

Country Statement- New Zealand

Agenda 4a

Thank you Chair for giving me the opportunity to speak today, and thanks to the Commission for collating such a comprehensive paper on the regional and national efforts with economic, satellite and environmental accounts in Asia and the Pacific. It is certainly pleasing to see the level of engagement from across the region in these international endeavours – I am sure the region is better off for these interactions, and I encourage more to actively engage. I also note that through ESCAP's encouragement of connecting with the UNECE, ISWGNA and AEG, I'm sure member countries have and will continue to benefit, and I hope the current trend of increased accessibility through video technology such as we are using today, will continue and this in turn will lead to an increased capability – noting that 'capacity' is one of the aims of the Regional Program on Economic Statistics as outlined in paragraph #9.

I do have a question.

As part of these 'accounts', tourism satellite accounts (or TSAs) are included. These would no doubt be of value and interest across the region however has thought been given to the requirements needed to produce a TSA? A full approach requires the production and expenditure approaches to GDP with supply-use tables including information on tourism expenditure by product. It is my understanding that this would be a big step for many in the region to be able to produce a TSA. At a minimum production-supply and expenditure-use of key tourism products might be more achievable as a set of tourism indicators. Perhaps, as a suggestion, something less than a full TSA might be more achievable across the region.

Finally, a comment.

In our Green House Gas emissions by industry and households release we included a test case of the UNWTO framework with estimates of Green House Gas emissions from the 'tourism industry'. We weren't part of any formal group tasked with testing the UNWTO framework, we just saw that it had value (which was confirmed upon its release by customers) and was feasible. We'd be happy to share our experience of these developments. We'd be interested in developments in ocean accounts too and contributing if appropriate.