

UNCEEA WORKING GROUP ON COORDINATION (AREA A)

Members:

Statistics Canada (André Loranger (Chair)), Kevin Roberts, Carolyn Cahill, Norman Fyfe

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UNSD: Alessandra Alfieri, Jessica Ying Chan

1. Overview:

The working group has met three times since November 2017. It has approved its terms of reference (background document 1) and determined its workplan for 2018, which includes three priority areas:

- Development of a super-calendar of SEEA events to be hosted on the UNSD website
- Development of an online repository of SEEA training materials, also to be hosted on the UNSD website. A key question in developing this repository has been in the type and extent of quality assurance that should be used to ensure that the posted materials are consistent with SEEA concepts and methodologies, as well as how best to present the materials (which range in terms of content, detail and audience)
- Increasing the mainstreaming of the SEEA in priority areas: reporting on the SDGs and reporting on climate change.

The following report provides more detail in each area.

2. Super-calendar

- The UNSD developed a concept note for the proposed super-calendar, which was accepted by members of the working group (background document 2).
- In terms of scope, there was a consensus among the working group to only include SEEA-related events and activities.
- UNSD agreed to take a lead role and stay abreast of relevant events and to coordinate posting of events to the super-calendar. UNSD will send quarterly or semi-annual emails to international organizations and expert groups to collect information on upcoming events. A brief reminder note will be included in the SEEA News and Notes Newsletter on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.

- The first version of the super-calendar will appear on the UNSD website in June.

3. Training repository and quality assurance of SEEA training materials

- UNSD issued a first call for SEEA training materials. As a result, materials were received from various organizations including CBS Netherlands, the World Bank, UN ESCAP, UNSD, Statistics Canada and Eurostat.
- After examining the categories of the materials received, the working group noted that the training materials were very diverse, ranging from general overview presentations to detailed exercises aimed at training staff who will actually be compiling the accounts.
- Members decided to make all materials available in their current form, but to classify the materials into different categories, in order to help users find what they are looking for both in terms of user type and thematic area. A draft classification system will be presented to the working group at their next meeting.
- The working group will also ensure that the information provided is technically coherent with SEEA concepts and methodologies. Statistics Canada will draft a short paper for discussion at the next meeting to help guide a potential assessment panel. This paper will propose potential questions for the panel's review of training materials, with the eventual possibility of developing a template to guide the panel's assessment

4. SEEA mainstreaming

- Participants agreed on two priority areas to focus on increasing the use of the SEEA: the ongoing development of the SDG indicators and the area of climate change reporting.
- Participants agreed that the UNCEEA should seek to open formal communication channels with international agencies and experts active in both areas.
- Both issues will be on the agenda at the June 2018 UNCEEA meeting, including the UNECE leading a discussion on the dual measurement of several of its proposed climate change indicators.

5. Questions for UNCEEA members:

- What should be the scope of the SEEA super-calendar?
- Given your experience, how would you classify and assess SEEA training materials?
- Who do you think should participate in the assessment of the training materials?