



ESA/STAT/AC.116/7

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

**User-Producer Conference on
Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management
Voorburg, the Netherlands 22-24 May 2006**

**Organized under the auspices of the
UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
and hosted by Statistics Netherlands**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
ROUNDTABLE ON WATER ACCOUNTING**

DRAFT

BACKGROUND

1. The United Nations Committee of Experts was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th session in March 2005. The Committee 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.

2. In order to achieve the above objectives, five components for the programme of work of the Committee have been identified:

- Coordination through fostering coordination, integration and complementarity of programmes in environment-economic accounting and related statistics among international agencies and countries
- Promotion and implementation through advancing the SEEA implementation in countries and encouraging its use in support to decision making
- Furthering methodologies through coordinating the update of the SEEA-2003 by 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
- Harmonization of data collection activities of environment and related statistics with concepts and definitions of environmental-economic accounting including the assurance of data quality.

3. With the completion of the handbook *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water Resources*, commonly referred to as SEEAW, the UN Committee at its Preliminary Meeting in August 2005 recognized the importance of the promotion and implementation of the handbook and recommended that a user-producer conference be organized to promote the handbook and a new group consisting of producers and users of water accounts be formed under the auspices of the Committee.

4. Following on the Committee's recommendation, draft terms of reference of the Sub-group with the name "Roundtable on Water Accounting" are presented below in this document.

5. Participants at the Conference are invited to provide their opinion on the establishment of the Roundtable and its Terms of Reference.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE ROUNDTABLE ON WATER ACCOUNTING FOR
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

DRAFT

1. The Roundtable on Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management was created, under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, by the Conference on Integrated Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management in Voorburg, the Netherlands in May 2006. The completion of the handbook *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water Resources* and its adoption by the Conference created the momentum for mainstreaming water accounting. The main objectives of the Roundtable are: (a) to promote the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water Resources (SEEAW) for assessment and monitoring of hydrological-economic information in support of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM); and (b) to advance the implementation and use of the SEEAW in countries.
2. The programme of work of the Roundtable will focus on the following:
 - (a) Preparation of an in-depth analysis of lessons learnt from country experiences in the implementation and use of the SEEAW;
 - (b) Promotion of the SEEAW within the users' community at national and international level. In particular establish communication with UN-Water, the Secretary General Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, the World Water Assessment Programme and other relevant groups by organizing and participating in international meetings;
 - (c) Preparation of toolkit consisting of: (i) country practices; (ii) training material; (iii) promotion material; and (iv) dissemination tools and practices.
3. The membership of the Roundtable would include high-level experts in water from national statistical offices, ministries responsible for water policies and international organizations.
4. XXXXX will serve as the Chair of the Roundtable and the United Nations Statistics Division will serve as the Secretariat.
5. The primary means of communication will be electronic but the Roundtable will meet one a year possibly back-to-back to other meetings.
6. The Group will have a limited duration of three years and it will cease to exist once the outputs indicated in point 2 have been delivered.
7. The Group will submit reports to the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, at times determined by its Chair. These might include progress reports, summaries of conclusions and draft reports.
8. A trust fund will be established to finance the activities of the Roundtable.