

First Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Minutes of the Meeting

(United Nations, New York, 22-23 June 2006)

1. The First Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Expert on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was opened by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). It was hosted in New York at the United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 23 June 2006. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Walter Radermacher, Chair of the UNCEEA and Vice-president of the Federal Statistical Office, Germany. The agenda and list of participants is included in Annex IV and Annex V respectively.

2. The First Meeting of the UNCEEA discussed its strategy in the promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounts, its coordination role as requested by the UN Statistical Commission¹ and its programme of work. A list of tasks and activities to be undertaken by the UNCEEA and agreed during the meeting is presented in Annex I.

Session 1: Opening of the meeting

3. In his opening speech, Mr. Cheung reiterated the important role of the UNCEEA in providing leadership, vision and direction in environmental-economic accounting. He stressed the significance of the SEEA in providing the much needed framework for environment and energy statistics. He also emphasized the need to work very closely with environment and energy statisticians in order to ensure the development of basic statistics to populate the accounting tables.

4. The Chair emphasized the role that the Committee should play in promoting environmental-economic accounting. The Committee should not limit itself to organizing user-producer conferences but it should aim at engaging as many stakeholders as possible. To this end he stressed the need for networking and the role that each Committee member should play in terms of “spreading the word” beyond one’s own country. He stressed the importance of using existing mechanisms to engage countries, international organizations, NGOs and academia in the work of the UNCEEA.

5. The Committee discussed its membership and composition and noted that it may be useful to expand the representation of countries and organizations in the UNCEEA. In particular, the Chair of the UNCEEA was requested to review country representation in the Committee for various regions, including the Economic Commission for Europe. A list of the member of the UNCEEA is attached in Annex II.

¹ See Report on the thirty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission

6. Various Committee members volunteered to act as “ambassadors of the UNCEEA”. In particular the following was proposed:

- (a) UN Division for Sustainable Development (UNSD) volunteered to liaise between UN-Water, of which it holds the Secretariat, and the UNCEEA. To this end, an invitation would be extended to the UNCEEA and UNSD to participate in the next meeting of UN-Water in Stockholm in August 2006;
- (b) The representatives from Statistics South Africa, the National Statistical Coordination Board of the Philippines and the Dominican Republic volunteered to liaise with existing networks/groups in their respective regions;
- (c) The representatives from Eurostat offered to liaise with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries;
- (d) The Australian Bureau of Statistics offered to establish, through existing contacts with Indonesia and Thailand, cooperation in the area of environmental-economic accounts;
- (e) Extension of the 1993 SNA Rev.1 outreach programme to environmental-economic accounting by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts;
- (f) Establishment of twinning between developed and developing countries to fund the participation of developing countries to the UNCEEA.

7. The UNCEEA reiterated the importance of its umbrella function, within its mandate, in coordinating and providing vision, direction and prioritisation to ensure that existing groups work in complementary fashion. Given its high-level expert representation, the UNCEEA should act as a strategic body addressing linkages with the broad field of statistics including national accounts, environment and energy statistics, business statistics, etc.

Session 2: Strategic questions on environmental-economic accounting

8. The UNCEEA discussed the paper prepared by its Chair (AC/117/5) on strategic questions on environmental economic accounting. The Committee recommended that the paper be elaborated on the basis of the discussion at the meeting and comments received. The paper would provide guiding principles for the agenda of the UNCEEA and the preparation of the SEEA-2010.

9. The discussion during the meeting focused on the following questions: (a) can environmental-economic accounting become an element of official statistics? (b) do we need a specific goal function for the SEEA-2010? (c) what should be the scope of the SEEA-2010 in terms of valuation and modelling?

10. The UNCEEA agreed that environmental-economic accounting should become part of official statistics as it responds to the fundamental elements of consistency, relevance and measurability typical of official statistics. Further, it noted that only those modules that are more advanced and for which agreement can be reached by 2010 should be elevated to the level of official statistics. The SEEA-2010 should, however, not be limited to the presentations of these accounts, but describe also those accounts which are still at an experimental stage or for which consensus cannot be reached by 2010. The

SEEA-2010 should clearly distinguish these two parts by providing information on the quality of each type accounts. Accounts that are raised to the level of official statistics have to have the highest level of quality, consistency/coherence and measurability. It was also noted that the SEEA-2010 should address and promote compilation of time-series in addition to benchmark estimates of the environmental-economic accounts with the objective to demonstrate coherence between the accounts and statistics.

11. The Committee noted that it is important to have a objective function for the SEEA-2010 that responds to users' needs and, in particular, to the questions relevant for sustainable development. It was concluded that the objective function should be seen as a guiding principle in setting priorities. It should be multidimensional, encompassing, whenever possible, flows and stocks in physical and monetary terms.

12. The Committee agreed that the SEEA-2010 should leave the door open to valuation and modelling approaches.

Session 3: Promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounts

13. During this session, the following topics were discussed: (a) the strategy paper on promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounting; (b) outcomes of international conferences organized to promote environmental-economic accounting, namely the User-Producer Conference on Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management (Voorburg, 22-24 May 2006) and the International Seminar on Green Accounting (Beijing, 20-21 February 2006); (c) the paper on linking accounting and indicators; and (d) the endorsement of the *System of Environmental-Economic Accounts for Water* (SEEA-W).

(a) *Strategy paper on promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounting*

14. In response to the request of the UNCEEA at its preliminary meeting to further discuss the programme of work on implementation², a strategy paper on the implementation and promotion of environmental-economic accounting was prepared and presented by UNSD (AC/117/6) in consultation with UNDP, UNEP, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and IUCN.

15. The paper provided a broad programme for the implementation and promotion of environmental-economic accounting. In particular, it suggested the following four areas of work: (i) linking the production and release of environmental-economic accounts and time series with the national accounts; (ii) facilitating the support of the SEEA framework by international agencies; (iii) increasing the support and technical cooperation in developing countries; and (iv) developing a communication and dissemination strategy.

16. The Committee considered the establishment of a website presenting the experiences of developed and developing countries and toolkits which include promotion and training materials, an important vehicle for promoting and facilitating the implementation of the SEEA.

² Para 15 of the minutes of the UNCEEA preliminary meeting, New York, 2005.

17. Further, the UNCEEA deemed important carrying out a scope and compliance survey that will allow for (a) mapping the scope of the SEEA implementation in countries' and international agencies; (b) providing an indication of the impeding factors in the implementation; and (c) identifying expected programmes on the SEEA implementation.

18. The UNCEEA emphasized that the SEEA implementation should be undertaken in steps. Starting by focusing on a specific resource or specific accounts was considered a good approach. Water was considered an example of a starting point, as water is a policy relevant issue in most countries and the methodology is well advanced. The UNCEEA also considered useful the development of regional programmes in which countries could learn from one another, possibly with the assistance of a more experienced country (triangular twinning). In this regard, the development of twinning projects was considered a useful way to undertake technical assistance projects.

19. The establishment of an institutional arrangement among agencies in the country was considered a crucial issue in the implementation of the accounts. The UNCEEA should provide some general guidance for countries, for example, by providing country examples on its website.

20. The UNCEEA noted that environmental-economic accounts are in many countries supply driven. It is therefore important that the users be educated on the applications of the accounts, including the derivation of indicators. To this end, user-producer conferences, similar to the one organized for water accounting (Voorburg, 2006), were considered a good mean to educate and inform the users.

21. The Committee agreed with the proposals delineated in the strategy paper on implementation and promotion of the SEEA. In particular, the Committee agreed that a sub-group of the UNCEEA be created to develop a concrete action plan and prioritization of activities for review by the UNCEEA at its next meeting. It requested that the action plan would take into account both a regional approach involving regional commissions and regional problems, as well as a thematic approach focusing on those modules of the environmental-economic accounts that are more advanced in methodology and practice (for example, water accounts). The Subgroup would include: the Dominican Republic, Italy, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Eurostat, UNDP, UNEP, UNSD, the World Bank, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and IUCN. The Subgroup would be led by the Earth Institute at Columbia University and be open to the users of environmental-economic accounts.

22. Two initiatives currently being undertaken on the promotion and applications of environmental-economic accounting were brought to the attention of the Committee. They include: (a) the preparation of a study on ways to promote the accounts by Eurostat and (b) a review paper on the uses of the SEEA in OECD countries, commissioned by the OECD Environmental Directorate. The UNCEEA urged that these activities be coordinated with the Subgroup on promotion and implementation.

(b) *International Conferences to promote environmental-economic accounting*

User-producer Conference: Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management (Voorburg, the Netherlands 22-24 May 2006)

23. The Committee commended the outcome of the Conference, which was successful in bringing together users and producers of water information and in obtaining the users endorsement of the *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water*, (SEEAW) as the hydrological-economic framework for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The user community recognized that the SEEAW is the much needed conceptual framework for a broad information system approach to water. It recognized the timeliness of the document and recommended it become a statistical standard. In response to this request, the SEEAW has been submitted to the UNCEEA for seeking its approval to submit it to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption as a statistical standard.

24. The UNCEEA welcomed the proposal of the creation of a Roundtable on Water Accounting under the auspices of the UNCEEA whose objectives include the promotion of the SEEAW and advancement of its implementation. The terms of reference of the Roundtable are presented in Annex II.

International Seminar of Green Accounting (Beijing, China, 20-21 February 2006)

25. The UNCEEA took note of the report from Statistics Norway about the joint Sino-Norwegian Project and the international seminar on green accounting. The Seminar proved that in China there are several actors working in developing information systems that integrate economic and environmental aspects. The seminar discussed the information needed by policy makers at different level of government. In particular, it discussed the notion of “green GDP”, the methodological issues in constructing it and interpreting it so as to provide guidance for policy making. The main conclusions of the report are: (a) the notion of "green GDP" as a single, corrected measure of the value added in an economy, while attractive as a theoretical concept, is too complex and uncertain in practice to be able to guide policy making; (b) the question “How do you construct performance measures at the local, regional and national level that encourage economic development, while at the same time takes due account of natural resource and environmental degradation?” remains unanswered.

(c) *Sustainable development indicators and environmental-economic accounting*

26. The UNCEEA discussed the paper prepared by Federal Statistical Office, Germany arguing the usefulness in linking the sustainable development indicators (SDIs) to the accounting framework. The paper presents how in Germany a large proportion of SDIs is embedded in the accounting system – the SNA, the SEEA and the Socio-economic Accounting (SEA). It also shows the policy applications of the accounts. The UNCEEA considered the German experience as a good example of integrating indicators and accounts and recommended it be further pursued.

(d) *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW)*

27. The discussion on the adoption of the SEEAW as a statistical standard gave rise to a more general discussion on: (a) procedures to follow for seeking approval by the UNCEEA; and (b) the type of publication the SEEAW would be issued and its structure and coverage

28. With regard to the procedures to seek UNCEEA approval, the Committee recommended that: (a) the agenda of future UNCEEA meetings should make a clear distinction between items for decision and items for information; (b) documents to be

adopted by the UNCEEA should be submitted to the Secretariat two months prior to their discussion and should be accompanied by a paper describing the process followed to produce the output. A paper on the working methods of the UNCEEA will be prepared by the Chair and Secretariat for discussion at the next UNCEEA meeting.

29. The UNCEEA approved the process to develop the SEEAW. Specifically, it requested that the Chair in collaboration with the Secretariat apply a formal consultation process seeking the UNCEEA endorsement to recommend the SEEAW for adoption as a statistical standard to the next UN Statistical Commission in March 2007. The consultation document will include a clarification of the difference between “statistical standard”, “international recommendation” and “handbook” and their content and will be submitted to the UNCEEA members in September 2006.

Session 4: Research agenda

30. The Committee welcomed the report of the London Group meeting which took place in New York from 19-21 June 2006 and agreed to its newly established governance structure. It also welcomed Mr. Mark de Haan as the new Chair of the London Group and commended Statistics Canada for its work as Secretariat of the London Group for the past 9 years.

31. The Committee took note of the preliminary list of issues in the research agenda which was the result of a wide consultation with various groups active in environmental-economic accounts and related statistics. It also welcomed the outcome of the London Group meeting, in which countries/international organizations have agreed to take the lead in solving the issues in the research agenda.

32. The Committee discussed the scope, coverage and structure of the SEEA-2010. Issues such as the inclusion of country practices, examples and implementation issues, the coverage and level of detail of standard tables, the inclusion of performance and impact indicators were discussed at length. It urged to focus on those issues that can be solved between now and 2008, however emerging issues and issues that are still highly policy relevant should also be addressed. Since the UNCEEA could not take a decision on the scope and coverage of the SEEA 2010, it requested that a paper on the scope, coverage and structure of the revised SEEA-2003 be prepared by the London Group for its consideration at its next meeting.

33. The UNCEEA accepted Martin O’Connor’s offer to prepare an inventory of approaches to sustainable development.

34. The Committee also discussed the relationships between the SEEA-2010 and the 1993 SNA Rev.1 with particular focus on the difference in the “territory principle” used in environment and energy statistics and the “residence principle” used in national accounts. The Committee agreed that the SEEA-2010 should adopt principles consistent with the concepts, methods, and classifications of the 1993 SNA Rev. 1. Only in exceptional cases should bridge tables linking information presented according to the “residence principle” to information presented according the “territory principle” be developed.

35. The Committee agreed that: energy accounts should feature prominently in the SEEA-2010 . The Chair of the Oslo Group informed the Committee that the Group plans to update the manuals on energy balances and accounts. He also informed the UNCEEA of the existence of the Inter-secretariat Group on Energy. The objective of the Oslo Group to elevate energy statistics to the level of official statistics entails that energy statistics be developed to provide information on energy markets as well as to fit the national accounts and environmental-economic accounting purposes. The UNCEEA expects that the Oslo Group will take the lead in developing and solving the issues on the research agenda on energy accounts.

36. The UNCEEA stressed the importance of developing a project management framework for the revision of the SEEA which would also consider the relationship with the Chairs of the London Group and the Oslo Group and other partners. It requested that the Chair and the Secretariat of the UNCEEA prepare such a proposal.

37. The Committee agreed to appoint an Editor who would draft the SEEA-2010 on the basis of the text of the SEEA-2003 and the issue and outcome papers prepared by the various technical groups. The Committee identified the following profile of the editor: (a) high standing in the area of environmental-economic accounting and national accounts; (b) capable of reaching consensus, (c) impartial; and (d) native English speaker. It noted that efforts should be made to identify the editor as soon as possible so as to allow him/her to participate in the technical discussions from the outset.

Session 5: Scope and Compliance Survey

38. The Committee considered the paper (AC/117/12) prepared by UNSD presenting a proposal for the scope and compliance survey. The draft survey was developed in response to the UNCEEA request³ at its Preliminary Meeting. The proposal consisted of a survey structured in modules to assess the status of implementation of environmental-economic accounting in countries with a general module covering also institutional aspects and a module-specific part. The module on water accounts was developed as an example. Other modules should be developed by the technical subgroups working in specific areas.

39. The Committee agreed to carry out the survey in two phases: the first phase being more general to assess (a) whether a country compiles any modules of the environmental-economic accounts, (B) impeding factors in implementation; (c) future plans; and (d) availability of environment statistics in the country. The second phase would be tailored to the particular modules compiled in order to assess their status of implementation, including compliance with definitions and classifications and data sources.

40. The Committee agreed that the first phase of the survey be carried out in the last quarter of 2006 with the results reported to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2007. The second phase would be prepared for the Second Meeting of the UNCEEA and carried out next year. UNCEEA members are requested to send their comments on the survey by the end of September.

³ Para 20 of the minutes of the UNCEEA preliminary meeting, New York, 2005

41. The Committee also agreed that an internet-based and an excel-based survey be developed in addition to a paper copy survey. The Committee welcomed the offer of ABS to contribute to the development of the Survey.

Session 6: UNCEEA website and Prototype of the archive of publications

42. The Committee welcomed the UNCEEA website and the prototype of the archive of publications. It encouraged its members to provide comments on the archive before it is made available to the public and to submit relevant publications to be included in the archive. It also welcomed the offer of Eurostat to provide the UNCEEA's Secretariat with country reports and publications.

43. The archive will be developed progressively. The water accounting module has been completed and the mineral and energy accounts will be completed shortly.

Session 7: Coordination

44. The Committee took note of the reports of the following groups: (a) Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, (b) OECD Group on Material Flow Accounts, (c) Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics and (d) Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development.

(a) Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

45. The UNCEEA welcomed the document "Coordination of official statistics" explaining how coordination of energy statistics fits into the strategies and working method of national statistical offices. It was noted that energy data has to be collected once and used for different purposes, namely the production of primary energy statistics, national accounts, energy accounts, emission statistics and accounts. The Oslo Group faces several challenges including establishing a common understanding among all users of energy statistics of the meaning of strengthening the role of official statistics in this field. The Oslo Group clearly recognizes the importance of close coordination of its work, in particular concerning (a) coordination of drafting of the text in the various manuals; and (b) the tight time frame for the drafting of the SEEA-2010. Close contact with the chairs of UNCEEA and London Group is anticipated.

(b) OECD Group on Material Flow Accounts (MFA)

46. The Committee welcomed the progress of work on MFA. It stressed the necessity of having the MFA manual consistent with the SEEA and SNA (in regards, for example, to the residence principle) and requested that OECD ensure that such consistency is reached. To this end, the Chair will communicate with the OECD to ensure that (a) the residence principle is adhered to; (b) the disaggregation by industry is applied; and (c) aggregation of materials taking into account their environmental impacts is developed.

(c) Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (ISWGES)

47. UNSD presented the activities of the ISWGES and of the newly established subgroup on water statistics. The subgroup is currently analyzing the differences in definitions of various questionnaire with the view of harmonizing the data collection activities and aligning them with the SEEAW, also in consideration of its future adoption by the Statistical Commission.

(d) Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD)

48. The UNCEEA welcomed the presentation of the work programme of the WGSSD, which includes work towards the development of a conceptual framework for sustainable development. It requested that it be kept informed of progress made as the work of the WGSSD would serve as input in the SEEA-2010.

(e) Other matters

49. The UNCEEA requested that a calendar of events of the various groups be prepared and maintained by the Secretariat. UNCEEA members are invited to submit to UNSD dates and brief description of the events which they organize/participate in.

Session 8: Communication of Environmental-Economic Accounting

50. The Committee stressed the importance of communicating the results of the environmental-economic accounts. The communication/dissemination of the accounts should be seen in a continuous, circular process from the production to the uses of data. Data dissemination/communication should be seen as an opportunity to build knowledge and should be the guiding principle when revising the SEEA.

51. The Committee encouraged the work on finding effective communication tools making use also of the available technology (e.g. interactive internet based tools).

52. The Committee also welcomed the presentation by Istat on the experience in educating the users of the potential applications of the environmental-economic accounts for developing policy.

Annex I. Time schedule and tasks

The table below outlines the detailed time schedule agreed at the First Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and the tasks of countries and organizations.

Tasks	Countries/ organizations	Deadline
Session 1: Opening Session - Activities of UNCEEA members as “Ambassadors of UNCEEA”		
1. Evaluate country representation in the UNCEEA for various regions	Chair/UNSD	ASAP
2. Facilitate communication between UN-Water and UNCEEA and invite Chair of UNCEEA and UNSD to the meeting of UN-Water	UNSD	On-going August 2006
3. Liaise with regional groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean	South Africa, Philippines, Dominican Republic	On-going
4. Liase with ENP countries	Eurostat	ASAP
5. Establish technical cooperation on environmental-economic accounting with Indonesia and Thailand	ABS	ASAP
6. Extension of the 1993 SNA Rev.1 outreach programme to environmental-economic accounting	UNSD with the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts	When discussed by ISWGNA
7. Establish twinning projects between developed and developing countries to fund their participation in UNCEEA meetings	All	On-going
Session 2: Strategic questions on environmental-economic accounting		
8. Send comments on strategy paper (AC/117/5) to UNCEEA Chair and Secretariat	All	End of September
9. Update the paper on the basis of discussion and comments received	Chair and UNSD	Mid-November and on-going
Session 3: Promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounting		
10. Establish UNCEEA website	UNSD	On-going
11. Develop and launch the UNCEEA Newsletter	UNSD	December 2006
12. Prepare a plan of actions for the Subgroup on promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounting	Earth Institute at Columbia University (lead), Dominican Republic, Italy,	On-going

	the Netherlands, the Philippines, Eurostat, UNDP, UNEP, UNSD, the World Bank, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and IUCN	
Endorsement of the SEEAW		
13. Undertake a formal consultation process on the approval of the SEEAW for submission to the UNSC	Chair and UNSD	September 2006
Session 4: Research agenda		
14. Prepare a proposal on the scope, coverage and structure of the revised SEEA for consideration by UNCEEA	Chair London Group	Draft End 2006 First quarter 2007
15. Agree with the Oslo Group on leading the research agenda on energy accounts	Chair UNCEEA and Chair Oslo Group	End 2006
16. Develop a project management framework of the SEEA revision, including, funding and consultation strategy	Chair UNCEEA and UNSD in consultation with Chair London and Oslo Group and other technical expert groups	First quarter 2007
17. Identification of an editor for the SEEA-2010	Chair UNCEEA and UNSD	ASAP
Session 5: Scope and compliance survey		
18. Develop a web-based and excel-based survey and undertake the first phase of the scope and compliance survey and report results to the UNSC	Comments to be sent to UNSD/All UNSD	September 2006 December 2006
19. Develop resource-specific or set of accounts-specific modules of the scope and compliance survey	Technical subgroup and UNSD	Mid 2007
Session 6: Archive of publications		
20. Send comments and publication for posting to UNSD	All	End of September 2006
Session 7 : Coordination		
21. Report on activities of the various groups working on environmental-economic accounting and related statistics (calendar of events)	All/UNSD	On-going
22. Ensure that the OECD Manual on Material Flow	OECD (MFAGroup)/ UNCEEA Chair	ASAP

Accounts is in line with the SEEA/SNA concepts		
23. Prepare report to the Statistical Commission	UNSD/Chair	December 2006
24. Develop and maintain a list of events in the areas-of and related-to environmental economic accounts to be posted on the UNCEEA website (conference, workshops, technical cooperation projects, etc.)	UNSD/All	On-going
25. Prepare a paper on working methods on the UNCEEA	UNCEEA Chair/UNSD	First quarter 2007

Annex II. Draft Terms of Reference of the Roundtable on Water Accounting for IWRM

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 Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management in Voorburg, the Netherlands in May 2006. The completion of the *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water* 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 Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (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:
 - (i) Preparation of an in-depth analysis of lessons learnt from country experiences in the implementation and use of the SEEAW;
 - (ii) Promotion and dissemination of the SEEAW within the users' community at national and international level, including national statistical offices, institutions responsible for collection of water data, ministry of finance, policy makers and academia;
 - (iii) Prioritization of tables, indicators and accounts relevant for international comparisons, recognizing different circumstances in countries and regions;
 - (iv) Preparation of toolkits consisting of: (i) country practices; (ii) training programmes and material; (iii) promotion material; and (iv) communication and dissemination tools and practices;
 - (v) Implementation of the SEEAW in selected countries, in particular in those countries where there projects on Integrated Water Resource Management are in place.
3. The membership of the Roundtable would include high-level experts in water from national statistical offices, institutions responsible for water policies and collection of information on water, policy makers 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.
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. A two way communication between the UNCEEA and the Roundtable will be maintained by which technical issues emerged during the implementation of SEEAW are reported back to the UNCEEA and agreed solutions are reported to the Roundtable.
8. A trust fund will be established to finance the activities of the Roundtable.

Annex III. List of current UNCEEA members

Chair: Mr. Walter Radermacher

Secretariat: UNSD

Countries

Australia
Brazil
Canada
China
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Germany
Italy
Norway
Oman
Netherlands
Philippines
South Africa
USA

International agencies

Eurostat
European Environment Agency (EEA)
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UNSD)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
World Bank

Annex IV. Provisional organization of work

Thursday, 22 June 2006

Registration of participants (9:00-9:30)

Morning Session (9:30 – 1:00)

1. Opening of the meeting
 - a. Opening statement by Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
 - c. Role of participants
2. Strategic questions on Environmental-Economic Accounting – Paper prepared by the Federal Statistical Office Germany (UNCEEA/1/5)

Afternoon Session (2:30 – 6:00)

3. Promotion and implementation of environmental-economic accounts
 - a. Strategy paper. Paper prepared by UNSD (UNCEEA/1/6)
 - b. Report on the outcome of the User-Producer Conference: Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management. Draft Report (UNCEEA/1/7)
 - c. Water accounting handbook – for approval
 - d. Report on the International Seminar on Green Accounting (UNCEEA/1/8)
 - e. Paper on linking accounting and indicators. Paper prepared by the Federal Statistical Office Germany (UNCEEA/1/9)
4. Research Agenda
 - a. Conclusions of the London Group Meeting
 - b. Preliminary list of issues (UNCEEA/1/10)

(To be presented by countries/organizations coordinating the chapter or contributing the issue)

Friday, 23 June 2006

Morning Session (9:30 – 1:00)

5. Research Agenda (Continued)
 - a. Preliminary list of issues (Continued)
6. Scope and compliance survey – Paper prepared by UNSD (UNCEEA/1/12)
7. UN Committee website and prototype of archive of publications

Afternoon Session (2:30 – 6:00)

8. Coordination
 - a. Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics
 - b. Report of the Material Flow Accounts Group
 - c. Report of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics
 - d. Report of the Working on Sustainable Development
9. Communication of Environmental-Economic Accounting
 - a. How to educate the users' to the potential of using environmental accounts for development policies – the case of Italy
 - b. Some thoughts on dissemination (UNSD)

Annex V. List of participants

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