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: Colombia

Statement:
Colombia seeks to highlight the importance of the SEEA Central Framework and to the Ecosystem accounting that have been developed by UNCEEA, as this allows to establish frameworks that make it possible to provide quality environmental information for the formulation of public policy and for the follow-up of the global biodiversity agenda and related indicators. It should be noted that the frameworks are in line with the current revision of the 2008 SNA.

a.   Regarding SEEA's Central Framework, we would like to highlight the importance of the current review to the classification of environmental activities, fossil fuel subsidies, and the environmentally extended input-output analysis which will be fundamental for the development of the current Circular Economy Satellite Account (under design) as well as for the development of all initiatives that promote its application; specifically, in relation to climate change, and sustainable financing, which contribute to public policy formulation. We emphasize that the revisions are aligned with the 2008 SNA revision agenda. Given the above, Colombia manifests its approval regarding the engagement of the Committee in the development and implementation of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

b.   Regarding SEEA's Environmental Accounting, the arduous and transparent work developed in order to elevate the manual from its first endorsement as experimental ecosystem accounts to ecosystem accounts is highlighted. In this regard, Colombia expresses its satisfaction with the revision process, considering that it has been transparent and inclusive, with the community of countries and organizations that are interested in contributing to the measurement. The adoption of this framework is essential in order to provide a standardized methodology that reflects the progress made in its development and revision.

c.   Environmental Accounts: we highlight the arduous and transparent work developed in order to elevate the manual from its first endorsement as experimental ecosystem accounts to ecosystem accounts. Moreover, we would like to congratulate the Expert Group for completing a transparent and inclusive review process.

d.   SEEA Oceans: Colombia highlights the importance of developing methodologies that contribute to different environmental measurements and endorses the proposal to initiate work on the SEEA oceans, which has multiple applications in areas that could be important in a strong and sustainable recovery, such as sustainable tourism.

Database development and alignment: Colombia highlights the initiative to create a portal for the compilation and dissemination of information related to the SEEA. The 5 prioritized groups (air emissions, energy, material flow, land and water) are considered appropriate, given the availability of information in this regard. We also highlight the creation of a working group on business accounting

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and the focus on alignment between the SEEA and private natural capital accounting approaches, bearing in mind that it will contribute greatly to environmental accounting in general, but will also contribute to the harmonization of statistics between the SNA and the SCEE. In specific terms, it will contribute to the development of Environmental Activities and Associated Transactions accounting. Implementation and statistical capacity: in this regard, we agree with the classification of the 3 stages proposed in the SEEA's implementation of the assessment process, since UNCEEA has allowed countries to be classified and rated according to their level of implementation of the SEEA.

Submitted on:	2/23/2021