

Business Accounting and the SEEA (Area E)

18th Meeting of the UNCEEA

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Outline

- Background
- Progress achieved
 - Collaboration with relevant groups/initiatives
 - Alignment of SEEA and business accounting standards
- Way forward and questions to the Committee



Background

UNCEEA 16 agreed that the group should focus on alignment of methodology and standards and communication and presentation of the SEEA to the business community.

First meeting of the BAWG in December 2021.

Programme of Work 2022-23 (UNCEEA 17):

- a) An assessment of current major initiatives and groups
- b) Collaboration with relevant initiatives and groups
- c) Developing SEEA documents for the business community.

Focused review efforts on:

- Task Force for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Framework,
- International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) Standards and
- European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).



Progress achieved

- Collaboration with relevant groups/initiative
- <u>The Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures</u> on their risk management and disclosure framework v0.2;
- the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) on their draft biodiversity standard;
- the <u>Bio-Mo-D</u> project.
- World Bank Global Programme on Sustainability
 - Policy Forum on Natural Capital Data for Better Decision Making.
 - 6th Policy Forum (Fall 2022): Financing for nature.
- UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS). In fall 2022,
 - Fifth Meeting of the UNCEBTS.
 - Sixth meeting of the UNCEBTS: Mérida, Mexico 18-21 September 2023.
- UNSIAP <u>webinar series on indicators on business performance related to well-being</u> and <u>sustainability.</u>



Progress achieved

Alignment of SEEA and business accounting standards

- Feedback to the TNFD as a knowledge partner: Risk management and disclosure framework.
- How to align definitions, concepts, metrics and targets.
- Joint comments with the SEEA-EA Technical Committee to the global consultation of GRI's draft biodiversity standard in March 2023. the draft already referred users to the SEEA ecosystem service reference list.
 - Aligning GRI's measures of condition with those in the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting; making reference to the SEEA CF accounts
 - Avoid double counting of impacts along the supply chain; promoting a timeseries for supply chain data.
 - Align standards with scope, language & definitions in other frameworks and standards (public and private) such as the TNFD, ESRS, GBF, etc.



Progress achieved

Developing SEEA documents for the business community.

Primer on the SEEA for businesses, with a focus on ecosystem accounting. SEEA Ecosystem Accounting for Business – A quick introduction.



Way forward

SEEA Governance mechanism

UN Statistical Commission UN Committee of Expert on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) **UNCEEA Bureau** Area B1: Area B2: Area A: Area D: Area E: Area C: Methodology Methodology Coordination and Capacity Business Data SEEA CF SEEA EA communication building accounting Engagement Strengthening SEEA CF research WGs on forest Global Data with TNFD, GRI, collaboration agenda accounts dissemination assessment EFRAG, etc. Identifying entry Data SNA update WGs on ocean Capacity points for NCA: interoperability accounts building circular /ARIES for SEEA Classifications economy ISIC/CPC, biodiversity SIEC, COFOG E-learning · climate change ocean **Business** Working Group on biodiversity indicators **Accounting**



Questions to the Committee

The Committee is invited to express its views on:

- The progress achieved by BAWG over the last year, and
- The proposed way forward, as well as suggestions for how this integration may be realized at a practical level



THANK YOU

