

Session 3: Panel Discussion on Policy and SEEA

Monday 14 April, 11:30-13:00

Over the past few years, demand for environmental-economic and ecosystem accounts from policy makers and others has markedly increased. In the European Union, legislation has been adopted making it mandatory for countries to report on certain modules of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Developing countries have also adopted national strategies calling for the compilation of accounts. This demand has been further articulated at the international level. The outcome document “The Future We Want” of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development called for the formulation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The United Nations, in close collaboration with member states and other relevant partners, is conducting an inclusive process to develop and agree on the goals and targets to drive the post-2015 development agenda, as well as corresponding SDG indicators to monitor progress. In this regard, the United Nations Statistical Commission recognized the SEEA as an important statistical framework for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators at its 45th session in 2014.

The focus of the panel discussion will be to highlight the opportunities and challenges faced by national statistics offices and government agencies to derive SEEA-based information for integrated policy making.

Discussion questions:

- 1) Does your country have a national plan to implement and monitor the post 2015 development agenda, and what is the nature of that plan? What are the institutional mechanisms in place? What are the policy priorities at the national level?
- 2) How can the SEEA inform policy questions and various initiatives on sustainable development in your country?
- 3) What are the opportunities and challenges faced by your country to derive SEEA-based information for integrated policy making?
- 4) What institutional mechanisms are in place in your country to ensure that the implementation of SEEA and Experimental Ecosystem Accounting is done in a coherent manner across different ministries with the aim of establishing sustained production of accounts within an agreed statistical production architecture for the national statistical system?