

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:

Stats NZ

Statement:

With regards to action to be taken by the Statistical Commission.

- (a) Stats NZ supports the work programme of the Committee. We also recommend furthering the conversation regarding the revision of the SEEA-CF, and how the growing suite of frameworks fit together as a system of systems.
- (b) Stats NZ supports the adoption of chapters 1-7 of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting as a statistical standard. Stats NZ also supports the encouragement of the implementation of the statistical standard, as there is significant need for the establishment of best practice, and further proof of concept.
- (c) Stats NZ supports the mainstreaming of the use in policy, including climate change, the circular economy and sustainable finance, as there is significant need to develop an understanding of how statistical frameworks and analytical/policy frameworks relate to each other. Stats NZ also supports the alignment of SEEA with the global biodiversity framework, but notes that there is significant need for further conceptual understanding of how biodiversity fits within an accounting framework.
- (d) Stats NZ supports the continued development of frameworks for thematic accounts. However, there will be need for caution regarding integrating the aspects of the SEEA-EA that aren't a statistical standard into thematic accounts.
- (e) Stats NZ supports the need for the micro-macro linkages of environmental data. Beginning with observable phenomena such as water, energy, land use, and emissions, may be more feasible and more easily linked/integrated with existing statistical frameworks (SNA, SEEA-CF). There will need to be caution regarding the alignment of the aspects of the SEEA-EA that aren't a statistical standard with non-financial business accounting.

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