

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

Statement provided by:

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Statistics Authority

Statement:

The Philippines supports the Committee's work in mainstreaming the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) as a statistical framework to support various initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Climate Change, circular economy, ocean agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and sustainable tourism.

In 2020 and 2021, efforts of the Philippines on mainstreaming the SEEA include:

- Release of the Mineral Accounts of the Philippines on 20 August 2020: The Mineral Accounts of the Philippines provide information on the amount of reserves of the four metallic minerals: Gold, Copper, Nickel, and Chromite. These accounts allow for the monitoring of the sustainability of extraction of these valuable yet depletable natural assets;
- First time release of the Water Accounts of the Philippines on 30 September 2020. The accounts provide information on the amount of water abstracted from the environment and used by different economic units. These are essential in assessing whether the country is using its water resources sustainably and equitably. In addition, two SDG indicators, 6.4.1 Change in Water Use Efficiency and 6.4.2 Level of Water Stress, were also derived from the water accounts;
- Release of the Energy Accounts of the Philippines on 05 January 2021: This was an update to the pilot compilation released last January 2019. The energy accounts present the physical and monetary assets accounts for coal, oil, natural gas, and condensate. The accounts provide information on the available stocks of these non-renewable resources at the start and end of each year as well as the changes that occurred during the period. The non-renewable energy resource rent (% of Gross Domestic Product) was the indicator derived for this account;
- Participation in the online Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2017: The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) conducted the said assessment under the auspices of the United Nations Committee of Expert on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA) with the following objectives: a) assessing the current status of national implementation of Environmental-Economic Accounting Programmes; b) assessing institutional arrangements for the compilation of Environmental-Economic Accounts; and c) identifying priorities

and future plans for the compilation of Environmental-Economic Accounts. The Philippines published a Progress Report in 2018 on the development of the Material Flow Accounts of the Philippines through the Philippine Economic-Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting (PEENRA) locally-funded Project. The progress report contained data assessment report on material flow accounts, endeavored to determine the feasibility of applying material flow accounting in the country. Currently, ongoing research and development activities are done on the material flow accounting which focus on Domestic Material Input (DMI), and data assessment of the Domestic Material Output (DMO) following the Economy-wide Material Flow Accounts, the SEEA Central Framework, and the Global Material Flow Accounting Manual;

- Ongoing research and development of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework which focus on the DRR expenditure; and
- Inclusion of research and development, and updating of existing environmental accounts in the work program of the Philippines under the Environment and Natural Resources Accounts Division of the Macroeconomic Accounts Service of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The Philippines also agrees on the adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting as a statistical standard and encourages its implementation in countries. The Philippines participated in the review of the SEEA EEA and provided comments. Research and development of ecosystem accounting in support to the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting is included in our current work program. To further the development and mainstreaming of the SEEA-EEA in the country, the PSA has expressed the need for technical assistance through training, both conceptual and on-the-job. Along with this, it is also the vision of the country to develop a Data Institutionalization Plan for the SEEA-EEA to ensure that data gaps and data problems are addressed within indicated timelines.

Similarly, the Philippines recognizes the need for methodological guidance on ocean accounting. In 2019, the country released the Philippine Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts (POESA) for the years 2012 to 2018. While we were able to provide a measure of the contribution of marine and coastal resources to the overall economy, there were certain limitations on the adopted framework and methodology. For instance, the scope was limited to accounting the gross value added of identified ocean-based industries, using as reference the works of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). Thus, we look forward to the development of SEEA-Ocean and to having methodological and technical guidance on ocean accounts to have a comprehensive and clear context of its scope and coverage, and the classification of industries to be considered. Further, once the technical guidance is completed, it is important to promote sharing of country experiences, particularly on the operationalization of the framework and concepts.

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Items for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

Finally, the Philippines supports the Committee's move towards the formation of a working group on business accounting and the SEEA, and the focus on alignment between SEEA and private natural capital accounting approaches.

Submitted on:

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