



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
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**Working Group on Implementation and Statistical Capacity Building (Area D):
Summary of activities**

*Paper prepared by the Working Group on Implementation and Statistical Capacity Building
(for discussion)*

WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION AND STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (AREA D): SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

1. The work programme of Area D focuses on the coordination of implementation initiatives and statistical capacity building activities for the SEEA in countries, and the administration of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics. This paper presents the achievements of Area D since the last Committee meeting in section 1, section 2 lays out the proposed work programme for the next 12 months, and section 3 contains the items for decision by the Committee.

1 Achievements of Area D in 2024-25

2. In June 2025, UNCEEA agreed to the following work programme for Area D: (1) Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities; (2) Revitalization of the SEEA Focal Point network; and (3) oversight of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific / Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP/SIAP) continued to serve as co-chairs of Area D.

1.1 Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities

3. Area D members (UN regional commissions, development banks and international agencies/groups providing technical assistance on the SEEA implementation) met quarterly. Since the last Committee meeting, the following organizations have joined Area D: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Global Oceans Accounting Partnership (GOAP), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UN Environment, UN Tourism. During each meeting, members discussed progress in the three components of the work programme and shared updates on their activities related to capacity building and implementation of the SEEA, ensuring improved coordination of SEEA related activities at the regional and global levels. Members are also regularly updating a shared excel sheet with their regional capacity building priorities and requests.

1.2 Revitalize the SEEA Focal Point Network

4. Area D organized a webinar for the SEEA Focal Points on the SEEA CF update on 16 April 2025 (<https://seea.un.org/events/seea-webinar-road-towards-2028-seea-central-framework>). Over 100 participants from different regions joined the webinar where they learned about the ongoing process for the update of the SEEA CF and the main issues for revision. The webinar was done in collaboration with the chair of Area B1, who presented on the process and issues for the update.

5. SEEA Focal Points have also participated in several in-person and online capacity building activities since the last Committee meeting. These trainings have served as a good opportunity to share experiences and discuss challenges in the implementation of the SEEA.

1.3 Oversight of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

6. The Global Assessment provides an overview of national SEEA implementation, including institutional and funding arrangements; countries' priorities and plans for implementing accounts; technical assistance received and provided; and the use of the accounts. The Assessment also supports the monitoring of indicator 15.9.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals on the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts, through implementation of the SEEA. In 2024, the Global Assessment was conducted as a light assessment, which is conducted in between benchmark years to collect information on the specific accounts countries are compiling. Two questions were added to this Global Assessment to collect feedback on the priority accounts that are being considered by Area C and gather further insight on the geographical coverage of the compiled accounts, i.e., national or subnational levels, or both.

7. As of 30 November 2024, when the survey was closed, 120 responses were received. Responses were validated and analysed by UNSD, and a background report was prepared; the report was reviewed by Area D before it was submitted to the UN Statistical Commission's session in March 2025 as a background document.¹

8. Based on the responses to the 2024 Global Assessment, 94 countries reported having compiled SEEA accounts at least once within the last five years. Sixty-seven (67) countries of the total (71 per cent) fall into Stage III (i.e., they regularly compile and disseminate at least one account), 10 countries (11 per cent) fall into Stage II (i.e., they have compiled and disseminate at least one account), and 17 countries (18 per cent) fall into Stage I (i.e., they have compiled at least one account). More details can be found in the background document to the UN Statistical Commission.

2 Proposed activities for 2025-2026

9. The section below outlines the proposed activities of Area D for the next period (2025-2026) structured in three areas: (1) coordination of capacity building and implementation activities; (2) activities for the SEEA Focal Point network; and (3) organization of the 2025 Global Assessment.

2.1 Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities

10. Area D will continue to provide a venue to foster the coordination of capacity development and implementation activities at the global and regional levels, seek synergies of activities among international and regional organizations discuss ways to be more effective and share lesson learnt. In order to realize this priority, Area D members will continue to meet regularly, on a quarterly basis, and update each other on capacity development projects, requests from countries, and share experiences in their projects.

¹ The Global Assessment report can be found at:
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/BG-3j-UNSC_2025_Results_2024_Global_Assessment-E.pdf.

11. Given the evolving policy landscape and resource constraints of several Area D member organizations, the coordination of technical cooperation activities is even more critical to ensure that limited resources can be used for maximum impact. To this end, Area D members will continue to closely collaborate on the implementation of activities at the global, regional and national levels. In addition, Area D members will also aim to strengthen the collaboration with related groups and initiatives, such as the Expert Group on Environment and Climate Change Statistics and others, to improve linkages between activities related to environmental statistics and accounts.

2.2 Activities for the SEEA Focal Point network

12. Building upon the successful webinar on the update of the SEEA Central Framework, there will be efforts to organize other activities, mainly in the form of webinars, for the SEEA Focal Points to inform and further engage them in the work of the Committee. It is envisaged, however, that, in the upcoming year, these activities will be limited in scope due to resource constraints currently being faced by several international organizations including UNSD. These activities will be closely coordinated with the other working groups of the Committee.

2.3 Organization of the 2025 Global Assessment

13. The 2025 Global assessment will be sent out to countries in Q3 of 2025. It will be a light assessment focusing on the compilation of the SEEA CF and SEEA EA. As has been the practice every year, Area D members will support the development of the Global Assessment and the review of the report. UNSD will administer the Global Assessment with the support of Area D members in obtaining responses from countries, and draft the report, which in turn will be reviewed by Area D in January 2026 and subsequently presented to the Statistical Commission in March 2026.

3 Questions to the Committee

14. The Committee is requested to:
- 1) Comment on the priorities for the workplan of Area D for 2025-26 as outlined above in section 2 and centered around the three areas: (1) Coordination of capacity building and implementation activities; (2) Activities for the SEEA Focal Point network; and (3) organization of the 2025 Global Assessment.
 - 2) Provide advice on any potential new priority areas for Area D to consider.