

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-third session

Item 3 (1) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: environmental-economic accounting

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<i>Statement provided by:</i> Istat - Italy	
<i>Statement:</i> Italy joins the EU common position and welcomes the work done under the supervision of the UNCEEA. Italy would like to highlight some open methodological issues on monetary values connected to ecosystems and their services. In this respect, we welcome the setting up of a new group on valuation in the context of the SNA revision, involving SEEA experts; however, the focus of this new group may not be wide enough to tackle the outstanding methodological aspects. Therefore, Italy suggests either an extension of the scope of the group in order to provide specific guidance about the interpretation and presentation of monetary values in satellite accounts on ecosystems or the resumption of the activities of the UNCEEA group on ecosystem valuation and accounting treatments. Moreover, on valuation of ecosystem services and ecosystem assets as intended in chapters 8-11 of the SEEA EA, we suggest - when developing Guidelines - taking into consideration that there are approaches to monetary values depending on ecosystem services other than valuation of ecosystem services, (which may inform policies as well as valuation). Finally, Italy encourages a clarification from UNCEEA of the scope of two concepts that are not fully overlapping, i.e. "natural capital" accounting and SEEA Ecosystem Accounts, especially their relation to the valuation issue and approaches to sustainability.	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/17/2022