

## United Nations Statistical Commission

### Fifty-third session

Item 3 (l) 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:*



#### *Statement:*

Poland aligns itself with the European Union's common position.

The Committee of Experts on the Environmental-Economic Accounting program of work for 2022-2025 will be welcomed. Planned activities will positively impact the dissemination and development of SEEA implementation in countries, including through the modernization of institutional arrangements and the regular process of producing statistics.

Statistics Poland supports mainstreaming the SEEA in policy, including climate change, circular economy, and biodiversity. 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. Moreover, SEEA applies environmental and economic issues, which fits nicely in multidimensional 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 existing frameworks seems crucial.

Statistics Poland perceives the activities positively by the Committee, which concern issues of engagement in the SNA update and ISIC and CPC updates. It seems essential to maintain the coherence and relevance of the classifications with SEEA due to the priority areas.

We support the engagement of national statistical offices on the development and implementation of the monitoring framework of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. National statistical offices will be valuable support due to their experience and the specificity of the issue. Furthermore, the Committee's active involvement will provide the national statistical offices with a starting point for monitoring the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It will offer the opportunity to guide the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework monitoring. In our opinion, efficient coordination is critical to ensure that international organizations and countries active in biodiversity data will not duplicate work.

The role of the SEEA in the implementation of the biodiversity indicators 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).

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We express our appreciation for the work on implementation strategy preparation for the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA - EA) and work on the further development. The Committee must plan to take initiatives to assist countries in implementing the SEEA - EA. It is important as there are significant differences between countries regarding the specificity of ecosystems and the level of statistical development. It is also important that the activities carried out by the Committee take into account the initiatives taken by Eurostat in this regard.

Poland supports the adoption of the SEEA -EA as a statistical standard. We appreciate the work on developing and revising the SEEA-EA undertaken so far. In particular, we express our appreciation for cooperation in the activities in terms of SEEA-EA methodology of various groups of stakeholders, including national accountants, environmental economists, scientists from national statistical offices, and academia. The key feature of implementing SEEA - EA in countries seems to be the involvement and cooperation of national statistical offices with experts from various institutions, particularly from scientific, geospatial, and environmental economics. Significant work will be needed to implement the SEEA - EA.

We support the finalization of draft Guidelines for Biophysical Modelling for Ecosystem Accounting as it will support the Member States and strengthen their potential in terms of ecosystem accounting. The Guidelines are required, especially in the context of the growing importance of SEEA for politics.

Due to the complexity of these issues, it should be highlighted that it remains a significant statistical challenge. The availability of reliable materials and guidelines seems to be crucial.

We welcome with appreciation the efforts to develop the Statistical Measurement of Sustainable Tourism (SF-MST) in order to provide information and indicators of the interaction between tourism and the environment. This process must be made with the involvement of the statistical community and policy community. We perceive positive piloting implementation in countries, especially in informing the relevance and feasibility of the framework.

We support the plans for the Technical Committee on the SEEA Central Framework to review the final draft of the Statistical Framework for MST before its final presentation to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

**Submitted on:**

2/25/2022