

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

6 November 2024 teleconference

Meeting minutes

- **Present:** André Loranger (Chair); Augustine Akuoko-Asibey (Statistics Canada); Jonathon Khoo and Jacqui Vitas (Australian Bureau of Statistics); Sven Kaumanns (Federal Statistical Office of Germany and London Group on Environmental Accounting); Sandhya Singh (MOSPI India); Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands); Mandy Driver (South Africa); Sonia Carrera (UK ONS); Arturo De La Fuente (Eurostat); Catherine Van Rompaey (World Bank); Alessandra Alfieri (IMF); Bram Edens (OECD); Sokol Vako (UN-SIAP); Ilaria Di Matteo, Jessica Ying Chan, Marko Javorsek (UNSD)
- **Regrets:** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics; INEGI Mexico; Statistics New Zealand; Philippine Statistics Authority; FAO

1. UNCEEA REPORT TO THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

- UNSD presented the Committee's draft report to the UN Statistical Commission. The report highlights the update of the SEEA Central Framework (CF) and updated mandate and governance as key points for the Committee's consideration. The report also presents the progress and upcoming plans of each of the working groups and technical committees and the London Group.
- It was noted that while the report follows the standard format of reports by UN Committees and Expert Groups, it could be further streamlined in some areas.
- Actions:
 - Bureau members are requested to provide comments by Wednesday, 13 November. The revised report will then be circulated to the broader UNCEEA before its final submission.

2. SIDE EVENTS OF THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

- The Bureau discussed the possibility of organizing a side event during the UNSC to prepare the delegations on the discussion on environmental economic accounting. The Bureau suggested to develop a proposal for a side event on the SEEA CF update and the coordination with the update processes of the Classification of the Functions of Government, Government Finance Statistics Manual and Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual. Also, as in past years, a meeting of the Bureau will also be organized during the UNSC.
- Actions:
 - UNSD will draft a concept note and circulate it to Bureau members.

3. UPDATE OF THE SEEA CENTRAL FRAMEWORK

- The Bureau reviewed and discussed the list of issues that are being proposed for the update of the SEEA CF by the SEEA CF TC based on the results of the global consultation. The Bureau endorsed the proposed list, pending comments.
- It was noted that the list is ambitious and presents a high workload for the Committee. Thus, the Bureau agreed that the Committee should remain flexible and re-assess the list of issues on a regular basis to ensure that the update remains doable with the resources allocated, and that the focus of the update remains on high-priority issues, including those which may come out of concurrent update processes.
- It was noted that the Committee should consider the lessons learned during the update of the 2008 SNA, including the need to remain user-centric throughout the update. Area A plans to draft a communications strategy for the update next year, which will help with user engagement and outreach.
- The Bureau recommended to carefully prepare the background document for the UNSC containing the list of issues for the update of the SEEA CF in order to distinguish between issues which require substantive discussion guidance notes and issues that are more editorial in nature.
- After including the comments from the Bureau, UNSD will circulate the list of issues to the Committee for a final round of comments and draft the background documents for the UNSC on the list of issues and the summary of the global consultation.
- Actions:
 - Bureau members are requested to provide comments on the list of issues by Wednesday, 13 November.

4. AOB

- UNSD informed the Bureau that a proposal was developed for maintaining and updating international statistical standards (see minutes of the UNCEEA Bureau Meeting on [24 Jan 2024](#) for more background on this initiative) and it is being circulated for consultation among relevant groups, such as AEG, BOPCOM, and UNCEEA. An ad-hoc meeting of the UNCEEA Bureau is being organized on 25 November 2024 to discuss the paper and provide comments from the UNCEEA perspective. The paper will be circulated to the Bureau, but it is also available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/aeg/2024/M27/M27_08_IMSS.pdf.
- The OECD Expert Group on Natural Capital is finalizing its draft implementation guidelines, which will undergo consultation in early December, including with the Committee. It was noted that a meeting between the Expert Group and SEEA CF TC will be organized in December or early January to review and discuss the draft as part of the expert consultation process. The draft document will be submitted as a background

document to the Commission. The document will also undergo global consultation and be finalized in 2025.

- The AEG meeting took place from 28-30 October 2024 to discuss outstanding issues for the 2025 SNA, its future research agenda and implementation strategy. A number of outstanding issues are closely related to the SEEA and will be picked up in the update of the SEEA CF.
- The Bureau was informed of a proposal by the Network of Economic Statisticians to jointly organize a sprint on Net Zero initiatives and its economic impacts during 2025. This topic was identified by the Network as a priority area. Bureau members agreed that it would be a good idea for the Committee to collaborate with the Network on this next spring, and UNSD will follow up with the Network.