

Report of Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Turkey's Comment:

(a) The proposed activities to enhance coordination and prevent overlaps in the development of methodologies and capacity-building on SEEA and supporting statistics (see sect. II);

Turkey supports the proposed activities indicated in the report. It may be useful to specify the source of the training materials in the repository.

(b) The proposed activities and process for promoting SEEA for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, where appropriate (see sect. II);

The efforts on how SEEA can provide a basis for relevant SDG indicators are supported.

(c) The activities taken to mainstream SEEA in the areas of climate change and biodiversity (see sect. II);

Studies carried out and planned to be carried out in the fields of biological diversity and climate change are supported.

(d) The proposed process to understand the need for a revision of the SEEA Central Framework (see sect. III);

Before possible revision of 2008 SNA, clarifying intersection points of SNA and environmental accounts methodologies, specifying links between environment and the economy, understanding policy, analytical requirements and needs, reviewing physical and monetary environmental accounts methodologies according to new statistical insights and specifying new user demands would be beneficial to interactive development of both SNA and environmental accounts.

(e) The finalization and adoption of the global economy-wide material flow accounting manual, to be used as compilation guidelines to guide countries in developing economy-wide material flow accounts (see sect. III);

We support the expanding draft MFA manuals with produced Eurostat and OECD that would serve the purpose of improving data quality with common methodology and producing harmonized material flow accounts and related SDG indicators.

(f) The progress made on the statistical framework on measuring the sustainability of tourism and the proposed process to advance the development of the framework (see sect. III);

Studies carried out and planned to be carried out in the fields of tourism accounts are supported.

(g) The revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (see sect. III);

Efforts on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting that carried out by working groups and the experiences derived from the pilot projects based on these research areas are supported. Handbook on biophysical modeling of ecosystem services and discussion papers on primary research areas, which are in progress, would be contributed ecosystem accounts studies to level up.

(h) The process for moving towards global databases, including the dissemination of existing datasets using the Statistics Division's SEEA website as a platform (see sect. IV);

It is considered that the global database and datasets to be published on the SEEA website will provide the important points for determining where the countries are located and the road map they should follow.

In addition, it is necessary to consider the characteristics of countries such as geographic location, flora and soil structure when developing estimation techniques according to SEEA Central Framework for situations in case national data are unavailable.

It is also an important step for the committee to collaborate with the Global Working Group on Big Data to explore the possibility of developing databases at the ecosystem level.

(i) The strategy towards the 2020 implementation targets, focused on e-learning, face-to-face hands-on workshops and country technical support (see sect. V);

Due to the outcomes of Global Assessments, it is explicit that European countries account for a large share of global compilation of SEEA accounts regarding EU Regulations, thus to achieve the 2020 SEEA implementation targets, future uptake of SEEA needs to come from outside Europe. In this context, it can be said that Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries have great potential to contribute to 2020 targets,

meaning a strategy towards EECCA countries including trainings, technical assistance and maybe funding could yield results of compilation of SEEA accounts in these countries. Even though technical assistance is associated with compilation of SEEA accounts, it is not guarantee for compilation as 17 out of 35 non-UNCEEA-compliant countries that received technical assistance in the past didn't compile a SEEA account, due to the results of 2017 Global Assessment. Likewise, plans to compile a SEEA accounts may not usually materialize.

Despite all, Turkey qualifies capacity building activities like meetings, workshops, country technical supports and e-learning courses as operative in urging countries to start compilation of SEEA accounts. Therefore, it is crucial to keep on organizing capacity building activities especially for a target group of countries that will contribute more to the achievement of 2020 SEEA implementation targets.

The last but not the least, countries that haven't compiled a SEEA account so far should be encouraged to start compilation with the easiest accounts, meaning the ones having possible data.

(j) The proposed activities for communicating SEEA and addressing emerging policy issues (see sect. VI).

Works on policy issues papers are useful to support of the policy applications of SEEA. Moreover, enhancing of communication channels is useful.