

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

16th February 2017, by teleconference

- **Present:** Bert Kroese (Chair), Lisa Wardlaw-Kelly (Australia Bureau of Statistics), Andre Loranger (Statistics Canada), Francisco Guillen and Raul Figueroa (INEGI, Mexico), Gerard Eding (Statistics Netherlands), Joe de Beer (Statistics South Africa), Peter van de Ven (OECD), Ivo Havinga and Alessandra Alfieri (United Nations Statistics Division)
- **Regrets:** Romeo Recide (Philippines Statistics Authority), Anton Steurer (Eurostat), Francesco Tubiello (FAO), Stig Johansson (World Bank)

DISCUSSION ON FINALISING THE DOCUMENT OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE UNCEEA 2017-2020

The Bureau of the UNCEEA reviewed the latest draft of the Programme of Work for the UNCEEA 2017-2020 which had been revised following comments from the UNCEEA.

1. UNSD noted that the new version of the document includes suggested changes following a round of comments from the UNCEEA, who had welcomed the Programme of Work and shown willingness to contribute.
2. The Bureau of the UNCEEA agreed to adopt the work programme, as a working document that is flexible in time subject to the following considerations.
 - a. The programme of work needs further elaboration and detailing as well as consideration of resources available to carry the work programme forward.
 - b. The assignment of responsibilities for the various outputs of the work programme should be further discussed and refined at the meeting of the UNCEEA in June 2017, particularly for the areas of work: *A. Coordination and Promotion; D. Implementation and Capacity Building; and E. Formulation of a response to emerging policy issues*. For these areas, the assignment of responsibilities should be made more vague until the UNCEEA next meets to avoid undue burden being placed on individual agencies.
 - c. There are some overlaps and synergies that the work programme should take advantage of, particularly with regards to work areas A, D and E noted above. As such, a teleconference will be organized between these area leads to further refine the strategy and outputs.

DISCUSSION ON THE COLLECTION OF SEEA RELATED DATA AND WORK STREAM C. DEVELOPMENT OF DATABASES

3. The OECD noted that while the assignment of responsibilities for work area C on data collection is clear, UNSD's lack of a mandate to collect SEEA data from countries on environmental-economic accounting is a hindrance to the development of global SEEA databases. It was argued that UNSD should be in a position to collect data from countries with SEEA compilation to complement the work on the estimation of countries data. As such, the OECD recommended that this issue be raised again at the meeting of the UNCEEA in June 2017 and be brought to the Statistical Commission in 2018.

SIDE EVENTS AT THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

4. The Bureau was informed that a side event to the UN Statistical Commission will be held at 1.15 pm on Monday 6th March 2017. The Event will discuss the scaling up of the SEEA implementation towards the 2020 targets, and will include a panel of countries and international organizations to discuss the way forward.

5. It was agreed that the whole UNCEEA will be informed of this side event to encourage participation.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. The next Bureau meeting of the UNCEEA will be held as a side event to the UN Statistical Commission on Monday 6th March 2017 at 11.30am (Conference Room A). Topics for discussion will include (a) the work programme of the UNCEEA to 2020; (b) issues that may come up during the discussion of the UNCEEA report at the UN Statistical Commission; (c) how the Bureau can influence the SDG process to ensure the SEEA is reflected; and (d) the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including raising funds for the project.