

# MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

24 June 2024 teleconference

Meeting minutes

- **Present:** André Loranger (Chair), Augustine Akuoku-Asibey, Sonia Raizenne (Statistics Canada); Jonathon Khoo (Australian Bureau of Statistics); Sven Kaumanns (Federal Statistical Office of Germany and London Group on Environmental Accounting); Sudeepta Ghosh, Sanjay Kumar, Ruchi Mishra (MOSPI-India); Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands); Mandy Driver (South Africa); Ian Townsend (UK ONS); Alessandra Alfieri (IMF); Bram Edens (OECD); Ilaria Di Matteo, Jessica Ying Chan, Marko Javorsek (UNSD)
- **Regrets:** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics; INEGI Mexico; Statistics New Zealand; Philippine Statistics Authority; Eurostat; FAO; World Bank; UN-SIAP

## 1. MANDATE AND GOVERNANCE OF THE UNCEEA

- The Chair introduced the draft Mandate and Governance document, which is the product of the Task Team on the UNCEEA Mandate and Functioning, to obtain the Bureau's feedback prior to circulating the document for the UNCEEA meeting.
- Bureau members discussed the addition of the Steering Group and whether this addition was necessary. It was clarified that the addition of a Steering Group is more a formalization of current practice, whereby the Bureau's in-person delegates to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) provide high-level strategic advice, guidance and support. The establishment of this groups was also viewed as an opportunity to engage more actively the higher management in shaping the activities of the Committee.
- Bureau members discussed the term limits of the Chair. The Bureau agreed not to formally set a term limit, but only refer to the renewals every three years.
- In addition, Bureau members discussed the proposal to allow the establishment of a Deputy Chair. While having a Deputy Chair rather than a Co-chair could be seen as introducing unnecessary hierarchy, it was also acknowledged that finding a Deputy Chair might be easier than finding a Co-chair. To maintain flexibility, it was agreed to allow for the possibility of either a Deputy Chair or a Co-chair.
- The Bureau also suggested to include additional text on the relationship between the UNCEEA and London Group and adjust the diagramme to reflect the establishment of the Steering Group.
- Overall, the Bureau welcomed the document and agreed that it should be submitted for discussion at the Committee meeting pending the inclusion of the Bureau's comments.
- **Actions:**

- Bureau members to send any comments/feedback to UNSD no later than Friday, 7 June.
- UNSD will update the Mandate and Governance based on the comments received and post it on the UNCEEA meeting website, along with the cover note.

## 2. EXPECTATIONS FOR THE [19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE UNCEEA](#)

- Area Leads provided a summary of what they will present to the Committee as well as the questions they will pose to the Committee.
- Area A: Area A will provide an overview of the past year's activities, focusing on the landscape assessment and the [Uses of the SEEA for Policy webinar series](#). In addition, Area A will propose that their new work programme includes a component on helping with outreach and communications for the update of the SEEA Central Framework (CF).
- Area B1: Over the past year, the Technical Committee on the SEEA CF (SEEA CF TC) has worked on refining the list of issues and project management framework for the update of the SEEA CF, as well as contributing to the updates of classifications. The SEEA CF TC will request the Committee to approve the list of issues for global consultation as well as the proposed process for incorporating feedback from the global consultation.
- Area B2: Over the past year, the Technical Committee on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA TC) has focused on six key areas of work: practical guidance; indicators based on the SEEA EA of the Monitoring Framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF); accounting for forest ecosystems and oceans; contributing to the updates of the SEEA CF and SNA; engagement with related initiatives; and creating a community of practice for the SEEA EA. The SEEA EA TC will ask the UNCEEA to give its views on the progress on its work programme as well as the process for further development, testing and operationalization of the GBF indicators based on the SEEA.
- Area C: Area C will provide an update on the development of global databases for the five priority accounts. Good progress has made on air emission, energy and material flow accounts, while land and water accounts are undergoing piloting and a feasibility analysis, respectively. Area C will flag to the UNCEEA the possibility to revise the priority accounts at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNCEEA. In particular, it was noted that land and water are not only covered in the SEEA CF but are also a focus of the SEEA EA through ecosystem extent and service accounts, respectively. Given the adoption of the SEEA EA and its rapid uptake in countries, a re-evaluation of the priority accounts could be considered.
- Area D: Area D will provide an update on its activities in terms of the coordination of capacity building, revitalization of the Focal Point Network and 2024 Global

Assessment. The Committee will be asked to endorse the Focal Point Network Terms of Reference.

- London Group: The Chair of the London Group provided an update on the preparations for the [30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting](#), which will take place in Washington, DC from 30 September to 3 October 2024. Many topics will be covered, including those that can contribute to the update of the SEEA CF. It was noted that there will also be a smaller meeting of the Data Gaps Initiative III following the London Group meeting, on Friday, 4 October 2024.