

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON OCEAN ACCOUNTING (GOAP)

Sydney, 12-15 November 2019

Opening Remarks

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Director

United Nations Statistics Division

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Dear colleagues,

It is an honor to address the Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting. I have been following from afar the work that you have been doing under the leadership of UNESCAP and in partnership with a number of organizations. I am heartened by the number of experts from different disciplines that are participating in the workshop and are contributing and have contributed to the advancement of the research agenda on ocean accounting.

Oceans have risen to the top of the policy agenda and 2020 marks an important year for the oceans which will culminate with the High Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (UN Ocean Conference). 2020 is also an important year for biodiversity. The COP 15 in Kunming China will agree on a new Post-2020 Biodiversity Agenda and the oceans are an important element of the agenda as well as mainstreaming biodiversity into policy and accounting.

From the development of statistical standards point of view, 2020 is of course the year where my office the United Nations Statistics Division in the broader context of Environmental Accounting plans to finalize the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and submit it for adoption to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2021. The experimentation and testing in countries combined with science and statistical measurement has allowed us to advance the research agenda and develop agreed methodologies.

Many of you are contributing to several of these processes. Testing and experimentation go hand in hand with the development of methodologies and I am encouraged that many countries, developed and developing, are implementing ocean accounts. The Partnership should be

congratulated for having brought together so many experts from different disciplines and have put in place a process which is truly multidisciplinary and policy driven.

I would not want to miss this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of my fellow United Nations Colleagues, and, in particular, I would like to single out Mr. Michael Bordt who is now a UN retiree but remains fully and truly committed to the ocean accounts and to the SEEA agenda more broadly.

I would like to wish you a fruitful and enjoyable two days with your professional global expert community.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the meeting.