



# Compilation and dissemination of SEEA-based data and information at global level

UNCEEA meeting  
New York, 22-24 June 2016

Myriam Linster, OECD





## Purposes and expectations

### What would we like to achieve?

---

- **Showcase the usefulness and relevance of SEEA-related data**
- **Encourage the implementation of the SEEA**
- **Facilitate access to international SEEA-related data**
- **Provide coherent data for use in international work**
  - Policy analysis and assessments, country reviews
  - Monitoring progress: SDGs, green growth, ...
- **Provide harmonised international data for use in national work**
  - International comparisons and benchmarking
  - Exchange of experience and lessons learned





## Requirements What do we need to do?

---

- **Ensure pragmatic arrangements & cost- effective cooperation among agencies**
  - Building on existing work and initiatives
  - Layered approach to use synergies, minimise duplication and ensure coherence
  - Shared views on priority topics and accounts considering: (→ criteria for prioritisation)
  - Harmonised compilation formats and database structures (core tables)
  - Agreements on data sharing and transfer mechanisms
- **Ensure continuity in compilation and dissemination efforts**
  - Regular updating at agreed frequencies
  - Appropriate funding and integration in programmes of work and budget





## Priority setting

---

- **Criteria**
  - Data availability: SEEA-based data or source data
  - Availability of harmonised concepts and methods
  - Policy relevance, information demands
  - Costs, resource implications
- **Distinguish between**
  - Low hanging fruits: short term (physical flow accounts, cf briefing note)
    - Material flows (economy-wide, by material)
    - Energy
    - GHG and air emissions
  - Other accounts: medium to long term (physical & monetary flow accounts)
    - Material flow accounts (economy-wide, indirect flows, footprints, by material)
    - Waste generation by industry
    - Water use by industry (supply)
    - Material flows by industry
    - Environmental tax revenues (macro-level)
    - Environmental protection expenditure
    - + consider prospects for other accounts that could be derived from ongoing and planned work, e.g. land accounts





## Proposed priorities and arrangements

---

- **Focus areas and priority accounts**
  - **Material flows** (economy-wide, by material)
  - **Energy** (from balances to accounts)
  - **GHG and air emissions** (from inventories or energy data to accounts)
  - *international cooperation in place, layered approach*
- **Global compilation and dissemination**
  - Concentrate on relatively simple SEEA core tables with focus on data that related to selected international indicators
  - Core tables to be extracted from the databases of author organisations
  - To be brought together on a common platform or data portal with links to the websites of the author organisations.
- **International coordination and collaboration**
  - Use existing arrangements and thematic groups, such as OECD/UNEP IRP/Eurostat cooperation (MFA), InterEnerStat, Inter-Secretariat Working Group on environment statistics
  - Use the UNCEEA to review progress and guide developments
  - Possible role of London Group and Technical Committee depending on required developments





# Dissemination and communication

---

- **Dissemination levels**

- Global level (UNSD, UNEP, FAO, the World Bank, ...)
- Other international levels (UN regional agencies, OECD, Eurostat, the European Environment Agency, etc.)
- National level (countries)

- **Main dissemination and communication tools**

- Web-based data portals and databases
- (Headline) indicators and country profiles
- Flyers, brochures, the policy reports that use SEEA-based data

- **Communication challenges**

- Communication usually done by theme and by country, not by tool: what counts is the information value of the data and the messages conveyed by the indicators and the associated policy analysis
- This raises the question of how to disseminate and communicate SEEA-based data, beyond simply providing easy access to the data





## Implementation in countries and quality assurance

---

- **Implementation of simplified priority accounts in countries is essential**
  - Useful tools to help countries get started include
    - The SEEA core tables and the technical notes
      - need for further review and adaptation
    - Other tools such as simplified builders, bridging tables, transfer matrices
    - Training and capacity building, use of national knowledge and information
  - Requires subsequent collection at international level
- **Quality assurance**
  - For data collected from countries
    - done routinely with countries
  - For data produced at international level through models or by using source data in combination with harmonised calculation methods
    - Quality and comparability are generally assured by using harmonised methodologies that benefit from international consensus (← → trust)
    - National results may differ → documentation, communication
    - May require additional checking with countries





## Issues for discussion

---

- **SEEA-based datasets that could “easily” be brought together to establish an international database or data portal**
  - Does the UNCEEA agree with the proposed three priority topics?
  - What other accounts should be considered in the medium term?
- **How could international organisations best collaborate?**
  - To ensure that international data are compiled in a cost-effective, coherent and transparent manner, and can be easily accessed?
  - What would be required to coordinate international activities?
  - What would be required to assure the quality of international SEEA data?
- **How could countries be supported to implement priority accounts?**
  - How could the SEEA core tables be best used to help countries get started and establish simplified accounts in key areas? How could the Technical notes evolve to assist? What other tools could be provided to countries?
- **What are the next steps?**
  - What are the next steps concerning the selected priority accounts?
  - What would the roadmap for the longer term?

