

## 10<sup>th</sup> Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

*18-20 March 2025, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### 1. Introduction

The *Tenth Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on the Implementation of SEEA* will be organised as an in-person meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 18-20 March 2025.

The Organising Committee consists of representatives from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of Australia, Estonia, Finland (Chair), Germany, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States as well as from the Institut de Conseil et d'Études et Développement Durable (ICEDD), Eurostat, IMF, UNEP and UNSD in addition to OECD and UNECE.

The aim of the seminar is to provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience on SEEA implementation and to facilitate coordination between all relevant partners in the OECD and UNECE regions. The seminar is organised annually with a long-term view to support the implementation of SEEA and enhance its integration into policy-making processes.

Documents for the seminar will be available on the webpage at <https://unece.org/statistics/events/joint-oecd-unece-seminar-seea-implementation>.

This Tenth Seminar aims to **support the development of robust SEEA Accounts to inform and strengthen critical policy areas, namely climate change, disaster-risk management, and biodiversity conservation.**

For each of the chosen policy areas, the Organising Committee is designing a programme according to the following basic scope and structure:

- a. Short overview of core (including emerging) statistical demands for the policy theme.
- b. Presentation of examples of current practices, new methodological developments and communication that help meet those demands with SEEA.
- c. Presentations and open discussion on key challenges in compilation of SEEA accounts that are related to the theme.

The seminar will also inform about the ongoing updates of both the SEEA Central Framework and the System of National Accounts (SNA). During the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to offer input and learn how they can actively contribute to the SEEA update.

#### 2. Organisation of the Seminar

The first half day of the seminar, scheduled for 18 March from 9:00 to 13:30 Central European Time (CET), will consist of an informal session, providing participants the opportunity to join small group discussions. It will be conducted exclusively in English, fostering an open and interactive environment.

The formal part of the meeting will focus on updates from key international initiatives and explore how SEEA accounts can be compiled and further developed to inform critical policy areas, namely climate change, disaster-risk management, and biodiversity conservation. This part of the meeting will offer English, French, and Russian Interpretation and will run from 14:30 – 17:30 CET on 18 March, and from 9:30 – 17:30 CET on 19 and 20 March.

Presentations from countries sharing national experiences in SEEA implementation, along with insights from international organisations, will be complemented by panel discussions and other interactive formats. Ample time will be allocated for discussions, allowing for in-depth exchanges among participants. The formal sessions will be streamed online; however, remote participants will not be able to intervene directly.

Participants who are interested in giving presentations at any of the sessions are invited to contact Michael Nagy ([michael.nagy@un.org](mailto:michael.nagy@un.org)) or Santaro Sakata ([santaro.sakata@oecd.org](mailto:santaro.sakata@oecd.org)) by **14 January 2025** at the latest.

Participants should register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1011637/registrations/18087/> by **6 March 2025**.

### 3. Agenda

#### 18 March 2025

#### **Informal session on communication strategies and advanced techniques for SEEA**

This session will provide participants with an open, interactive environment to discuss practical issues related to SEEA implementation. Breakout sessions may be arranged to facilitate focused discussions. Key discussion points and outcomes from this session will be summarised and reported back to the seminar.

The Organising Committee recommends using this informal session to address the following topics:

- **Communication strategies:** Showcase experiences and best practices on communicating SEEA data, making data accessible and useful for both the public and policy makers. Countries and international organisations could share experiences using different media and tools to reach out to a wider audience possibly including newsletters, press releases, blog articles, podcasts, social media, and interactive data portals.
- **Improving communication to collect SEEA-related data:** Discuss how communication between SEEA account compilers and stakeholders involved in collecting or compiling related data and statistics can be strengthened. Participants will explore how SEEA compilers can more effectively convey their data requirements to stakeholders, thereby facilitating the efficient and accurate compilation of accounts.
- **Using new technologies for compilation:** Explore how emerging technologies such as machine learning and AI could enhance the compilation of SEEA accounts by automating data collection, analysis, and integration processes.

Participants of the Seminar are invited to come up with additional suggestions.

#### **Session 1: Opening & Setting the Scene**

This session will open the seminar with introductory remarks and a presentation of the detailed programme. It will set the stage by providing an overview of the seminar's goals and agenda, as well as updates from related recent key events and initiatives.

The proposed focus areas for this session include:

- **Summary of informal session outcomes:** A brief recap of the main points and insights gathered during the informal session on communication strategies and advanced SEEA techniques, which will help frame the formal discussions to follow.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration:** In recognition of the seminar's 10th anniversary, this segment will reflect on the evolution of the event, highlighting changes in topics, participants, and format over the years. Attendees will be invited to share their experiences, offering insights into how the seminar has influenced SEEA implementation and fostered international collaboration.
- **Updates from key groups and activities:**
  - Developments from the 2025 Session of the UN Statistical Commission;
  - Updates from the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA), including global data collection;
  - Progress under the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative, particularly in capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening environmental-economic accounting capabilities;
  - Recent work by the London Group on Environmental-Economic Accounting; and
  - Updates on major international policy frameworks that increasingly rely on SEEA data for effective policymaking.
- **Other Relevant Topics Outside the 2025 Seminar's Main Focus:** This segment will touch on additional important topics, including developments in measuring circular economy with SEEA.

## Session 2: The SNA update and the SEEA Central Framework update

The second session will provide updates on the ongoing updates of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA-CF), emphasizing how these updates will enhance the integration of environmental and economic data. It will also outline ways for participants to actively engage in the processes of updating SEEA-CF (by the time of the seminar the update of the 2025 SNA will likely be concluded).

The session is organized into two parts: one focusing on the SNA update and the other on the SEEA-CF update.

### Sub-session 2a - The SNA update

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2021 endorsed the work programme for updating the 2008 System of National Accounts. The process is overseen by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), assisted by the Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts. Global Consultations have been organised to review the draft 2025 SNA. The 2025 SNA will include a number of important changes related to the measurement of natural resources such as the treatment of depletion as a cost of production and the valuation of renewable energy resources.

This sub-session foresees discussions of the following:

- Overview of the main changes in the 2025 SNA (incl. contributions of the OECD Expert Group on Natural Capital and the OECD Natural Capital Manual);
- Key issues relevant to SEEA (e.g., treatment of land, valuation of natural resources, recognition of renewable energy resources as economic assets, ownership etc.);
- Impacts of the SNA-update on SEEA implementation and the SEEA-CF update; and

- Related updates of important classifications, such as the Classification Of the Functions of Government (COFOG).

#### Sub-session 2b - The SEEA-CF update

In March 2024, the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the update of the SEEA Central Framework so that the Framework remains responsive to emerging demands for integrated environmental and economic data in support of various policy areas and consistent with other related international standards ([Decision 55/109\(a\) of E/CN.3/2024/36](#)).

This sub-session foresees discussions of the following:

- Process and timeline of the update. How countries could engage actively (e.g. channels for active participation and for those who do not have the resources to participate actively);
- Results of the global consultation, updated list of issues and prioritisation for the SEEA-CF update; and
- Key issues relevant to the priority list, paying particular attention to those topics beyond climate change and biodiversity

19 March 2025

### Session 3: Building robust SEEA Accounts for informing Climate Change Policies and Disaster-Risk Reduction

This session builds on the related discussions and presentations of the 2024 Seminar. It will focus on practical approaches to producing SEEA accounts that inform climate change policies and disaster-risk reduction efforts.

Participants will explore methods for developing accounts that capture climate change drivers (air emissions, energy use etc.), measuring physical impacts (such as climate-related hazards) and assess transition risks. Emphasis will be given on how SEEA accounts can capture data related to actions on climate change, including policies on mitigation (taxes, subsidies, government expenditures etc.). The session will also examine how SEEA-based accounts can be utilised to derive key indicators such as GHG footprint emissions and other climate change policy indicators.

Additionally, the session will explore methods for measuring the risk and impact of disasters on the environment, ecosystems and ecosystem services, discussing how environmental disaster-related statistics can be integrated within SEEA accounts.

An emerging area of focus is the application of SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) and SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) in disaster-risk management. The Inter-Agency Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS), established by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2020, is currently developing a global common framework for disaster-related statistics. This framework is set to be submitted to the UNSC for review and decision at its 57th Session in March 2026.

This session represents a critical opportunity to integrate SEEA work within the global disaster-related data ecosystem by exploring the relevance of SEEA CF and SEEA EA modules in areas such as disaster-risk-related finance and the assessment of disaster impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem

services. This integration could significantly enhance the capacity to quantify and manage the environmental and economic dimensions of disaster risk.

The session is planned to be organised in four sub-sessions.

#### Sub-session 3a - Introduction, information needs, existing measurement frameworks and their links with SEEA

In this introductory sub-session, organizations and institutions will present their information needs related to SEEA, focusing on how SEEA can support climate change and disaster-risk management efforts. Topics will include updates on the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA-CF) relevant to these areas, such as the potential inclusion of Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) in air emission accounts, and other enhancements that align SEEA accounts with emerging policy demands.

#### Sub-session 3b – Challenges in implementing relevant SEEA accounts and examples of use

This sub-session will address key challenges in implementing SEEA accounts relevant to climate change and showcase practical examples of their use:

- **Implementing SEEA for measuring climate change drivers:** Exploring methods for measuring physical drivers of climate change, such as through Air Emission Accounts and Physical Energy Flow Accounts, with a balanced focus on country-level implementation and advanced techniques.
- **Tracking climate actions:** Producing SEEA accounts for capturing actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including climate mitigation investments, taxes, subsidies, and relevant public expenditures.
- **Using Ecosystem Accounts:** Demonstrating how Ecosystem Accounts can be applied to assess impacts of climate change.
- **Policy and evaluation applications:** Ensuring that key indicators of national policies align with SEEA accounts (e.g., SEEA and Multi-Regional Input-Output tables (MRIOs), SEEA and macroeconomic indicators, sectoral analysis)

#### Sub-session 3c – Exploring the potential and practicalities of integrating SEEA into the global Disaster-related Statistics Framework

This sub-session will explore the integration of SEEA within the global disaster-related statistics framework, where SEEA is recognized as a key source of information. The discussions will provide valuable insights that can directly influence the development of this global framework, enhancing its capacity to assess and respond to disaster impacts using SEEA-based data.

- **International collaboration and engagement:** Updates on relevant international work and opportunities for SEEA experts to actively contribute to the evolving global framework.
- **Practical examples:** Case studies illustrating how SEEA can be effectively applied to produce disaster-related statistics.

### Sub-session 3d - Panel discussion and wrap-up

This sub-session will feature a panel discussion with active input from the audience. Panellists will be invited to summarise key lessons learned from the previous sub-sessions, highlighting major insights and takeaways.

20 March 2025

### Session 4: Building robust SEEA Accounts for informing biodiversity policy

This session will address the challenges and methodologies for building robust ecosystem accounts, with a specific focus on supporting national reporting for the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2026. The session will explore SEEA accounts that measure biodiversity in both physical and monetary terms, including ecosystem extent and condition accounts (e.g., forest accounts) and accounts that help identify drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land use change and water accounts.

A central theme will be designing national ecosystem accounts that align with GBF reporting requirements, particularly for indicators like ecosystem extent and ecosystem services. Participants will discuss essential aspects of account design, including classifications, appropriate reporting geographies, and selection of relevant ecosystem services to inform both international reporting and domestic policy.

Additionally, the session will examine approaches to valuation within SEEA, comparing and explaining the key methodologies currently used to value ecosystem services and assets, which can enhance understanding and policy relevance in biodiversity management. SEEA-based accounts will be discussed as tools for deriving valuable indicators, such as those related to land-use changes and biodiversity policy measures.

The session aims at identifying and reviewing current practices and discussing challenges in the implementation of the SEEA in relation to biodiversity policies.

The session could be divided into four sub-sessions:

#### Sub-session 4a -Introduction, information needs, existing measurement frameworks and their links with SEEA

This sub-session will introduce the foundational needs and frameworks supporting biodiversity measurement within SEEA. Organizations and institutions will be invited to present their specific information needs related to SEEA. Additionally, updates will be provided on biodiversity-relevant topics within the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA-CF) update.

#### Sub-session 4b -Measuring biodiversity extent, condition and drivers of biodiversity loss

This sub-session will explore the physical and monetary dimensions of biodiversity measurement:

- **Physical measurement of biodiversity extent and condition:** Developing ecosystem and forest accounts to track the extent and condition of biodiversity assets.
- **Measuring drivers of biodiversity loss and biodiversity conservation in physical terms:** Utilizing land, water, and forest accounts to understand and monitor factors impacting biodiversity.

- **Monetary valuation:** Examining valuation methods within SEEA-CF (e.g., water, land, forest products) and SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (e.g., ecosystem services and forest services).

#### Sub-session 4c - Measuring government action on biodiversity conservation

This sub-session will focus on how SEEA accounts capture government actions that impact biodiversity conservation. Participants will discuss how policies, taxes, subsidies, and expenditures related to biodiversity are recorded within SEEA, offering insights into the role of public policy in biodiversity preservation and its measurement through SEEA accounts.

#### Sub-session 4d - Panel discussion and wrap-up

The final sub-session will feature a panel discussion with insights and contributions from the audience. Panellists will be invited to summarise the main lessons learned from the previous sub-sessions and critical takeaways for SEEA implementation.

### Session 5: Conclusions and Recommendations

The session will conclude with recommendations for SEEA implementation, including a report of outcomes from the informal session held at the start of the seminar. The session will allow for a discussion with presenters and chairs from previous sessions towards common conclusions and recommendations.

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