



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
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**Technical Committee on SEEA Central Framework (Area B1):  
Summary of activities**

*Paper prepared by the Technical Committee on SEEA Central Framework  
(for discussion)*

# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE SEEA CENTRAL FRAMEWORK (AREA B1): SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

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1. With the mandate for the update of the SEEA Central Framework given by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 55<sup>th</sup> session in March 2024, the activities of the Technical Committee the SEEA Central Framework have focused primarily on refining the update of the SEEA Central Framework, initiating the update process and firming up the list of issues for the update.

2. This note provides an overview of the work of the Technical Committee on the update of the SEEA Central Framework update in Section 1, and on other activities undertaken by the Technical Committee in Section 2. Section 3 provides a brief outlook of the planned activities of the Technical Committee and Section 4 presents questions to the Committee.

## 1 Update of the SEEA Central Framework

3. In the period leading up to the UNSC in March 2025, the Technical Committee worked on the finalization of the list of issues and the update process which were endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) and subsequently endorsed by the UNSC at its 56<sup>th</sup> session in March 2025. Since these activities are described in the background documents endorsed by the UNSC, they are not described again in this note, but reference is given here to the two relevant documents: [List of issues](#) and [Update process](#). This section therefore focuses on the activities of the Technical Committee to advance the substantive discussion on the list of issues since March 2025.

### 1.1 Establishment of Task Teams

4. Four Task Teams have been established under the Technical Committee to advance the substantive discussion on the issues for the update of the SEEA Central Framework and draft Guidance Notes with proposals and recommendations on how to address each issue for review of the Technical Committee. The four Task Teams are: A. Overarching issues, including consistency with the SNA; B. Physical flow accounts; C. Environmental activity accounts and related flows; and D. Asset accounts. Each Task Team is chaired by two co-chairs as indicated in the table below.

Task Team	Co-chairs
A: Overarching topics, including consistency with SNA	Peter Meadows (Australian Bureau of Statistics) Joe St Lawrence (International Monetary Fund)
B: Physical flow accounts	Matthew Prescott (Statistics Canada) Roberto Astolfi (Organization Economic Co-operation and Development)
C: Environmental activity accounts and related flows	Neil Wilson (Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom) Arturo de la Fuente (Eurostat)
D: Asset accounts	Riaan Grobler (Statistics South Africa) Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands)

5. The main responsibilities of the co-chairs are the following:
- Coordinate and supervise substantive work of the Task Team;

- b. Ensure the issues under each Task Team is given adequate treatment and appropriate experts are assigned to take those issues forward;
- c. Establish appropriate timelines for the drafting and review of Guidance Notes;
- d. Develop the agenda for each meeting of the Task Team, chair the meeting and lead the discussion;
- e. Provide substantive support to experts drafting Guidance Notes based on need;
- f. Ensure that proper discussion is allocated to each issue for the formulation of clear proposals in the Guidance Notes; and
- g. Participate in regular co-chair coordination meetings, meetings of the Technical Committee and regularly communicate with UNSD on the progress of the Task Team and the issues.

6. In order to foster consistency and coordination in the discussion of the issues, the editor of the SEEA Central Framework together with UNSD and the chair of the Technical Committee will participate to all the meetings of the Task Teams.

7. The work programme of the London Group has been coordinated with the Technical Committee and, hence, the London Group will include a number of update issues in its work programme. Guidance Notes for these issues will be developed to support both work of the London Group and feed into the work of the Task Teams.

8. The Technical Committee SEEA Central Framework is coordinating the work with the Technical Committee on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. Eight of the update issues have been identified as having significant links to the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting. These issues will be discussed also by the Technical Committee on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, and its members have been invited to take part in the update Task Teams.

9. During the period between April and May 2025, Task Teams held several meetings to advance the discussion, identify issue leads and set the basis for the preparation of the Guidance Notes. The aim is to complete the substantive discussion on the issues over the next two years– 2025 and 2026. In the final year of the update process – 2027, it is expected that the Task Teams will support the editor with finalizing draft chapters, and analyzing and addressing the comments received through the various global consultations.

## 1.2 Process for advancing research on the issues

10. In line with the update timeline endorsed by the UNSC (see section III of the [Note on process](#)), the process for advancing research on the list of issues consists of the following stages: technical discussion within Task Teams with the objective of developing draft Guidance Notes with proposed resolution of the issues; review by the Technical Committee; global consultations on the Guidance Notes; finalization of the Guidance Notes based on the feedback received; and drafting of the updated SEEA Central Framework.

11. Given that the description of the issues is very brief, it was agreed that the initial phase of the work included the drafting of Scoping Notes with the objective of clarifying each issue and agreeing on the research questions, thus providing the basis for the preparation of the Guidance Notes.

12. In the past couple of months, the Task Teams have prepared the Scoping Notes for each issue and are in the process of finalizing them for review and approval by the Technical Committee. Once approved, the second step will consist of drafting a Guidance Note for each issue. Lead authors may involve other Task Team members or other experts in the writing of the Guidance Notes.

13. The Guidance Notes will clearly outline the issue, assess implications for other statistical domains to ensure the overall consistency and coherence of measurement, explain options for treatment, provide recommendations for updating the SEEA Central Framework and assess the feasibility of implementing the proposed conceptual solutions. It is foreseen that the lead authors will work on drafting the Guidance Notes over the rest of 2025 and 2026 in close consultation and review of the Task Team members.

14. The Guidance Notes will follow an agreed structure (as outlined in the Annex), namely:

- a) Description of the issue;
- b) Review of existing measurement and research;
- c) Alternative conceptual options and treatments;
- d) Recommendations on conceptual treatments; and
- e) Other considerations in advancing the issue.

15. After the Guidance Notes are discussed and finalized by the Task Teams, they will be submitted for review and approval to the Technical Committee and then circulated for global consultation. It is expected that global consultation will be undertaken in three batches of 8-12 Guidance Notes throughout 2026. Task Teams will analyze and address the comments received through the global consultation for final review of the updated Guidance Notes by the Technical Committee.

### 1.3 Coordination with the revision of COFOG and GFS

16. Update of the SEEA Central Framework is carried out in close coordination with the revision processes of the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and the Classification of the Functions of the Government (COFOG). Regular meetings are organized among the chairs and secretariats of (a) the Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework, (b) the Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee, and (c) the Task Team on COFOG, with the objectives to identify the issues that are relevant to more than one standard, to ensure a close coordination on the development of Guidance Notes on these issues, and coordinate the global consultation processes. The ultimate goal is to arrive at a set of recommendations that are as consistent as possible while at the same time reflecting the specific needs of each standard.

### 1.4 Funding

17. The update of the SEEA Central Framework is carried out thanks to the financial support from Eurostat, which is covering the costs of hiring the editor and consultants on specific issues, and the organization of the meeting of the Technical Committee in Q4 2025. In-kind contributions by countries, organizations and numerous experts through provision of their time to draft and/or review notes and participate in meetings are greatly acknowledged and appreciated. The IMF has also committed to directly finance some update activities. Countries and organizations are encouraged to continue contributing to the update, whether through in-kind contributions or through funding of activities.

## 2 Other activities of the Technical Committee

18. In the past year, the Technical Committee has continued to engage in the methodological review of related statistical areas. In particular, it actively contributed to the update process of the 2025 SNA, the OECD Expert Group on Natural Capital (EGNC) which produced the Compilation Guide on Measuring Natural Resources in the National Accounts, and the drafting of the Statistics Common Statistical Framework for Disaster-related Statistics (CSF-DRS) manual.

## 3 Future activities

19. Over the next year, the Technical Committee will continue to focus its work on the update of the SEEA Central Framework. Where relevant it will continue to review the methodological development of related statistical areas in order to ensure consistency of concepts methods and classifications to support the development of integrated information systems. The Technical Committee will also closely coordinate its work with the other working groups of the UNCEEA to support an integrated work programme.

20. With the aim of facilitating technical discussions on the Guidance Notes, the Technical Committee is planning to organize an in-person meeting tentatively scheduled for 17-21 November 2025. In addition to Technical Committee members, Task Team co-chairs and lead authors of the Guidance Notes, other experts may also be invited to the meeting. It is hoped that funds will be available for an in-person meeting of the Technical Committee also in the remaining years of the update process.

21. Communication, advocacy and engagement with users is seen as an important step to a successful update and subsequent uptake of the updated SEEA Central Framework. Hence, the Technical Committee supports Area A's initiative to develop a communication strategy for the SEEA Central Framework update. With that in mind, UNSD has also developed a dedicated [website on the SEEA Central Framework update](#).

## 4 Questions to the Committee

22. The Committee is invited to:
- 1) Express its views on the progress of work for the SEEA Central Framework update
  - 2) Provide advice on future activities of the Technical Committee

## Annex: Proposed outline for the Guidance Notes

### 1. Description of the issue (1-2 pages)

- Describe the issue including a general conceptual/measurement scope of the issue
- Explain why the topic is relevant for consideration in the SEEA CF update, for example in terms of improving relevance for users, policy, improving compilation, resolving a conceptual gap or inconsistency, ensuring consistency with other frameworks etc.
- Describe the current accounting treatment in SEEA CF (if applicable)
- Describe the specific research questions/gaps that will be addressed in the guidance note and those aspects that will not be covered or dealt with elsewhere
- Describe the links to other issues in the SEEA CF update (as relevant), and links to other statistical frameworks (e.g. SEEA EA, SNA, GFS, etc.)
- Describe the relevant stakeholders to be included as part of broader consultation / expert review in the development of the content and recommendations

### 2. Review of existing measurement and research (1-2 pages) (Depending on what has been done, this might take a lot longer to summarize what already exists)

- Document the existing work, research, estimates, methods, etc. that can underpin the development of content and recommendations
- Focus in this section is on ensuring that, as a matter of process, all relevant material to inform the discussion of the alternative options is documented. The content here should not describe the different options

### 3. Alternative conceptual options and treatments (5-7 pages)

- Describe possible solutions to the topic/ possible approaches how the topic may be tackled.
- Document alternative conceptual approaches that might be considered and evaluate their advantages and disadvantages

### 4. Recommendations on conceptual treatments (2 pages)

- Propose recommendations to address the issue (based on the options described under section 3)
- List the sections/paragraphs of the SEEA CF that need to change or where additional content is required
- Where possible provide proposed text for inclusion in the revised SEEA CF

### 5. Other considerations in advancing the issue (1-2 pages)

- Describe the existing compliance guidance and document what additional compilation guidance might need to be updated or developed (do **not** provide the guidance itself, that is not for inclusion in the SEEA CF)
- Describe options for testing the recommended approaches
- Document any issues that remain unresolved as a result of the investigation or issues that have emerged as a result of the work that should be placed on the research agenda – potentially in relation to other statistical standards – e.g. SNA