

Aligning corporate sustainability reporting and official statistics in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Abstract:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for a global partnership for sustainable development with the active engagement of governments, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations system to support the implementation of sustainable development goals. In particular the role of companies is crucial for the implementation of the ambitious agenda. Under goal 12, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Target 12.6 encourages companies, especially large and trans-national companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

The SDG agenda has led to increasing demand for monitoring sustainable development at the global, national and company level. However, there is a danger that these developments will take place in isolation and will therefore weaken the transition towards a sustainable global economy. Strengthen the alignment of measurement systems at the corporate, national and global levels is essential in order to create a common “language” for the stakeholders involved.

One of the SDGs areas in which progress can get started is the environmental one. There is an opportunity to initiate a process to align and harmonize concepts, definitions and classifications to be used in the corporate sustainability reporting with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and this can be scaled up in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 development agenda.