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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**

FINAL PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

The user-producer conference on water accounting is the first of a series organized by UNSD under the auspices of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA). It will be hosted by Statistics Netherlands in Voorburg from 22 to 24 May 2006.

The conference aims at raising awareness of water accounting as the hydrological-economic information system to support Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). It seeks to develop a dialogue between users and producers of water information by identifying the information needs for policy making and by discussing how the water accounting framework meets these needs.

The conference is organized on the basis of selected issues identified by the international community and most notably by the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (<http://www.unsgab.org/>) and UN Water as thematic priorities to be addressed in order to achieve the water-related millennium development goals (MDGs) and the time bound targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The user-producer conference will discuss in terms of the information needs for decision making the following policy themes:

- Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)
- Economic mechanisms for water policies (including financing, pricing/cost-recovery and hydraulic infrastructure)
- Efficiency of water allocation
- Wastewater emissions and water quality
- Assessment and monitoring (including national and international indicator programmes)
- Water governance

The objectives of the user-producer conference are: (a) to present the handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water Resources; (b) to promote its implementation in the users' community; and (c) to establish a roundtable, under the auspices of the UNCEEA, of countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations responsible for promoting and advancing the implementation of water accounting in countries as well as in the international community.

Each session is organized as follows: (a) presentation by lead organizations outlining the policy issues and information needs followed by country experiences; (b) expert panel discussion linking the information needs for policy with the water accounting framework; (c) open discussion among participants; and (d) conclusions by the chair.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Monday, 22 May 2006

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-11:00 **Opening**

- Mr. Paul Cheung (Director, UNSD/DESA)
- Mr. Gosse van der Veen (Director General, Statistics Netherlands)
- Ms. Jacqueline McGlade (Executive Director, EEA)

Keynote Speakers

- Mr. Julian Hunt (Professor, University College London)
- Mr. Roberto Lenton (Chair, Technical Committee, GWP)

Objectives and organization of the Conference (UNSD and Statistics Netherlands)

Presentation of participants

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 1:00 **Session 1 - Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management**

This session features the presentation of the handbook of national accounting *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water Resources*, commonly referred to as SEEAW, prepared by UNSD in collaboration with the London Group on Environmental Accounting. The SEEAW integrates economic and hydrological information in a common system using concepts, definitions and classifications of the System of National Accounts, while respecting the fundamental principles of hydrology. SEEAW is a useful tool for integrated water resource management (IWRM) whose adoption has been called for by Agenda 21 and reaffirmed by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Further, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) of the European Commission requires EU countries to establish water policies so as to ensure that all water meet “good status” by 2015. In so doing, countries have to develop integrated river basin management plans based on sound information.

During this session, the water accounting framework, the general concept of IWRM and its information needs as well as how the water accounting meets those needs will be presented. Developing and developed countries will share their experience in applying IWRM.

Chair: Mr. Ivo Havinga (Chief, Economic Statistics, UNSD/DESA)

Presentations:

- Ms. Alessandra Alfieri (Head, Environmental Accounting Unit, UNSD/DESA)
- Mr. Ivo Havinga on behalf of Mr. Manuel Dengo (Chief, Water Natural Resources and SIDS, UNDS/DESA)
- Mr. Jan Berdowski (Head of Section, Statistics Netherlands)
- Ms. Gemma Van Halderen (Assistant Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics)

1:00-2:30 Lunch break

2:30-3:30 **Session 1 - Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management (Cont'd)**

Panel Discussion:

- Mr. Walter Radermacher (Chair, UNCEEA and Vice President, Statistics Germany)
- Mr. Roberto Lenton (Chair, Technical Committee, GWP)
- Mr. Gordon Young (Coordinator UN-WWAP)
- Mr. Vijay Jagannathan (Sector Manager Water and Environment, World Bank)

3:30-4:00 Coffee break

4:00-5:00 **Session 1 - Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management (Cont'd)**

5:00 Welcome cocktail

Tuesday, 23 May 2006

9:00-11:00 Session 2 - Economic mechanisms for water policies and efficiency of water allocation

Agenda 21 calls for the introduction of “suitable cost-recovery mechanisms, taking into account efficiency and equity through demand management mechanisms”. The JPOI encourages countries to “employ the full range of policy instruments, including regulation, monitoring, voluntary measures, market and information-based tools, land-use management and cost recovery of water services, without cost recovery objectives becoming a barrier to access to safe water by poor people, and adopt an integrated water basin approach” (para 26b). Article 9 of the WFD calls for countries to “take account of the principle of recovery of the costs of water services, including environmental and resource costs”. Increasing demand for water is exerting severe pressure on water resources leading to tensions and conflicts among users both within a country as well as between countries. Policies aiming at water conservation and alleviation of scarcity often involve decisions on water allocations between competing uses (e.g. households, industries, rest of the world, environment) including those of countries sharing water resources.

During this session, issues and information needs in formulating water policies in terms of pricing/cost-recovery, financing and hydraulic infrastructures will be discussed based on country practices. Mechanisms in water allocation (e.g. direct regulations, economic or market regulations) and information needs for designing those policies will also be discussed. Countries will present their experience in designing water allocation policies

Chair: Mr. Walter Radermacher (Chair, UNCEEA and Vice President, Statistics Germany)

Presentations:

- Mr. Vijay Jagannathan (Sector Manager Water and Environment, World Bank)
- Mr. Yosry Khafagy (Procurement Specialist, PMU-IIIMP, Egypt)
- Ms. Minfeng Gao (Ministry of Water Resources, China) and Ms. Yixuan Wang (National Bureau of Statistics, China)
- Ms. Aneme Malan (Manager, Application of National Accounts, Statistics South Africa)
- Mr. Vincent Linderhof (Economic Researcher, Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands)

Panel Discussion:

- Mr. Kees Zeelenberg (Head of Section, Statistics Netherlands)
- Mr. David Molden (Principal researcher, IWMI)
- Mr. Jean Louis Weber (Project Manager, EEA)
- Mr. Ivo Havinga (Chief, Economic Statistics, UNSD/DESA)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 Session 3 - Wastewater emissions and water quality

Emissions to water are increasingly a source of great concern for countries as they affect the quality of receiving waters. Agenda 21 encourages countries to “initiate effective water pollution prevention and control programmes, based on an appropriate mixture of pollution reduction-at-source strategies, environmental impact assessments and enforceable standards for major point-source discharges and high-risk non-point sources, commensurate with their socio-economic development”. The WFD calls upon countries to reduce and control pollution from all sources like agriculture, industrial activities and urban areas.

During this session, policies on emissions to water and water quality and their information requirements will be discussed. Countries will present their experiences on using emission and quality accounts for policy making.

Chair: Mr. Peter van de Ven (Head, National Accounts, Statistics Netherlands)

Presentations:

- Mr. Cees van de Guchte (Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-GPA)
- Mr. Jean Louis Weber (Project Manager, EEA)
- Mr. Michael Nagy (Deputy Head, Unit Surface Waters, Umweltbundesamt, Austria)
- Mr. Pieter van der Most (Expert, Ministry of Environment, The Netherlands)

12:30-2:00 Lunch break

2:00-3:00

Session 3 - Wastewater emissions and water quality (Cont'd)

Panel Discussion:

- Mr. Rudy Vannevel (Director's Assistant, International Water Reporting, Belgium)
- Mr. Walter Radermacher (Chair, UNCEEA and Vice President, Statistics Germany)
- Mr. Hendrik Jan Dijkerman (Statistics Netherlands)
- Ms. Ilaria DiMatteo (Statistician, Environmental Accounting Unit, UNSD/DESA)

3:00-3:30

Coffee break

3:30-5:30

Session 4 - Water governance

The existence of a well-designed legal framework for water, both at national and international level, facilitates the design of policies as well as regular collection of information. Water-related information and policies are often decentralized among various level of government which may also include public corporations. The establishment of an integrated approach to water management requires institutional arrangements, including the design of an integrated information system. Such a system would greatly enhance the value and quality of information collected to meet users' needs and improve the efficiency of collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information to users.

During this session, the impact of the existence (or non-existence) of institutional and legal frameworks in the countries/regions on IWRM and on the establishment of an integrated information system will be discussed. Countries will present their experiences in establishing inter-institutional mechanisms.

Chair: Mr. Ivo Havinga (Chief, Economic Statistics, UNSD/DESA)

Presentations:

- Ms. Olga Luciano (Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic)
- Ms. Gisela Forattini (Director's Assistant, Agencia Nacional de Aguas, Brazil)
- Ms. Jana Tafi (Project Leader, Water Data Centre, The Republic of Moldova)
- Ms. Gemma Van Halderen (Assistant Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Panel Discussion:

- Mr. Rudy Vannevel (Director's Assistant, International Water Reporting, Belgium)
- Mr. Al Barwani (Water Resources Expert, Ministry of Regional Municipalities & Water Resources, Oman)
- Mr. Nguyen Chi (Director General, Department of Water Resources Management, Vietnam)
- Mr. David Molden (Principal researcher, IWMI)
- Ms. Alessandra Alfieri (Head, Environmental Accounting Unit, UNSD/DESA)
- Mr. Vijay Jagannathan (Sector Manager Water and Environment, World Bank)

7:00

Dinner

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

9:00-11:00 Session 5 – Assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes

“Water resources assessment, including the identification of potential sources of freshwater supply, comprises the continuing determination of sources, extent, dependability and quality of water resources and of the human activities that affect those resources. Such assessment constitutes the practical basis for their sustainable management and a prerequisite for evaluation of the possibilities for their development. There is, however, growing concern that at a time when more precise and reliable information is needed about water resources, hydrologic services and related bodies are less able than before to provide this information, especially information on groundwater and water quality. Major impediments are the lack of financial resources for water resources assessment, the fragmented nature of hydrologic services and the insufficient numbers of qualified staff. At the same time, the advancing technology for data capture and management is increasingly difficult to access for developing countries. Establishment of national databases is, however, vital to water resources assessment and to mitigation of the effects of floods, droughts, desertification and pollution. (Agenda 21, para 18.23). Agenda 21, the JPOI and the WFD emphasize the importance of monitoring and assessment of water and call for countries to establish and/or further develop programmes for the monitoring of water resources.

At the international level several initiatives have been put in place, the most notable ones include the Joint Monitoring Programme of WHO-UNICEF to monitor progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals as well as the vast range of indicators put forward in the World Water Development Report of 2003 and 2006.

During this session, existing water assessment mechanisms as well as various indicators initiatives at the international as well as national level with focus on water will be presented. National experience in developing water databases for the assessment and monitoring of water resources, including major impediments in the implementation will be discussed. Country will share their practices in using the accounting framework for deriving indicators as well as discuss the strength and weaknesses of the accounts in addressing users' needs.

Chair: Mr. Ivo Havinga (Chief, Economic Statistics, UNSD/DESA)

Presentations:

- Mr. Gordon Young (Coordinator, UN-WWAP)
- Mr. Umberto Triulzi (Chair, Monitoring and Reporting Group, EU Initiative)
- Ms. Gemma Van Halderen (Assistant Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- Mr. René Lalement (Head of Water Information System Taskforce, Ministry of Ecology and Sust. Development, France)

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-12:30

Session 5 – Assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes (Cont'd)

Presentations:

- Mr. Walter Radermacher (Chair, UNCEEA and Vice President, Statistics Germany)
- Ms. Iliaria DiMatteo (Statistician, Environmental Accounting Unit, UNSD/DESA)

Panel Discussion:

- Mr. René Lalement (Head of Water Information System Taskforce, Ministry of Ecology and Sust. Development, France)
- Ms. Olga Luciano (Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic)
- Mr. David Molden (Principal Researcher, IMWI)
- Mr. Maurice Mubila (Principal Statistician, AFDB)
- Mr. Jean Louis Weber (Project Manager, EEA)
- Mr. Pieter Everaers (Director, External Relations Statistics, Eurostat)
- Mr. Umberto Triulzi (Chair, Monitoring and Reporting Group, EU Initiative)
- Ms. Alessandra Alfieri (Head, Environmental Accounting Unit, UNSD/DESA)

12:30-2:00 Lunch break

2:00-3:00 **Session 6 - Establishment of a roundtable for the promotion of water accounts**
Moderator: Mr. Walter Radermacher (Chair, UNCEEA and Vice President, Statistics Germany)

3:00-3:30 Coffee break

3:30-4:00 **Session 6 - Establishment of a roundtable for the promotion of water accounts (Cont'd)**

4:00-4:30 **Adoption of the report and closing**