

**Eighteenth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on  
Environmental-Economic Accounting  
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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS

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**Area A: Coordination and Communication  
Summary of activities and future work**

Paper prepared by the Chair (Statistics Canada) and Secretariat

*(for discussion)*

# UNCEEA WORKING GROUP ON COORDINATION (AREA A)

## Area A – Developments in 2022-23

In the past year, Area A saw a change in Chair as Greg Peterson, Statistics Canada, retired. Statistics Canada continues to Chair the working group with André Loranger, Assistant Chief Statistician, replacing Greg. The Working Group met regularly in 2022/2023 to discuss updates and opportunities to mainstream the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) on various initiatives such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Data Gaps Initiative, and UNECE's Task Force on the role of NSOs in Achieving National Climate Objectives, the circular economy initiatives led by UNECE and the OECD. Meetings also included presentations by experts on topics such as measuring the sustainability of tourism (by UNWTO) and discussions on how SEEA can be the basis for the derivation of indicators and analytical products.

In efforts to foster collaboration, integration, and complementarity of relevant programmes, as well as to promote the SEEA for emerging policy issues, Area A engaged with the UN Network of Economic Statisticians regarding work on beyond GDP and the UNECE's Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy. Area A also provided comments and input to the 6<sup>th</sup> Policy Forum on Natural Capital Data for Better Decision Making, which focused on financing for nature.

In addition, Area A continues to work on a visual landscape assessment of international organizations working in the environmental accounting space and their relationships. There are several task teams and expert groups, with different objectives, working on different aspects of environment statistics. A better understanding of the landscape would allow the Committee to make a more informed prioritization of emerging policy issues, including the relevant initiatives and groups to reach out to. Area A has identified several new groups to add to the assessment, such as the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS) and several working groups under the European Union. There has also been discussion on including relevant groups of non-governmental entities in this landscape exercise to ensure all audiences and players are represented.

## Future work

While Area A continues to fulfil its mandate through the activities highlighted above, Area A also agreed to re-evaluate its programme of work to see where it could best focus its activities and come to agreement on concrete deliverables and actions. This streamlined programme of work contains two main components: 1) completing the

landscape assessment mentioned above; and 2) webinar series focusing on policy applications. These efforts have been the basis for Area A to review the programme of work, and to identify concrete deliverables and actions.

The first step in this new approach is to complete the landscape assessment. While the landscape exercise is part of the existing programme of work, progress on this objective has been limited. As such, this deliverable was re-prioritized and discussions regarding the identification of gaps in the landscape assessment have taken place. A first draft of a visual has been created and will be updated and fine-tuned.

The new programme of work also includes Area A organizing or partnering on several webinars throughout the year, focussing on priority and/or emerging policy areas. Area A members will work with partners, including National Statistical Offices, international organizations, and members of the other Areas to identify topics for these webinars. There are two principal goals related to the organization of webinars: one is to bring people together from various disciplines, including statisticians, policy makers, environmental economic accountants, national accountants, ecologists, etc. A second goal is to showcase the benefits of the SEEA, demonstrate how the SEEA can answer policy questions, and explore areas where the SEEA has not been used but could play a role.

The landscape exercise will be one tool that Area A will use to identify the specific topics/opportunities for webinars. These webinars will not only be used as a communication mechanism and for identifying user's needs, but also as a means of collaboration/coordination, as they will necessitate collaboration with the different organizations working within these priority areas. Similar webinars have been successful in the past—for example a circular economy webinar organized by the Area A members of Statistics Canada and the UNECE brought stakeholders from several different communities together; and the series of webinar on [Supporting the Implementation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) organized jointly by UNSD, CBD and GEOBON.

### Immediate next steps

Area A will continue to play a role in its traditional space of fostering communication and coordination by meeting regularly and discussing key initiatives and emerging issues. In the next few months, Area A will finalize the landscape exercise by consulting with Area A members and their networks. The visual will serve as a roadmap for engagement in the future, identifying priority areas for the Committee. Additionally, Area A will identify key events and milestones relevant to the environmental accounting

community which are happening in the next year and plan webinars around them. Several topics for webinars have already been identified including reporting under the Paris Agreement and Data Gaps Initiative 3, and global consultations on the updates of international classifications and/or frameworks.

### Questions for the Committee

The UNCEEA is asked to:

- Provide feedback on the addition to the work programme, namely webinars to foster communication and linkages within various groups, while promoting SEEA.
- Provide feedback on how Area A can identify the right audience for the webinars.