

## United Nations Statistical Commission

### Fifty-third session

Item 3 (1) of the provisional agenda

#### Items for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

### Document E/CN.3/2022/16 – Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

*Statement provided by:*

Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

*Statement:*

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 continuing to advance the work of both the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA-CF) and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA). In particular, the Bureau notes the successful endorsement of the first 7 chapters of the SEEA-EA as the first international standard for ecosystem accounting. With the endorsement of this new standard, sustained support for capacity development, training, and other resources needs will be critical to successful implementation. In this regard, we welcome the report's discussion of implementation initiatives and the five activities proposed in the implementation strategy, including continued capacity building programmes.

We also support the ongoing efforts of the Committee to align the SEEA with the developing post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its engagement on headline indicators derived from the SEEA. Biodiversity is a critical resource within the Asia-Pacific region and remains at significant risk from a range of stressors, including climate change and habitat conversion. Efforts to coordinate activities between the post-2020 biodiversity framework, SEEA-CF, SEEA-EA, and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics are essential to ensure most efficient use of often limited resources within NSOs in the Asia-Pacific region.

The SNA revision process as well as ISIC and CPC updates are critical opportunities to share knowledge gained from the SEEA development process on gaps in national accounts information and classifications. Alignment of the revision process and updates with the SEEA will assist in ensuring efficiencies in accounts compilation and production by NSOs.

The Bureau welcomes the Guidelines on Biophysical Modelling developed in support of ecosystem accounting and the incorporation of the feedback received from the global consultation into the document. We recommend that such guidelines continue to be updated as countries gain experiences using the methodologies and models described.

The Bureau also welcomes the establishment of the SEEA EA Working Group on Oceans and appreciate the leadership taken by Australia in Chairing the Working Group. The oceans are a vital resource for countries in the region and reliable and consistent ocean data and statistics are needed to advance progress toward sustainable oceans. We support the further development of the SEEA-Ocean by the Working Group based on the work in the Asia-Pacific region by several countries, ESCAP, and the Global Oceans Accounts Partnership.

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