

## Annex D: SEEA Global Database Questionnaire Template

### Area C Report to 15<sup>th</sup> UNCEEA

**Scope and objective:** In 2016-17, it was proposed to develop simple templates for core accounts building on the core tables presented in the SEEA Technical Notes. These templates would represent a minimum set of information, which countries should aim to compile and report. In alignment with this previous proposal, templates are suggested for three of the five priority accounts under the UNCEEA Area C work programme: air emission accounts (AEAs), material flow accounts (MFAs), physical energy flow accounts (PEFA). The templates, or questionnaires, would complement the SMDX data structure definitions (DSDs), by providing organized and detailed information on the compilation requirements for global databases, and the templates could collect data in cases where data exchanges with official national sources via SDMX are not yet feasible.

The purpose for the templates is to complement, and not replace, existing international data collection instruments and estimation, such as SEEA compilations conducted by Eurostat. To avoid duplication and minimise the reporting burden, careful consideration with well-established reporting processes such as those on energy statistics and on air and GHG emission inventories will be incorporated. Water statistics should be treated as a special case as two complementary existing joint programmes to collect relevant water statistics by Eurostat/OECD and by UNSD/UN Environment are currently being investigated as sources for gathering data for SEEA water accounts. The FAO is also collecting water statistics via the Aquastat programme. On energy, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and UNSD Energy Statistics Section are compiling energy statistics and will be consulted and involved in the process.

The Eurostat questionnaires for AEAs, MFA, and PEFA should be used as a reference for more efficient development of global data collection templates to help ensure consistency of data collection across the regions.

The existing estimations conducted by international organisations for AEAs (OECD), MFAs (UN Environment) and PEFA (UNSD) should continue in the meantime as the main means for disseminating accounts for those countries which do not yet compile official SEEA accounts.

#### **Work plan:**

Step 1: review current Eurostat questionnaires for AEA, MFA and PEFA with aim of creating templates for collection of comparable data outside of the European Union;

Step 2: develop recommendations for a tiered approach, i.e. at least 2 tiers of templates for countries to provide data according to the level of detail of data available for global reporting for these three SEEA accounts;

Step 3: produce draft tiered global SEEA questionnaires (templates) and submit for review by international experts

Step 4: revise questionnaire templates based on feedback from international experts and submit revised tiered questionnaires for review and endorsement by UNCEEA in 2021.

The work to develop the new tiered questionnaire templates will be developed by the group, with each agency responsible for developing the templates for their respective area.