



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Review of the Mandate and Governance of the UNCEEA

19th UNCEEA Meeting
25-26 June 2024



United Nations

Review of the mandate and functioning of the UNCEEA

- Current Terms of Reference were endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2006
- Need the review to:
 - Ensure that they reflect the current work and priorities of the Committee
 - Identify ways to improve the functioning of the Committee
- Bureau established Task Team on the UNCEEA Mandate and Functioning
 - Chair, Secretariat, Working Group leads, other volunteers from Bureau
 - Main tasks:
 - Review and propose changes to Terms of Reference and Operational Guidelines for the Bureau's consideration

Broad overview of changes

- Overall changes made do not significantly alter the mandate and governance of the UNCEEA
- The proposed changes can be grouped in the following:
 - Structure of the document:
 - From “ToR” and “Operational guidelines” to “Mandate and Governance”
 - Changes in the mandate of the Committee
 - Clarifying the Governance of the Committee

Structure of the document

Terms of Reference

- Overall objectives of the UNCEEA
- Broad components of the work programme
- Basic profile of Committee Members, Chair and Secretariat
- Reporting to the UN Statistical Commission

Operational Guidelines

- Further elaboration of programme of work
- Further elaboration on the governance structure



Mandate and Governance

- A. Mandate
 - Overall objectives of the UNCEEA
 - Broad components of the work programme
 - Reporting to the UN Statistical Commission
- B. Governance
 - Roles and expectations of Committee Members, Chair, Bureau, Secretariat and Working Groups

The Operational Guidelines (still under review) are expected to provide information on the current structure (i.e. working groups and task teams) and protocols of the Committee, thus expected to be reviewed more frequently

Changes in the mandate of the Committee

- Overall scope and main elements of the Committee's programme of work are consistent with current Terms of Reference
 - Ensuring coordination in the field
 - Encouraging use of SEEA for decision making
 - Furthering methodology
 - Advancing SEEA implementation
 - Data collection/dissemination
- Previous objective of UNCEEA: "to elevate the SEEA to an international statistical standard"
- Updated objective of UNCEEA: "to maintain the SEEA and supporting documents through regular updates to ensure its relevance and coherence with other statistical standards"
- Additional objective: "provide strategic vision in the field of environmental-economic accounting and related statistics"

Governance of the Committee - Chair

- Reflects current practices
 - Chair is elected for a 3 year-period, renewable every three years
 - If Chair is to resign mid-term, Bureau will designate an interim Chair
- Option added for Chair to recommend to the Bureau the designation of a Deputy or Co-Chair
 - Common practice in other UN Committees
 - Can help manage large number of responsibilities of the Chair

Governance of the Committee – Bureau

- Previous ToR had no text on the Bureau; addition of text reflects current practices:
 - Bureau works under delegated authority from the Committee
 - Provides advice to the Committee and assists with the management of its work programme
 - Composed of all area leads, Deputy/Co-Chair (as applicable), international organizations and country members.
 - Reviews and approves the creation of Working Groups and Technical Committees

Governance of the Committee – Steering Committee

- Addition of a Steering Group, comprising the Bureau's delegates to the UN Statistical Commission
- Builds on current practice of holding an in-person Bureau meeting on the sidelines of the UN Statistical Commission
- Formalizing the group will help the Committee more actively and regularly engage with high-level representatives, both to keep them abreast of developments and obtain their views
- Will hold additional meeting(s) outside of the UN Statistical Commission

Governance of the Committee – Committee's members

- No substantial changes, but further detail on the profile of Committee members has been provided
- Reconfirmed the managerial nature of the Committee → representation from senior officials who have a broad range of experience in the compilation and uses of the SEEA
- Committee members are expected to:
 - > Actively participate in the work of the Committee
 - > Promote the compilation and use of the SEEA in their countries and regions, as appropriate
- Members are selected so as to ensure equitable regional representation

Governance of the Committee – Working groups

- Working groups and technical committees now explicitly reflected in the document—text reflects current practices
- Composed of Committee members and non-members with relevant technical expertise, keeping in mind balanced regional representation
- Working groups and technical committees may create time-bound task teams
- Bureau will review and approve the creation of working groups and technical committees and appoint their leads

Questions to the Committee

- Does the Committee endorse the Mandate and Governance of the UNCEEA document?
- Does the Committee have any comments on the Task Team's plans for the Operational Guidelines?