 - a. SEEA as a framework for assessing policy responses to climate change (UNCEEA/5/13 by Statistics Netherlands)
 - b. Emission inventories and the link with emission accounts (Presentation by Statistics Norway UNCEEA/5/14)
 - c. Climate change and the SEEA – A strategic perspective (UNCEEA/5/15 by Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- 7. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 3 Green economy and other major policy initiatives** (*for discussion*)
 - a. Monitoring progress towards green growth: Indicators for the OECD green growth strategy (UNCEEA/5/16 by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Afternoon Session (2:00 – 5:30)

- 7. Revision of the SEEA – Volume 3 Green economy and other major policy initiatives** (*for discussion*) (Continued)
 - b. Contribution by United Nations Environment Programme (UNCEEA/5/17 by UNEP)
 - c. Environmental accounting applications for sustainable consumption and production policies (UNCEEA/5/18 by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom)
 - d. Measuring and fostering the progress of societies (UNCEEA/5/19 by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)
 - e. GDP and beyond – State of play in the European Union (UNCEEA/5/20 by Eurostat)
 - f. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 (UNCEEA/5/21 by UNDSO)

Friday, 25 June 2010

Morning Session (9:30 – 1:00)

- 8. Programme of work of the UNCEEA** (*for discussion*)
Programme of work of the UNCEEA and the activities of other bodies that work in areas related to environmental accounting and environment statistics for

which the UNCEEA plays a coordination role. (Presentation by UNSD, UNCEEA/5/28)

- 9. Mapping environmental data in Sweden** (*for information*)
Presentation by Statistics Sweden (UNCEEA/5/22)
- 10. Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics** (*for discussion*)(UNCEEA/5/10 by UNSD)
- 11. Energy accounts and statistics** (*for discussion*)
 - a. SEEA-Energy: Progress report (oral introduction, UNSD)
 - b. International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (Draft) (UNCEEA/5/24 by UNSD)
 - c. Activities on energy accounts by Eurostat (UNCEEA/5/25 by Eurostat)

Afternoon Session (2:30 – 4:00)

- 12. Implementation of SEEA-Water and International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS)** (*for discussion*)
Draft “Glossy” publication on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for water (UNCEEA/5/27 by Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- 13. Global assessment of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting** (*for information*)
- 14. Report of Groups working under the auspices of or in collaboration with the UNCEEA** (*for information*)
 - a. Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (UNCEEA/5/30)
 - b. OECD/Eurostat Task Force on Emission Permits – Update Report (UNCEEA/5/31)
 - c. Report of the work on measuring sustainable development, environmental indicators and climate change related statistics (UNCEEA/5/32 by UNECE)
 - d. Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (UNCEEA/5/33)
 - e. OECD work related to the work programme of the Committee of Experts (UNCEEA/5/34)

15. Conclusion

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