

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

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The statement provided by:



Statistics Poland

Statement:

Statistics Poland aligns itself with a common European Union position.

We **welcome with great interest the progress of work undertaken last year** by the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, i.e., in the field of coordination and communication, methodological development for normative standards and other research, development of databases as well as implementation and statistical capacity-building.

It is essential that the Committee has taken several initiatives to assist countries in implementing the System of Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) and has given the possibility of a flexible and modular approach to SEEA implementation. It is crucial as there are significant differences between countries in terms of the political situation and statistical development level. It is also important that the activities carried out by the Committee take into account the initiatives taken by Eurostat and OECD in the field of environmental-economic accounts.

We **express our appreciation for the work on the global database on the SEEA Central Framework**, which helps broaden the knowledge and promote SEEA and may be useful for all communities.

We support the adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) as a statistical standard. We appreciate the work on the development and revision of the Experimental Ecosystem Accounts SEEA (SEEA EEA) undertaken last year.

In particular, we express our appreciation for cooperation in the process of revision SEEA EA methodology of various groups of stakeholders, including national accountants, environmental economists, scientists from national statistical offices, and academia.

The critical feature of SEEA EA implementation in countries seems to be the involvement and cooperation of national statistical offices with experts from various institutions, mainly from scientific, geospatial, and environmental economics. **Significant work will be needed to implement the SEEA EA. Source data will be initially limited, in particular where statistical offices wish to embark on monetary valuation.**

We **fully support the Committee's engagement in an expert group on the development and implementation of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**. The Committee will be a valuable support body for the group due to its experience. The Committee's active involvement will provide the official statistical community with a starting point for monitoring the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity. It will offer the opportunity to guide the

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development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework monitoring. In our opinion, efficient coordination will also ensure that international organizations and countries active in the field of environmental accounting will not duplicate work.

We support mainstreaming the use of the SEEA in policy, including climate change, circular economy, and sustainable finance SEEA. The role of the SEEA in the implementation of these issues seems to be particularly important since the **SEEA system can provide a standardized approach to the development of indicators at the international level**. At the same time, it is **entirely consistent and integrated with the System of National Accounts (SNA)**. Moreover, SEEA applies both environmental and economic issues, which fits nicely in multi-dimensional areas. However, due to these issues' cross-cutting character, it should be highlighted that it remains a significant statistical challenge. Coordination of different initiatives and works using already existing frameworks seems to be crucial.

We support initiatives undertaken in the **development of ocean accounts**. It is essential to integrate the oceans' values and benefits into all relevant policies and decision-making processes for social and economic development. This process should be implemented with the statistical community's involvement, international institutions, research organizations, and other stakeholders.

Formalizing business accounting activities will support the Member States and strengthen their potential in terms of business accounting statistics and SEEA. Moreover, defining the principles of cooperation and coordination of exercises will help to eliminate duplication of activities.

We support a focus on alignment between the SEEA and private natural capital accounting approaches bearing in mind the benefits of adapting SEEA to corporate and financial accounting.

Submitted on:

2/19/2021