

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING**

1. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 36<sup>th</sup> Session in March 2005. Its overall objectives are (a) to mainstream environmental-economic accounting and related statistics; (b) to elevate the *System of integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA)* to an international statistical standard; and (c) to advance the implementation of the SEEA in countries. To achieve these objectives, the UN Committee programme of work will focus on the following:

- (a) Ensure coordination, integration and complementarity among programmes in environmental-economic accounting and related statistics among international organizations and countries;
- (b) Encourage the use of environmental-economic accounting in countries in support to decision making through technical recommendations on the compilation, harmonization and dissemination of the accounts, linking the accounts to indicators and developing a closer relationship between the users and producers of environmental-economic accounts and related statistics;
- (c) Further methodologies in environmental-economic accounting and statistics through identifying, and prioritising issues that need to be addressed, establishing appropriate mechanisms to address those issues, monitoring progress made, reviewing proposed solution and submitting recommendations to the United Nations Statistical Commission for approval;
- (d) Advance the implementation of the *SEEA* in developed and developing countries;
- (e) Work towards the harmonization of data collection activities of environment and related statistics with concepts and definitions of environmental-economic accounting including the assurance of data quality.

2. The Committee will bring to the attention of United Nations Statistics Division and United Nations Statistical Commission new developments that impact the compilation of environmental-economic accounting and work on developing standards and, whenever this is not possible, best practices.

3. The Committee has an umbrella function in providing overall vision, coordination, prioritisation and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting and related statistics. The Committee will ensure that existing or new groups working in environmental accounting and related statistics will work in a complementary fashion with the Committee.

4. The selected members of the Committee comprise high-level experts from national governments and international organizations with a broad range of experience in statistics and in the uses of environmental-economic accounts. Members would also be selected so as to ensure equitable regional representation.

5. The Committee will elect a Chair who will serve for a 3 year-period renewable for once for an additional 3 years.
6. The United Nations Statistics Division will serve as the permanent Secretariat of the Committee. It will provide the day-to-day management and coordination and undertake all internal and external communication on behalf of the Committee. In cooperation with the Chair, the Secretariat will coordinate, monitor, and report on the activities of the various expert groups, organize meetings, develop the agenda for the meetings, maintain the Committee website and issue the Newsletter.
7. The Committee will prepare an annual report for presentation to the Statistical Commission. It will report progress made in its activities, including progress made by the various city groups, inter-secretariat working groups and other groups working with the Committee within its mandate.