

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:

National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India

Statement:

1. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India feels that with the adoption of System of Environment Economic Accounting-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) (chapters 1-7) as an international statistical standard and chapters 8-11 as internationally recognized statistical principles and recommendations for valuation of ecosystem services and assets, the need thereafter arises to ensure implementation of SEEA. This has necessitated the development of an implementation strategy with an aim to make nature's value visible. The global Implementation Strategy promotes an incremental approach in which countries lacking national data can initiate compilation of the environmental accounts using the global data and subsequently improve the estimates using the national data as and when available. The Strategy adopts a flexible and modular approach considering policy priorities, data availability and institutional frameworks and covers implementation at different scales. NSO India supports the strategy especially regarding the compilation of the accounts at the national and the sub-national level.

2. Realizing that the ultimate aim is to acquire a holistic picture of the country's wealth, it is important to integrate SEEA with the System of National Accounts (SNA). This would require essentially updation of not only the SNA framework to accommodate the natural capitals but also an update in the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC). NSO India supports the revision in SNA, ISIC and CPC to broaden their scope in order to include environment aspects as well.

3. Being covered by oceans on 3 sides, India acknowledges the importance of oceans ecosystem in the country. India is the member of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP). In this context, NSO, MoSPI, Government of India supports the proposal of developing the SEEA Oceans and looks forward to being a part of the Task Teams developing the framework, so that concerns of developing countries are addressed appropriately in the framework.

4. The key aim of the statistics office is to be able to generate statistics which would cater to the needs of the policy makers as ultimately it is policies that have the potential to bring about optimal changes. India therefore supports the work of the UNCEEA towards the Implementation Strategy for the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, including the establishment of three subgroups on forest, carbon and ocean accounting as well as a formal establishment on business accounting.

Submitted on:

2/17/2022

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