

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:

Denmark on behalf of the EU and its Member states, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland align themselves with this statement.

Statement:

This statement is delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States. The EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland align themselves with the statement:

The European Statistical System (ESS) welcomes and appreciates the substantial work carried out under the supervision of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting in response to the pressing policy needs.

The ESS agrees to adopting chapters 1 to 7 of the SEEA - Ecosystem Accounting as a new statistical standard, complementing the SEEA – Central Framework adopted by UNSC in 2012. As regards, the chapters 8-11 on monetary valuation, the ESS considers that methodological aspects will have to be further clarified before they are adopted as UN standard. Chapters 8-11 should remain an integral part of the document but only if it is made very clear both in the introduction and within chapters 8 to 11 that they are not part of the statistical standard yet due to outstanding methodological aspects. The ESS also emphasises that the practical implementation of the SEEA - Ecosystem Accounting will require intensive cooperation with environmental, geospatial and mapping agencies and research institutes.

The ESS supports the wider use of the SEEA in policy, including climate change, the circular economy, sustainable finance and overall monitoring of the SDGs. The ESS welcomes the work programme of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and its engagement in an expert group on the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity strategy and also welcomes further work on measuring fossil fuel subsidies, on ocean accounting and on business accounting and the SEEA.

Submitted on:

2/16/2021