



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

19th Meeting of the UNCEEA Main conclusions



United Nations

Mandate and governance

The Committee:

- Welcomed the Bureau's review of the Mandate and Governance document, noting the importance of ensuring that the documents reflect the work of the Committee and its current priorities and practices;
- Suggested to include in the Mandate and Governance a reference to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, indicating that the maintenance of the SEEA will also be done in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- Agreed that the formalization of a Steering Group, consisting of the Bureau's representatives to the UN Statistical Commission, would provide an important vehicle for the Committee to regularly communicate the importance of the SEEA to high-level officials and strengthen buy-in and engagement, as well as provide an opportunity for Steering Group members to provide feedback and direction, and help the Committee build better linkages to related areas of work and priorities within statistical offices;
- Agreed to include in the mandate the option for the Chair to recommend to the Committee the designation of a Co-chair (rather than Co-Chair/Deputy Chair) to share chairing responsibilities;

Mandate and governance

The Committee:

- Suggested to explicitly mention that the Bureau includes, as a permanent member, the Chair of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, given the close relationship between the UNCEEA and London Group;
- Agreed to include some text in the Mandate and Governance on ensuring communication between the different groups of the Committee and with the broader Committee;
- Endorsed the Mandate and Governance document, subject to editing to include the suggestions made during the meeting, as well as its further submission to the UN Statistical Commission; and
- Supported the Bureau's plans for the Operational Guidelines, suggesting that, to enhance transparency, the procedures for determining membership be clarified in the document, and noted that the composition of the working groups and technical committees should be posted on the SEEA website.

Area B1: Methodology - Central Framework

The Committee:

- Welcomed the work done by the Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF TC) on the list of issues and project management framework for the update of the SEEA CF;
- Endorsed the proposed initial list of issues and agreed that it can be sent for global consultation;
- Agreed with the proposal for the SEEA CF TC to summarize the results of the global consultation and revise the list of issues and prioritization accordingly, also taking into consideration the amount of resources secured for the revision;
- Agreed with the proposed process to finalize the list of issues for the update of the SEEA CF, which includes a review by the Bureau and then by broader UNCEEA, before being presented to the UN Statistical Commission at its 56th Session in March 2025;

Area B1: Methodology - Central Framework

The Committee:

- Emphasized the importance of reaching a wide audience during the global consultation and encouraged the SEEA CF TC to reach out to different producer and user communities, as well as to help facilitate national-level outreach;
- Noted that, in order to better engage with different communities, communication on the global consultation could be tailored to these communities by highlighting the specific issues of relevance for them;
- Suggested to include a cover note for the global consultation that provide a short description on the SEEA Central Framework, including its purpose, uses and policy relevance;
- Endorsed the project management framework, which will be presented to the UN Statistical Commission at its 56th Session;
- Took note of the engagement by members in the revision processes of the 2025 SNA, CEP, COFOG and GFS, as well as in the review process of the Statistical Guideline on Measuring Flows of Plastics Along the Life Cycle; and
- Welcomed the engagement of the London Group in advancing the discussion on selected issues for the update of the SEEA Central Framework and the coordination with the SEEA CF TC.

Area A: Coordination and Communication

The Committee:

- Welcomed the progress made by Area A on Coordination and Communication over the past year and endorsed its work plan for the upcoming year which, include the continuation of the webinar series, maintenance of the landscape assessment, communication/coordination of key ongoing initiatives and coordination of the communications on the update of the SEEA Central Framework;
- Commended the strong engagement from the biodiversity community and statistical community in the first two webinars of the series, which focused on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting and Monitoring Framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Agreed on the group's plans for future webinars on sustainable finance and business accounting and further suggested possible webinars on policy uses related to taxes and subsidies; renewable energy; and the compilation and use of the accounts at a subnational level; and
- Noted the suggestion to add the Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar on Implementation of the SEEA to the landscape assessment.

Area C: Development of Global Databases

The Committee:

- Welcomed the progress made by Area C over the past year, particularly in advancing the global data collection and dissemination for air emission, physical energy flow and material flow accounts;
- Agreed to the group's plans to pilot the land cover questionnaire and complete the feasibility study on water accounts, noting the importance of exploring the possible links between these accounts with the related SEEA Ecosystem Accounts when carrying out these plans;
- Agreed with the group's suggestion to re-assess the current list of priority accounts and make a proposal on priority accounts for the next five-year period (2026-2030) at the next meeting of the UNCEEA in 2025;
- Agreed on the importance of aligning the priority accounts with the SEEA-relevant policy priorities of countries and noted that the 2024 Global Assessment on Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics could be used to provide insight into this; and
- Noted the need to coordinate the designation and collection of new priority accounts with the update of the SEEA Central Framework as appropriate and agreed on the importance of coordination between the Working Group and SEEA CF TC in this regard.

Area B2: Methodology – Ecosystem Accounting

The Committee:

- Commended the work done by the Technical Committee on the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA TC) over the past year, in particular on the work related to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) headline indicators;
- Welcomed the progress of work of the SEEA EA TC and its Working Groups and Task Teams and encouraged the SEEA EA TC to continue the implementation of its work programme, including the development of practical guidance notes to support the compilation of accounts;
- Emphasized the importance of biophysical ecosystem accounts for supporting a range of value perspectives on biodiversity and ecosystems, of which monetary values are one perspective;
- Highlighted the need to advance the research agenda on valuation for SEEA EA, taking into account country experiences and different approaches to monetary values connected to ecosystems and their services and building on the work being carried out in the London Group;

Area B2: Methodology – Ecosystem Accounting

The Committee:

- Suggested to the SEEA EA TC to further clarify the focus of the development of practical guidance notes for countries and of the outstanding aspects related to the GBF indicators, such as the aggregation method for ecosystem services; and
- Noted the potential role of the SEEA Central Framework in supporting some of the GBF indicators and encouraged the Technical Committee to build on the experience of Eurostat with the environmental protection expenditure accounts, especially related to biodiversity expenditures.

Area D: Capacity Building

The Committee:

- Welcomed the work of Area D over the past year, in particular the work on the Global Assessment and on revitalizing the Focal Point Network, as well as stressed the increased importance of the coordination of capacity building activities globally;
- Endorsed of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Focal Point Network included in the annex to the cover note and encouraged Area D and the Secretariat to engage more systematically with the Focal Points;
- Agreed to the expansion of membership of Area D with the suggested international organizations, regional development banks and countries, ensuring regional representation;
- Agreed with the priorities for the workplan of Area D for 2024-2025 and suggested to Area D to explore possibilities for making the Focal Points publicly available on the SEEA website; and
- Suggested including in the 2024 Global Assessment some questions to inform on the priority areas for developing global databases and assess the scale of compilation of ecosystem accounts (i.e., national or subnational scales).

Data Gaps Initiative 3

The Committee:

- Welcomed the collaboration between the Committee and the Third Phase of the Data Gaps Initiative (DGI-3) and encouraged the continued involvement of the Committee in the recommendations related to climate change (recommendations 1-7), to ensure use of the SEEA for these recommendations, as appropriate;
- Noted that the methodological work on the DGI-3 climate change recommendations would be an important input for consideration for several SEEA CF update issues, as well as issues under the GFS and COFOG updates; and
- Took note of the plans for DGI-3 communication releases, which are focused on data and analytical takeaways, and noted that circulation of these releases could be an opportunity to further highlight the policy uses of the accounts.



THANK YOU

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