



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION  
UNITED NATIONS

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**Eleventh Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on  
Environmental-Economic Accounting  
New York, 22-24 June 2016**

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA (20 June 2016)**

**Wednesday, 22 June 2015, 9:30AM – 5:30PM**

**9:00-9:30 Registration of participants**

**1. Opening and objectives of the meeting (9.30AM - 10.00AM)**

*Opening by the Chair*

- *Bert Kroese, Assistant Director, Statistics Netherlands*

**SEMINAR**

**2. Global databases (10.00 AM to 5.30PM)**

The Committee will discuss how global databases can be used to for SEEA purposes (e.g. for land cover accounts, carbon accounts, net primary production, water, etc.). The Committee will consider whether global databases can support the development of global or national baselines that are SEEA coherent, and discuss how global databases be used in conjunction with national data sources to obtain more accurate estimates. Each topic will be addressed in a dedicated session of one hour.

*Discussion Topics (with presentations):*

- **10.00AM – 11.00AM:** Land Cover and Biodiversity (FAO, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD, UNEP)

*Coffee break 11:00AM – 11:30AM*

- **11.30AM – 12.30 PM:** Energy (Roberta Quadrelli, IEA)

*Lunch break 12.30PM – 2:00PM*

- **2.00PM – 3.00PM :** Water (William Reidhead, UN-Water)
- **3.00PM – 4.00PM :** Sustainable Tourism (Clara Van Der Pol, UN-WTO)

• *Coffee break 4:00PM – 4:30PM*

- **4.30PM – 5.30PM :** MFA (Jillian Campbell, UNEP)

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, 9:00AM – 5:30PM

## MANAGEMENT MEETING

This section of the meeting will largely consist of discussion among UNCEEA members, moderated by individual organizers who will chair each session. A short cover note has been developed for each session, which summarizes the main issues for discussion. In addition, there are a number of background documents upon which the discussions are based. A list of the relevant documents for each session is provided in red below. These documents can be accessed on the UNCEEA website:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh\\_meeting/10d11.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/eleventh_meeting/10d11.htm)

### Introduction (9.00AM - 9.30AM)

Welcome speech:

- *Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNSD*

Short presentation on the state of the art of the implementation of the SEEA; short oral update on accounts being compiled by 2-3 countries

*Documents:*

- **Background Documents:**
  - BK/11/Intro – Presentation on SEEA Implementation in South Africa

### 3. Development of SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (9:30-12:30)

The aim is for the Committee to agree on the research agenda; prioritize the research issues; agree on the typology of SEEA publications and their updates; agree on a timeline; and ensure that resources are in place to advance the research agenda according to the timeline.

#### 3.a - SEEA Central Framework research agenda (9.30AM – 10.30AM)

*Organizer:* Chair of the Technical Committee on SEEA Central Framework (Statistics Netherlands)

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion :**
  - UNCEEA/11/3a - The SEEA central framework research agenda
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/3a - SEEA Central Framework research agenda (updated version for UNCEEA review)

Key questions for discussion:

- Does the UNCEEA agree with the proposed topics on the research agenda for SEEA Central Framework?
- What are the priority topics to be addressed in the research agenda?
- Are there resources within the various institutions involved sufficiently available to solve the issues in the priority list?

- Does the UNCEEA agree with the proposed timeline for the SEEA CF research agenda?
- How should clarifications, interpretations and changes to the SEEA Central Framework be communicated? Should the UNCEEA introduce a 'SEEA News and Notes', similar as for the SNA?

*Coffee break 10.30AM – 11.00AM*

### **3.b - SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (11.00AM – 12.00PM)**

*Organizer: Eurostat*

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion :**
  - UNCEEA/11/3b – SEEA experimental ecosystem accounting
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/3b (1) - Proposed next steps and approach to finalizing the SEEA EEA Technical Recommendations and establishing a research agenda
  - BK/3b (2) - SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting Technical Recommendation - Consultation Draft

Key questions for discussion:

*Coordination of activities linked to experimental ecosystem accounting*

- What is the role NSOs should play in testing/implementing the SEEA EEA? What are the key strengths the NSOs can and should contribute to the testing?
- What is the best way to set up cooperation with other players, including organizations holding geospatial data?

*Identifying and resolving key issues arising from experimental ecosystem accounting and updating the SEEA EEA research agenda*

- Does the UNCEEA agree with the proposed topics on the research agenda for the SEEA EEA (see table on page 2 of this note and sections 4.1, 4.2 and 5 of the background document)?
- Which of the issues should receive priority? Are there any topics missing? Is the relation to the SEEA Central Framework research agenda clear?
- Would your institution be willing to be the lead agency on one or more of the key issues / research topics?

*Revision of the SEEA EEA handbook*

- Do you think the timeline presented on page 3 is realistic where a revised version of the SEEA EEA is finalized in 2020?
- Could you suggest that some of the topics in the SEEA EEA can move towards becoming statistical standards in 2020?
- Would your institution be willing to contribute funding to allow an editor to be hired from early 2018 onwards?

### **3.c - SEEA subsystems and other publications supporting the SEEA implementation (12.00PM – 12.30PM)**

*Organizer: UNSD*

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion :**
  - UNCEEA/11/3c - Finalizing SEEA Energy and SEEA Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
  
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/3c (1) - Typology of publications supporting the SEEA implementation
  - BK/3c (2) – Draft SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
  - BK/3c (3) – Draft SEEA Energy
  - BK/3c (4) – The process of drafting SEEA Energy
  - BK/3c(5) - SEEA Air Emissions Accounts: from Central Framework to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
  - BK/3c (6) – The process of drafting SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Key questions for discussion:

- The UNCEEA is asked to provide its views on the endorsement of the SEEA Energy as the internationally agreed methodological document for energy accounts in support of the SEEA Central Framework as international statistical standard, following its final review by the Technical Committee of the SEEA Central Framework?
- The UNCEEA is asked to provide its views on the endorsement of the SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as the internationally agreed methodological document for agricultural, forestry and fisheries accounts in support of the SEEA Central Framework as international statistical standard, following its final review by the Technical Committee of the SEEA Central Framework?

*Lunch Break 12.30PM – 1.45PM*

## **4. Implementation of the SEEA (1.45PM - 5:30PM)**

The Statistical Commission agreed in principle on the implementation strategy for the SEEA. The aim of this session is for the Committee to decide on the final changes and refinements with a focus on monitoring implementation targets for 2020, the components of the capacity building programme, and the promotion of SEEA for the SDG monitoring.

### **4.a - Defining and monitoring targets for 2020 in the implementation plan (1.45PM – 2.15PM)**

*Organizer: UNSD*

*Documents:*

- **Documents for discussion:**
  - UNCEEA/11/4a – Defining and monitoring targets for 2020 in the implementation strategy

- UNCEEA/11/4a – Updated Implementation Strategy for the SEEA Central Framework
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/4a (1) - Global Assessment on Environmental Accounting and Supporting Statistics (2014)
  - BK/4a (2) - Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting Questionnaire
  - BK/4a (3) - Overview of UNCEEA member countries' activities related to compilation of SEEA

Key questions for discussion:

- How do we define a country with on-going, well-resourced programs in SEEA CF, given that the system consists of many tables and the strategy is that countries start implementing according to their own priorities?
- How do we define a country with on-going, well-resourced programs in ecosystem accounting given that the system is still experimental?
- How do we monitor the annual progress made by countries? Is the global assessment used in 2014 useful to track progress towards implementation? What kind of information is needed for the global monitoring of the SEEA implementation status?

#### 4.b - Capacity building for the SEEA (2.15PM – 3.30PM)

*This session will be a break out session of two groups*

*Organizers: South Africa (group 1) and Indonesia (group 2)*

*Documents:*

- **Cover notes for discussion:**
  - UNCEEA/11/4b – Cover notes for breakout session discussions (Cover note for breakout session 1: Statistical production process and harmonised tools & Cover note for breakout session 2: Training and capacity building)
  - UNCEEA/11/4b – Presentations for breakout sessions 1 and 2
- **Background documents for Review:**
  - BK/4b (1) - SEEA Implementation with regard to data, harmonisation, classifications, statistical tools and platforms
  - SEEA Technical Notes (BK/4b (2) onwards)

#### Group 1- Statistical production processes and harmonized tools:

- What are the key areas of statistics that need to be strengthened/adapted with a view to facilitating the compilation of environmental accounts? How can this be done?
- How do we introduce the use of metadata driven statistical production architecture, CSPA and GSBPM, in support of the SEEA/SNA implementation?
- What kind of tools need to be developed (e.g. meta data driven statistical production processes, use of standardized questionnaires for specific modules (on water, on energy, etc.), approaches for the use of administrative data, etc.?)

- Could we provide software tools to countries such as Eurostat's Physical Energy Flow Accounts builder (using energy balances to get the accounts) to compile simplified accounts?

## **Group 2: Training and capacity building**

*At the broader programmatic level:*

- How can a training and capacity building programme technical notes and training courses for the SEEA implementation be arranged by modules (water, energy, etc), by level (basic, intermediate, advanced, etc.), by format (face to face, distance learning), by qualification and certification
- Does the presence of statistical infrastructures (data availability, national priority program) relate to capacity building module requirements?
- Do we have an inventory of existing material and how can we make efficient use of existing training materials and transform them in e-learning courses? Do we need to harmonise/make this material consistent to develop internationally agreed model courses? What new training materials still need to be developed? Is there a need to develop a knowledge platform to host training materials?

*Coordination of capacity building:*

- How do we go about having a training of trainers programme in combination with the use of common e-learning courses?
- How do we coordinate global and regional training activities in collaboration with regional training institutions?
- Should we establish a group on training and capacity building to coordinate capacity building activities on the SEEA done by national and international organizations?

*Training materials and resources:*

- Is the UNCEEA satisfied with the technical notes developed so far? What notes should be a priority in the near term and who will be responsible for drafting and maintaining the technical notes?
- Is the UNCEEA satisfied with the introductory courses on SEEA CF and SEEA EEA? What would be additional courses to be developed on a priority base?
- How can we mobilize external funding support for the SEEA implementation?

## **4.c - SEEA and the SDGs (3.30 - 4.00PM)**

*Organizer: Chair of the UNCEEA (Statistics Netherlands)*

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion:**
  - UNCEEA/11/4c – SEEA and the SDGs
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/4c (1) through BK/4c (6) - All of the materials which were submitted by the UNCEEA to the IAEG-SDGs during 2014-2016.
  - BK/4c (7) and BK/4c(8) - Contribution from Mexico on the 'Possible Contribution of the System of National Accounts and Satellite Accounts to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals'

Key questions for discussion:

- What are the reasons why the SEEA has not been taken up as much as was hoped for in the definition of the SDG indicators. How can we address these issues?
- How do we promote the use of SEEA in the development of Tier 2 and Tier 3 indicators?
- How do we promote the use of SEEA in the development of metadata for the SDG indicators?

*Coffee Break 4.00PM – 4.30PM*

#### **4.d - Data collection and dissemination (4.30 – 5.30PM)**

*Organizer: OECD*

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion:**
  - UNCEEA/11/4d – Data collection and dissemination
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/4d (1) - Progress on advancing international SEEA-based data collection and dissemination
  - BK/4d (2) - Briefing note on possible global SEEA databases for Materials, Energy, and Air Emissions Accounts

Key questions for discussion:

- Which data sets are the best candidates to start international collection (e.g. MFA, energy accounts, air emissions accounts, land accounts...)?
- How do we collaborate internationally, how do we disseminate, how do we collect and disseminate SEEA baseline data and indicators?
- Could we provide tools to countries to compile simplified accounts?

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 9:00AM – 5:30PM**

#### **5. International cooperation (9:00-12:30; coffee break at 11:00)**

The aim of this session is to agree on the way international cooperation should be organized, especially with respect to international organizations.

*Organizer: Canada*

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion:**
  - UNCEEA/11/5 – International Cooperation
  - UNCEEA/11/5 – Presentation on International Coordination (Canada)
- **Background documents for review:**
  - BK/5 (1) - Overview of international agencies' activities related to SEEA
  - BK/5 (2) - Overview of international agencies' in-country work
  - BK/5 (3) – Overview of international groups and bodies relevant to the SEEA
  - BK/5 (4) – A draft work plan for the London group 2016-2018

Key questions for discussion

- Do we need a new partnership group for this task?
- If yes, how would this group relate to UNCEEA and other groups? If no, how can UNCEEA oversee and organize international cooperation?
- Should we review the mandates and TORs of other groups already working in this area (London group, technical committees, etc.)?

*Lunch Break 12.30PM – 2.00PM*

## **6. UNCEEA (2:00-5:30; coffee break at 4:00)**

The aim is to agree on the way the UNCEEA should be organized, given the fact that its goal is to promote development and implementation of SEEA and its related modules

*Organizer: Chair of the UNCEEA*

*Documents:*

- **Cover note for discussion:**
  - UNCEEA/11/6 - Proposals with regard to composition, level of representation and organisation of work of the UNCEEA

Key questions for discussion:

- What should the role of UNCEEA and its Bureau be? What should the governance structure be?
- What should be the composition?
- What should be the level of representation?
- How do we organize the work and supported decision making by the UNCEEA?