



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL GROUPS RELATED TO THE SEEA

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This document is based on input received from various international organizations. This document will be continually updated as further input is received.

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United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting

Establishment: Established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36th session in March 2005.

Mandate: the UNCEEA's overall objectives are

1. To mainstream environmental-economic accounting and related statistics;
2. To elevate the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) to an international statistical standard; and
3. To advance the implementation of the SEEA in countries.

The current terms of reference state that to achieve these objectives, the UNCEEA programme of work will:

1. Ensure coordination, integration and complementarity among programmes in environmental-economic accounting and related statistics among international organizations and countries;
2. Encourage the use of environmental-economic accounting in countries in support to decision making through technical recommendations on the compilation, harmonization and dissemination of the accounts, linking the accounts to indicators and developing a closer relationship between the users and producers of environmental-economic accounts and related statistics;
3. Further methodologies in environmental-economic accounting and statistics through 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;
4. Advance the implementation of the SEEA in developed and developing countries;
5. Work towards the harmonization of data collection activities of environment and related statistics with concepts and definitions of environmental-economic accounting including the assurance of data quality.

The terms of reference also note that the Committee **has an umbrella function** in providing overall vision, coordination, prioritisation and direction in the field of environmental-economic accounting and related statistics. The Committee should therefore ensure that existing or new groups working in environmental accounting and related statistics will work in a complementary fashion with the Committee.

Membership: The terms of reference state that the selected members of the Committee should comprise high-level experts from national governments and international organizations with a broad range of experience in statistics and in the uses of environmental-economic accounts. Members should also be selected so as to ensure equitable regional representation.

Operating Overview: The UNCEEA elects a Chair who will serve for a 3 year-period renewable for once. UNSD serves as the permanent Secretariat of the Committee. The Committee prepares an annual report for presentation to the Statistical Commission. It reports progress made in its activities, including progress made by the various city groups, inter-secretariat working groups and other groups working with the Committee within its mandate.

Background documents:

- UN Statistical Commission Report, 36th session: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/36th-session/documents/statcom-2005-36th-report-E.pdf>
- UNCEEA Terms of Reference: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/documents/torunceea_final.pdf
- UNCEEA Operating Guidelines: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/documents/guidelines.pdf>

London Group on Environmental Accounting

Establishment: The London Group was established at the 27th Statistical Commission in 1993 as a City Group. Upon establishment of the UNCEEA at its 36th Session in 2005, the Statistical Commission “expressed its appreciation for the good work being carried out by the London Group on Environmental Accounting and reconfirmed its role as an expert body in charge of methodological issues, which would support the work of the Committee”.

Mandate: The original objectives of the London Group when set up in 1993 was to;

1. Play a leadership role in defining international best practices in the theory and practice of environmental accounting within the framework of the System of National Accounts;
2. To provide a forum for the sharing of national and international expertise in this field; and
3. To encourage the adoption of best practices in the field by promoting the results of the Group's efforts via proceedings volumes, concepts and methods manuals, operational manuals and other means.

At the 21st meeting of the London Group in 2015, members were asked for their input to update the terms of reference and governance structure of the group. The revised objectives of the London Group are to:

1. Support the further methodological development of the SEEA-CF
2. Support the promotion and implementation of SEEA-CF
3. Contribute to the development of SEEA: Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA)
4. Provide a forum for the sharing of national and international expertise and experience;

To achieve the above objectives, the programme of work of the London Group includes;

1. *Methodological research* - Conduct research into issues both conceptual in nature as well as related to implementation of the SEEA. The research focus has traditionally been on the SEEA-CF, but going forward it will be a more balanced mix of work related to the Central Framework, Applications and Extensions, and Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; particularly in areas where there is a strong linkage across these domains. The group will draft and review technical papers based on the SEEA-CF and SEEA-EEA research agendas. This work will be done in close cooperation with the related Technical Committees.
2. *Implementation advice and best practices for SEEA* - Encourage the adoption of best practices in the field by promoting the results of the Group's efforts via websites, through its meetings, and other means such as contributing to training.
3. *Development and sharing of uses, applications, and extensions of the environmental-economic accounts* - Continue to explore means of applying the accounts to practical issues. These experiences will also be shared through the annual meeting and through contribution to various technical and compilation materials.

Membership: A broad range of experts on issues related to Environmental Accounting.

Operating Overview: The revised London Group Mandate and Governance Structure states that the London Group is an independent technical expert group working in close collaboration with the UNCEEA. The UNCEEA will provide guidance with regard to the work programme of the London group and the agenda for its meetings. However, there remains a degree of flexibility for the Group to identify its own avenues of research in addition to the work suggested by the UNCEEA. The London Group will continue to report its work progress and meeting outcomes to UNCEEA for submission to the UNSC. This will be done in close cooperation with the two SEEA Technical Groups to ensure clear communication. In addition, the Chair of the London Group will attend the UNCEEA meetings whenever possible to facilitate agenda setting for the following London Group meeting.

Background documents:

- Mark de Haan, 11th Meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting Johannesburg, 26-30 March 2007. “London Group Governance Structure”:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup/meeting21/LG11_1a.pdf
- London Group Mandate and Governance Structure – 3rd Draft. Update of “London Group Governance Structure” (2007, LG11/1) following discussions at the 21st London Group meeting 2-4 November 2015: (TBC)

Technical Committee of the SEEA Central Framework

Establishment: The Technical Committee was established in March 2014 by the Bureau of the UNCEEA.

Mandate: The mandate of the Technical Committee is to:

1. Advance the research agenda for the SEEA Central Framework;
2. Advance the development of the implementation materials/tools, including the development of core tables and accounts and associated technical notes, in support of the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework and ensure consistency with the SEEA Central Framework;
3. Lead the development of the communication strategy for the SEEA Central Framework.

The Programme of Work as agreed by the UNCEEA at its 9th Meeting in 2014 states that the Technical Committee, as delegated by the UNCEEA, serves as the body responsible for overseeing the advancement of the research agenda related to the SEEA Central Framework and for the technical coordination of the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework. Technical issues that arise during the implementation should be brought to the attention of the Technical Committee. The Committee should also provide a clearinghouse for statistical activities related to the implementation of the SEEA. The current programme of work for the SEEA Technical Committee includes:

1. Developing SEEA technical notes and core tables and accounts
2. Reviewing and contributing to materials relevant to the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework
3. Addressing remaining methodological issues related to the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework
4. Advancing the research agenda for the SEEA Central Framework
5. Harmonizing environment statistics with SEEA and mainstreaming the SEEA into the statistical systems
6. Advancing the communication strategy for the SEEA Central Framework

Membership: The Terms of Reference state that, subject to future review, the core membership of the editorial board for the SEEA Central Framework undertake the technical committee function. This group of people has the appropriate technical understanding of the SEEA Central Framework and represents major agencies involved in the development of the standards and responsible for their implementation and countries with technical experience in the conceptual and implementation issues. Representatives from World Bank, FAO and developing countries are also included. The chair of the London Group on Environmental Accounting is also a member of the technical committee.

Operating Overview: The Technical Committee is established under the auspices of the UNCEEA with regular oversight from the Bureau of the UNCEEA and secretariat support from UNSD. Regular reports are provided to the Bureau and the UNCEEA.

The Committee will elect, among its members, the chair for a period of 3 years renewable for one term. UNSD would serve as the Secretariat of the Technical Committee. The work of the Technical Committee will be closely coordinated with the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, other city groups and other technical expert groups, such as the OECD Task Force on the Implementation of the SEEA Central Framework, which will provide substantive input in the development of the tools/materials in support of the SEEA implementation.

Background documents

- Programme of work of the Technical Committee on SEEA Central Framework:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/meetings/ninth_meeting/UNCEEA-9-6e.pdf

Technical Committee on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

Establishment: The Technical Committee on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting was established in March 2014 by the Bureau of the UNCEEA. The Committee is still being constructed.

Mandate: The mandate of the Technical Committee on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting is to:

1. Advance the research agenda on ecosystem accounting within the general framework provided by SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting;
2. Identify and recommend best practices related to the testing of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting in countries in particular concerning the use of models and tools as well as testing of methods for measuring ecosystem services, ecosystem conditions and ecosystem capacity;
3. Promote the SEEA framework and the associated research and ensure sound relationships with other similar initiatives and projects;
4. Assist the Steering Committee in organizing relevant meetings and conferences to advance the research agenda.

The initial focus of the Technical Committee would be on:

1. Taking stock of current initiatives and groups working on areas related to the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and recommending ways to work with them;
2. Developing a programme of work;
3. Advancing the priority areas of the research agenda according to agreed outputs, timelines and deliverables;
4. Advancing the programme of work and in particular identify best practices using models and tools in support of testing SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

Membership: Members of the Technical Committee would include senior representatives from various disciplines, including scientists, economists, geo-spatial experts and experts from national statistical offices considering the multidisciplinary nature of the work.

Operating overview: The Technical Committee on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting is established under the auspices of the UNCEEA with regular oversight from the Bureau of the UNCEEA and secretariat support from UNSD. The technical committee would be responsible to advance the research agenda according to agreed timelines and deliverables.

The Technical Committee would elect, among its members, the chair for a period of 3 years renewable for one term. The role of the Chair would be to advance the annual work programme set by the Steering Committee.

Expert Forum on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

An Expert Forum has been held over recent years to discuss progress in testing of the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and to advance the research agenda as defined by the UNCEEA. The work of the group leads to a large multi-stakeholder, international conference on an annual basis bringing together various stakeholders and communities with the objectives of:

1. Showcasing advances in research and testing on the SEEA-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting;
2. Highlighting to the potential for more definite methods and guidelines;
3. Providing recommendations for the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

Participants in the Forum include statisticians and experts in the area of ecosystem accounting, ecosystem modelling, spatial analysis of ecosystem services, and environmental and ecological economics.

ECE Joint Taskforce on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Establishment: The group was established in 2009. Its mandate was revised in 2015, which now also includes methodological support for the implementation of SEEA in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The group's name changed from "Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators" (2009) to "Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators" in 2015.

Mandate: : The Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (JTF) assists the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (target countries) in their efforts to:

- (a) correctly apply the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) data methodologies and in line with statistical standards;
- (b) analyse and communicate environmental data;
- (c) implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA); and
- (d) apply environmental indicators in the context of sustainable development and green economy initiatives.

The Joint Task Force also assists the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment in evaluating the application of the internationally accepted methodologies and statistical standards in SEIS data production.

Planned activities include:

- (a) Provide advice to the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment on the application of SEIS data production methodologies by the target countries;
- (b) Address specific challenges related to methodology and data quality in producing environmental data and indicators in line with the ECE Online Indicator Guidelines, international statistical standards, SEIS requirements and the recommendations made by the Working Group;
- (c) Build capacity in the target countries for the compilation and integration of environmental data in support of measuring sustainable development and green economy initiatives;
- (d) Provide a forum for sharing experience on the communication of environmental information to users, in line with the ECE recommendations on statistical communication and the recommendations made by the Working Group;
- (e) Assist countries in developing the capacity for the implementation of SEEA.

Membership: The Joint Task Force is composed of experts representing national statistical offices and ministries or agencies dealing with environment statistics and assessment from the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Operating Overview:

- The Joint Task Force on Environment Statistics and Indicators serves under the oversight and guidance of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Conference of the European Statisticians (CES). It report regularly to both CEP and CES.
- The joint task force meets annually, with a chair and vice chair for a term of two years.
- The ECE Environment and Statistical divisions provide the joint secretariat. The work is supported by the EEA, OECD and UNEP.

Background documents:

- Terms of Reference of the JTF - see Annex II of <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/ece/cep/ece.cep.2015.12.e.pdf>

OECD Task Force on SEEA Implementation

Establishment: The task force was set up in 2013.

Mandate: The OECD Task Force on the implementation of the SEEA-Central Framework (under the joint authority of the Environment Directorate and the Statistics Directorate) has the following main objectives:

- Develop standard tables for the collection of internationally comparable data on air emissions (volumes) and natural resources (stocks and flows, volumes and monetary units)
- Provide guidelines and practical examples showing how to build air emissions accounts starting from inventories or energy accounts
- Provide methodological guidelines on the monetary valuation of natural assets
- Advise on other areas where standard tables could be developed in line with the SEEA to support the integration and the evaluation of environmental and economic policies and the OECD Green Growth strategy.

Membership: The TF is composed of experts from 12 countries (Australia, Canada, France, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the USA), 3 international institutions (Eurostat, UNSD, the World Bank), and the chair of the London Group on environmental accounting.

Operating Overview:

The Task Force reports to the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC) and the OECD Statistics Committee (CSTAT).

The work of this group is not mandated by the UNCEEA but it is relevant to the implementation strategy of the UNCEEA and to the coordinating role of the UNCEEA in Environmental Accounting and Supporting Statistics.

Background documents:

- Proposal for the creation of a joint Task Force on the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework (OECD paper STD/CSTAT(2013)10)

OECD/UNECE Seminars on SEEA Implementation

Establishment: The seminars were set up in April 2014 by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

Mandate: These seminars are organised annually to provide a forum to share experience and knowledge on the implementation of SEEA in Member Countries of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The CES decided in April 2014 to organize these joint OECD/UNECE Seminars, following the request of member States to provide such a forum. For more information see website of the next seminar (3-4 October 2016):

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41150#>

Task Force on a set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators using SEEA

Establishment: The group was established in September 2014

Mandate: : The objective of the Task Force is to define an internationally comparable set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators that can be derived from the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and other sources. Building on the work accomplished to date, the Task Force will undertake the following activities:

- (a) Take as a starting point the *CES Recommendations on climate change-related statistics*, work in line with the definition of climate change-related statistics and make use of the inventory of data needs and existing statistics described in the Recommendations;
- (b) Review other related indicator initiatives and take them into account;
- (c) Agree on issues to be covered by a set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators;
- (d) Explore which statistics or indicators could be derived from SEEA-CF and identify the necessary additional data existing in the statistical system or outside;
- (e) Define a key set of coherent and internationally comparable climate change-related statistics and indicators considering availability of data and feasibility of production;
- (f) Provide definitions and suggested data sources for each indicator in line with SEEA-CF, FDES and other international statistical standards that relate to the chosen set.

The output will be a key set of climate change-related statistics and indicators with definitions and data sources recommended for production by CES member countries

Membership:

The Joint Task Force is composed of experts representing national statistical offices and ministries or agencies dealing with environment statistics and assessment from the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Operating Overview:

The work of the Task Force is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Task Force will be created for a period of two years, after which it will submit a final report. The Steering Group on climate change-related statistics will guide and oversee the work of the Task Force¹.

Background documents:

- Website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40336>
- Terms of Reference: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2014/October/11Add2-ToR_TF_on_set_of_key_climate_change-related_statistics_01.pdf

¹ In 2014 the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau set up the **Steering Group on Climate-Change Related Statistics**. The objective of the Steering Group is to provide direction to the work towards implementing the *CES Recommendations*, advancing the work on climate change-related statistics, and promoting coherence between greenhouse gas inventories and official statistics. (see ToR: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2014/October/11Add1-ToR_SG_on_climate_change-related_statistics.pdf).

This steering group oversees both the work of the “Task Force on a set of key climate change-related statistics and indicators using SEEA” (See table above) as well as the “Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters” (see ToR: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2015/February/05-ToR_TF_on_Measuring_Extreme_Events_and_Disasters.pdf).

UN Global Working Group on Big Data - Task Team on Satellite Imagery and Geo-Spatial Data

Establishment: The group was established in 2015

Mandate: : The broad objectives of this task team are to;

- (a) Provide strategic vision, direction and development of a global work plan on satellite imagery and geo-spatial data for official statistics in the short to medium term, including for indicators of the post-2015 development goals, and
- (b) Build on the existing precedents and find solutions for the many challenges facing the use of satellite imagery and geo-spatial data sources for official statistics.

The group has the specific objective to :

- (a) Identify the most reliable and accurate statistical methods for estimating quantities of interest, using satellite imagery data,
- (b) Suggest approaches for collecting representative training data of sufficient quality,
- (c) Research, develop and implement assessment methods for predictive models including measures of accuracy and goodness of fit,
- (d) Establish strategies to reuse and adapt algorithms developed for one topic to others, and their implementation for large volumes of data.

The group plans to undertake a number of pilot projects involving relevant datasets. As such, the deliverables of the Task Team, by the end of 2015, may include the following elements:

- (a) A report on the use of satellite imagery and geo-spatial data for official statistics, which provides a mapping of these data with official statistics, clarifies and provides solutions to methodological, information technology and privacy challenges, and includes possible use of these data for official statistics and for monitoring the post-2015 development agenda.
- (b) An inventory of ongoing activities and examples regarding the use of satellite imagery and geo-spatial data, address concerns related to methodology, human resources, quality and confidentiality, and develop guidelines on classifying various types of satellite imagery and geo-spatial data sources.
- (c) Pilot studies to examine the feasibility and the institutional/methodological issues of using satellite imagery and geo-spatial data for the production of official statistics.

Membership: Australian Bureau of Statistics (Chair), CSIRO, DANE (Columbia), International Telecommunication Union, UNSD, Google, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Mathematical Frontiers, FAO, IBM Research

Operating Overview:

The Group does not lie under the auspices of the UNCEEA, but coordination with relevant groups working on SEEA related statistics is encouraged.

Background documents:

- Task team website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/bigdata/taskteams/si-gsd/default.asp>

WAVES Group

Establishment: TO BE UPDATED ONCE THE INFORMATION IS RECEIVED.

Mandate:

Membership:

Operating Overview:

Background documents:

WAVES Policy and Technical Experts Committee (PTEC)

Establishment: TO BE UPDATED ONCE THE INFORMATION IS RECEIVED.

Mandate: PTEC is a multidisciplinary body consisting of experts in economics, environmental accounting, natural sciences, and policy. It leads the work conducted by WAVES to help develop internationally agreed guidelines for ecosystem accounting. In addition to methodology development, PTEC also leads work to compile evidence on policy applications of natural capital accounts and to develop training materials.

Membership:

Operating Overview:

The work of this group is not under the auspices of the UNCEEA but it is relevant to the coordinating role of the UNCEEA in Environmental Accounting and Supporting Statistics.

Background documents:

- PTEC website: <https://www.wavespartnership.org/en/waves-policy-and-technical-experts-committee-ptec>

Related Inter-Secretariat Working Groups

Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Establishment: Set up in the early 80s by the Statistical Commission to enhance cooperation among international organizations working in the same field.

Mandate: The mandate of the ISWGNA is to:

1. Provide strategic vision, direction and coordination for the methodological development and implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA) in national, regional and international statistical systems;
2. Revise and update the SNA and develop supporting normative international statistical standards and other methodological documents on national accounts and supporting statistics;
3. Promote the development of databases at international, regional and national level on national accounts statistics;
4. Promote the implementation of the SNA and supporting statistics; and
5. Promote the use of national accounts and supporting statistics in policy formulation.

Members: Since the early 1980s, it has had five members: Eurostat, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations (Statistics Division), and World Bank.

Operating overview: The chair rotates among the five organizations and the Secretariat is UNSD. The usual practice has been that the ISWGNA functions at two levels: at what is called the **Management Group** and the **National Accountants**. Within each area of its work programme, the ISWGNA undertakes specific activities engaging technical expert groups, city groups or other expert groups to carry out the work programme. For large projects, such as the

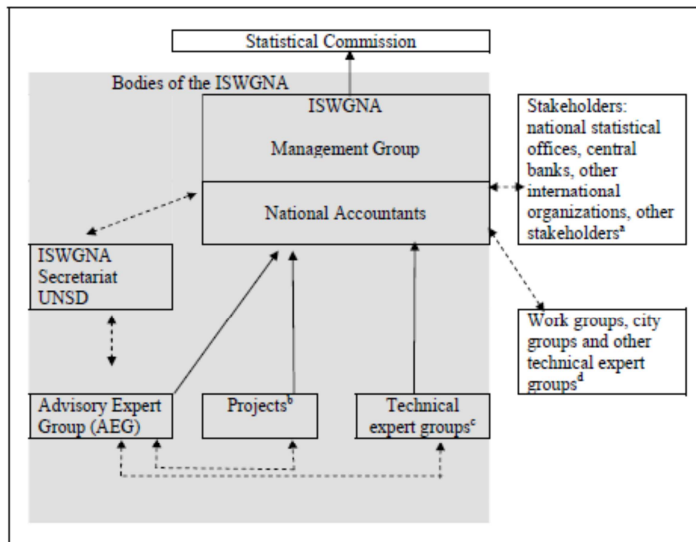
revision of SNA or the implementation of the SNA, it may be necessary to develop separate project management frameworks.

- The Management Group's function is to ensure appropriate outputs and inputs for the work of the ISWGNA and to lay the ground for successful outcomes. The managers also act within their own organizations to further the agreed goals and objectives of the ISWGNA.

- The National Accountants, collectively, sponsor and facilitate the technical work of the work programme of the ISWGNA.

- The Advisory Expert Group assists the ISWGNA in carrying out its work programme, resolves issues on the research agenda of the SNA and reviews documents and tools for the SNA implementation programme.

Table 1 ISWGNA governance structure



- Report to
 ← Consult/Liaise with
- a. Include for example academia and line ministries.
 - b. This includes specific projects needing separate project management frameworks, such as the update of the 1993 SNA.
 - c. These include expert groups to advance specific research on issues on the SNA research agenda.
 - d. These work groups, city groups and technical expert groups have their own mandates and governance structures, but their work programmes fall within the scope of the national accounts. The ISWGNA liaise and consults with these groups to coordinate their outputs.

Background documents

- ISWGNA Website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/iswgnaAbout.asp>
- ISWGNA Mandate: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/mandate.pdf>

Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics

Establishment: The UN Statistical Commission, at its 34th session, asked UNSD to convene the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (IWG-ENV) to coordinate and harmonize the development of standards, methods, data collections and capacity building programmes in environment statistics. The terms of reference were adopted the Commission's 35th session.

Mandate: The goal of the IWG-ENV is to enhance coordination of international work in the field by helping to establish cooperative working relations in the areas where harmonization, avoidance of unnecessary duplication and the pooling of resources can provide more and faster progress. The main objective of the Group is to firmly anchor environment statistics as part of official statistics by improving and strengthening basic environmental data, and thus to make an important contribution to the development of environmental indicators, indicators of sustainable development and integrated environmental and economic accounting.

The Group intends to accomplish its objective by enhancing cooperation and by the pooling of knowledge bases and resources in the areas of methodological work, data collection and dissemination, training and capacity-building, and the organization of joint events. The Group will take fully into account relevant work of other international networks and forums, and give priority to the specific areas set out below.

1. Improvement of methodological practices in international environment statistics
2. Harmonization of international environmental data collection
3. Technical cooperation, training and capacity-building
4. Organization of joint events

Membership: The permanent members of the Group are in principle those international organizations or agencies that have a well-established international programme on environment statistics including direct and regular collection of comprehensive environment statistics from countries.

Members include UNSD, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), UNEP, Eurostat, OECD (all since 2003) and FAO (since 2005).

Operating Overview: The Terms of Reference as submitted to the UNSC state that;

1. International organizations or agencies that have programmes focusing on specific areas of environment statistics as well as countries with outstanding experience should be associated with the work of the Group as required and feasible, and will be invited on an ad hoc basis to join the subgroups set up by the Working Group on a geographic or subject-matter basis.
2. The Group will maintain strong collaboration with other groups active in related fields, and in particular with the London Group on Environmental Accounting, as well as with groups working on indicators of sustainable development.
3. The Group will propose topics and subgroups for action and will be responsible for overall coordination of these subgroups. UNSD is the Secretariat. The Division will report annually to the United Nations Statistical Commission on the work of the Group.
4. The group is expected to meet once a year.

Background Documents

- Report of the Interagency Working Group on Environment Statistics to the 35th Session of the Statistical Commission: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc04/2004-20e.pdf>
- Inter-Secretariat working group webpage: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/coordination.htm>

Related City Groups

Oslo City Group on Energy Statistics:

The Oslo group on energy statistics is tasked to address issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics by pooling expertise in the energy community.

In particular, its mandate includes the following actions:

- (a) Identify users' needs
- (b) Define scope of official energy statistics
- (c) Identify and collect national and international best practices
- (d) Review and contribute to the updating of UNSD handbooks and manuals on energy statistics
- (e) Identify gaps in coverage (e.g. fuel types, flows) and to develop methodology to cover gaps
- (f) Adopt link or develop bridges to international standard concepts and classifications in economic/environment statistics to facilitate the integration and interface of energy statistics with other statistical systems
- (g) Recommend a core set of tables as minimum requirement at national and international level to satisfy major user needs

The main output of the Oslo group has been the International Recommendations on Energy Statistics (IRES)

It was set up in March 2005.

- Member countries include: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland (Chair), France, Germany, Ghana, Greenland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen
- Member organizations include the IAEA, IEA, IMF, IRENA, GCF-STAT, Eurostat and UNSD

Link: <http://unstats.un.org/oslogroup>

Ulaanbaatar City Group on Statistics for Economies based on Natural Resources:

The group works to:

- (a) play a leading role in developing methodological and practical guidelines and recommendations by pooling best theoretical and methodological practices, in order to rationally track mining industry activities and accurately measure the industry's contribution to the economy and its impact on other social sectors and the environment;
- (b) serve as a forum for sharing the expertise of national and international statistical organizations and other interested parties;
- (c) collaborate with the United Nations and the specialized agencies on developing and improving statistical methodologies and standards for statistics on natural resources and provide support in this area;
- (a) develop practical manuals and recommendations based on best practices that ensure coverage, reliability, accuracy and relevance of statistical data to support the efforts made by countries with large mining sectors and use the international standards to guide our work.

It was set up in 2012 and members include:

- Current country representatives include: Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Russian Federation and Vietnam.
- Current governmental organizations include: National Registration and Statistics Office of Mongolia, Parliament of Mongolia, Ministry of Finance of Mongolia, Bank of Mongolia, National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia
- Current international organizations include: UNIDO, UNDP, UNESCAP, CISSTAT and IMF.

Links: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/citygroup/ulaanbaatar.htm> and http://web.nso.mn/ub_city_group/

