

Agenda item 4(a): Seminar on priority issues: Accounting for integrated statistics and analysis

- The ESCAP region has identified national accounts, tourism satellite accounts and environmental-economic accounts, as an area of priority. Accounts align well with all five action areas of the collective vision and framework for action, in particular, action area C on integrated statistics for integrated analysis. Accounts can engage users and lead to investment in statistics (action area A), assure quality and instill trust in statistics (action area B), modernize statistical business processes (action area D) and develop requisite skills set (action area E).
- UNSD looks forward to work with ESCAP and the countries in the Asia-Pacific region to increase the footprint in global initiatives through membership and participation in global statistical groups and related initiatives. For instance, the upcoming experimentation and testing of satellite accounts relevant to Asia-Pacific countries like the digital economy and distribution accounts for the update of the 2008 SNA would be a great opportunity in 2021.
- Moreover, the implementation of the forthcoming recommendations of the FOC Group on co-investment in a shared global infrastructure for access to and use of data, methods and applications in partnership with the private sector would be another great opportunity for the Asia-Pacific region to increase its statistical footprint globally.
- UNSD would like to draw attention to the revision of the **SEEA EEA** and to encourage Member States to actively participate in the revision process, through the global consultation and the many meetings/consultations that are being organized. The vision of many experts at this point is to recognize that ecosystem accounting, albeit not perfect, has reached a point of maturity that justifies dropping “experimental” from its title.
- In this context, UNSD is offering to organize a webinar for countries of the ESCAP region with a focus on those topics that are of particular interest to Asia Pacific – including ocean accounts, which is part of the chapter on the thematic accounts (The next meeting of the Forum in September will address this topic together with Biodiversity Accounts, Carbon Accounts, Protected Areas Accounts, etc.)
- UNSD would like to thank countries for the contribution in the work of the UNCEEA – Asia has been quite active and in the testing of some of some of the concepts being included in the SEEA EEA; also good progress has been made to align the Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) with the SEEA.
- UNSD is working closely with CBD to help develop monitoring framework of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Agenda and there is a historic and strategic opportunity for the NSOs to contribute to the process.