

# United Nations Statistical Commission

## Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

### Items for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

#### Document E/CN.3/2021/10 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

*Statement provided by:*

CANADA

*Statement:*

Statistics Canada strongly supports making Chapters 1 to 7 of the SEEA EA manual into a statistical standard, as there is wide support and consensus for these chapters on the measurement of physical ecosystem assets and condition.

While acknowledging that valuing ecosystem services is still an evolving area, we do not support splitting the valuation chapters in Section D (8 through 11) into a separate document.

We understand that there is not an overall consensus regarding whether the valuation chapters are sufficiently developed to be considered a standard.

While we agree that further work is needed to develop these chapters, Statistics Canada believes that there is an advantage in keeping these chapters and presenting them as technical guidance and as important examples of applications of the physical ecosystem accounts. This allows the current chapters 8 to 11 to describe the state of the art on valuation of ecosystem services in a context that is coherent with the System of National Accounts.

Statistics Canada also believes that further development of these chapters on the valuation of ecosystem services be supported through the SEEA EA research agenda.

In order to mainstream the SEEA more globally, continued statistical capacity building is crucial.

Canada applauds the work has been done by the World Bank and UNSD to support developing countries implement the SEEA, but we note that further capacity building is required as well as sharing of best practices between countries to facilitate further implementation both within national statistical systems in countries as well as mainstreaming the use of SEEA in policy.

In that regard, Canada also supports the capacity building approaches mentioned in the LAC regional position, and that would be pursued in the context of the **Statistical Conference of the Americas**.

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