

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

5 September 2024 teleconference

Meeting minutes

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

1. TASK TEAM ON THE UNCEEA MANDATE AND FUNCTIONING

- UNSD gave a brief update on the work of the Task Team on the UNCEEA Mandate and Functioning. In consultation with the Task Team, UNSD is updating the Mandate and Governance based on the comments from the UNCEEA meeting.
- In addition, the Task Team is working on the operational guidelines, which is meant to provide a short living document outlining the current UNCEEA working groups and their relationship with the UNCEEA and London Group.
- Actions:
 - Documents (updated Mandate and Governance, operational guidelines) will be circulated to the Bureau for the next meeting in November.

2. AD-HOC MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE SEEA CENTRAL FRAMEWORK

- On behalf of the Area B1 Chair, UNSD provided a short update on the ad-hoc meeting of the Technical Committee of the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF TC) which was held Wednesday, 4 September 2024.
- The meeting provided an opportunity for SEEA CF TC members to share their SEEA-related comments on the draft 2025 SNA as well as to discuss issues related to natural capital that are being discussed by the AEG.
- During the meeting, there was some convergence by SEEA CF TC members on specific issues on terminology related to land, the classification of mineral and energy resources and the classification of biological resources.

- It was acknowledged that although big changes in the recommendations of the draft 2025 SNA are likely not feasible at this stage, it is still important to flag some issues and provide comments.
- The impact of the recommendations of 2025 SNA on the SEEA will further reviewed and discussed during the update of the SEEA CF.
- Actions:
 - The SEEA CF TC will provide any comments they have on the draft 2025 SNA and the natural capital issues being discussed by the AEG to UNSD, which will consolidate the comments for submission. UNSD will also inform all Committee members about the ongoing discussion. The timeline will be short, as the deadline for the global consultation and comments on natural capital issues is 13 September 2024.

3. TOUR DE TABLE

- Area A:
 - Area A met late last month and discussed the upcoming COP16 in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024. There will be a number of side events, including hopefully at least one on the SEEA. The group discussed sending an e-mail to UNCEEA members to get in touch with their CBD focal points before the COP16, so that the importance of national statistical offices for the monitoring framework could be emphasized in Parties' formal statements.
 - In addition, the Area A Chair and UNSD met with Dataland, a non-profit providing a data platform for company level sustainability data.
 - In its next meeting, Area A may discuss how to improve communication across working groups and with the UNCEEA.
- Area B1:
 - The Global Consultation on the initial list of issues for the update of the SEEA CF is currently ongoing until 13 September 2024. So far about 30 responses have been received, the majority of which are from NSOs from non-Committee members. UNSD will send a follow-up reminder early next week.
 - The Chair of Area B1 and UNSD are beginning to meet with the Task Team leads for the update. OECD will co-chair the Task Team on Physical Flow Accounts with Statistics Netherlands, and Eurostat will chair the Task Team on Environmental Flow Accounts. The leads for the Task Teams on Overarching Issues and Assets are still being sought.
- Area B2:
 - IUCN has been preparing guidelines for crosswalking between national ecosystem classifications and the Global Ecosystem Typology, which the SEEA EA TC will soon review.

- The group continues to work on forest ecosystems and oceans through the dedicated task teams. In its next meetings, the group will focus on the Joint Research Centre's work on a comparative grid on ecosystem services and the GEO Atlas.
- The metadata for the headline indicators related to the SEEA EA of the monitoring framework of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) have been submitted to the COP16. These indicators include A.2: Extent of natural ecosystems and indicator B.1: Services provided by ecosystems.
- Area C: Area C will meet soon to discuss updates on the data collection for physical energy flow and air emission accounts; the piloting/feasibility studies for water and land accounts; and the creation of a terms of reference for the group.
- Area D: Area D is supporting the upcoming administration of the 2024 Global Assessment on Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics and continuing its coordination of training activities. The next meeting will see an expansion of the group to include more country representatives and development banks.