

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:

Bureau of the UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Statement:

UN ESCAP is a regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, or over 30% of countries worldwide. In 2020, 60% of the estimated 7.8b people globally were in the Asia-Pacific region. The region is also home to 97 of the 100 most air-polluted cities and 5 of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The Bureau of the Asia Pacific Committee on Statistics **WELCOMES** the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting and **CONGRATULATES** the Committee for advancing its work despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

We **APPRECIATE** the work of the Committee to position environmental-economic accounting as a measurement framework to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and **ENCOURAGE** the Committee to likewise position the framework as the basis for indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the continual review and revision of such indicators.

The Asia-Pacific region is actively progressing environmental-economic accounting as evidenced by the latest global assessment which shows more than 50% of responding countries from the region have a national programme for environmental-economic accounting in place (20 of 38 responding countries). The region has also been active in ecosystem accounting, especially ocean accounts, and has led the development of technical guidance for ocean accounts.

Noting there is still work to do, we **WELCOME** the much-needed guidance and common reference point for ecosystem accounts production and look forward to an international statistical standard which all countries can adopt and use for national as well as global policy priorities.

We **SUPPORT** the proposal to further develop the methodology for ocean accounting, including the development of a SEEA Oceans. We **THANK** the Committee for agreeing to establish a SEEA-Ocean working group and **NOTE** the need for rapid progress on a SEEA-Ocean standard to ensure countries can respond to increasing demand to measure the ocean economy, which is of such vital importance to societies and livelihoods especially in the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

Submitted on:

Click or tap to enter a date.