The SEEA and Business Accounting
A roadmap for alignment

15th Meeting of the UNCEEA
Jessica Ying Chan
United Nations Statistics Division
Overview

• Background and context
• Roadmap
• Questions/discussion
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT
The need for alignment

- Public sector
  - Macro level accounts depend on business level data
  - Alignment can streamline the process of using business-level statistics in production of national SEEA accounts and improve quality

- Private sector
  - Lack of ready access to robust data for businesses
  - Data gaps – impacts and dependencies, spatial and temporal data at relevant scales, data that is fit for purpose

- Alignment and shared approaches are possible

- Timing—more and more businesses are undertaking sustainability accounting and reporting
Work done thus far

- EU-funded Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project
- Workstream on business accounting
  - Contribute to alignment
  - Explore synergies in collection and use of statistics
  - Provide technical methodological contribution
- 14th meeting of the UNCEEA
  - Committee agreed that it should play a role in aligning business accounting and reporting with the SEEA
  - Agreed that the way forward was to prepare a roadmap, informed by a scoping workshop
ROADMAP FOR ALIGNMENT
## Four building blocks, ten activities

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| • ACTIVITY 1: Establishing a group within the UNCEEA  
• ACTIVITY 2: Contribute to ongoing initiatives in harmonization and standardization (e.g. E-GAAP) | • ACTIVITY 3: Increase collaboration and exchange of experiences between the statistical and business communities  
• ACTIVITY 4: Organize / participate in events bringing together the statistical and business communities  
• ACTIVITY 5: Communication and promotion of the activities within both the business and statistical communities |

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<th>Technical-Methodological</th>
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| • ACTIVITY 6: Common language, principles and concepts (glossary)  
• ACTIVITY 7: Pilot studies  
• ACTIVITY 8: Accounting for business guidelines in the context of the revised SEEA EEA | • ACTIVITY 9: Awareness, education, guidance and training  
• ACTIVITY 10: Secure funding supporting the implementation of the actions (roadmap) |
Coordination

- Establish group on alignment with business accounting under UNCEEA
  - Chair established within the UNCEEA to oversee this work (potentially co-chair from the business community)
  - Resources and scope depend on funding
- Contribute to ongoing initiatives in harmonization and standardization
  - Establishment of group under UNCEEA would create clear focal point within the statistical community
  - E-GAAP: 'Environment - Generally Accepted Accounting Principles'
  - Reviewing proposed frameworks or standards to promote alignment
  - Coordinate with other statistical groups

SEEA
Communication

• Increase collaboration and exchange of experiences between the statistical and business communities
  • Combining Forces initiative of Capitals Coalition
  • Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
  • Regional or national organizations/platforms

• Organize / participate in events bringing together the statistical and business communities
  • Conference at Yale
  • COP-15
  • IUCN World Congress
  • Forum of Experts on Ecosystem Accounting, etc.

• Communication and promotion of the activities within both the business and statistical communities
Methodology

• Common glossary

• Pilot case studies
  • Currently starting working in India and Spain to see how SEEA data can inform business decision making and reporting

• How to take stock of the findings under this workstream in the SEEA-EEA revision or subsequent documents?
Capacity building

- Guidance and training
  - "How to use national SEEA information?"
  - "How to produce environmental and ecosystem accounting data for the business community"

- E-Learning and in-person training

- Secure funding
  - New funding necessary from 2021 onwards
Timeline

Business consultation
Scoping Workshop (16–17 Oct, NY)

Short-term
- Case studies
- Glossary
- 2nd Workshop Yale

Middle-term
- Additional case studies
- Develop guidance manual
- Collect best practices
- Trainings and workshops

Long-term
- Total alignment of national and corporate NCA
- Embedded in E-GAAP
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
• Does the Committee agree with the proposed roadmap and the establishment of a group within the UNCEEA? What are the Committee’s views on the scope and membership of this group?

• While some of the proposed activities within the roadmap are already funded, many will require additional funding. Does the Committee have suggestions on avenues for funding?
THANK YOU

seea@un.org