



United Nations Statistics Division

# Updates on the Oslo Group

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**2018 InterEnerStat Meeting**

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics**

2-3 October 2018

Paris, France



<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy>

# Overview

- City Groups
- UN Statistical Commission 2018
- Oslo Group 2018
- Way forward

# Introduction – City Groups

- Formally established by UNSC in the mid-1990s to complement existing processes for the development and adoption of international statistical standards.
- Characteristics:
  - Flexibility in operating methods and timely adjustment to new priorities;
  - Necessity of considering the needs of all countries
- They have developed methodology, handbooks, manuals and compendiums of best practices.
- Over the past 20 years, 16 city groups established, 9 of which operating & 7 of which have completed their work.

# UNSC, UNSD and City Groups

- Two critical roles envisioned for UNSD:
  - ensure that requirements & suggestions of less developed countries are considered, even if they are not present.
  - ensure that work of the city group is integrated into the international statistical system.
- Other international organizations have also played a role.
- However, UNSC agenda now, compared with 20 years ago, indicates increased demands during its one-week meeting.
- The number of items considered by the Commission and the time available makes substantive discussion at each session and for each city group impossible.
  - Which triggered a review of city groups

# UNSC discussion on City Groups

- In 2018, the Commission was invited to express its views on a number of questions, among them:
  - **After their initial mandate is completed, should city groups be terminated** or transitioned into another existing and more formal mechanism (rather than having their mandate extended)?
- To this, the Commission agreed:
  - that it needs to improve its oversight function, for example through proper **reviews of groups after their initial mandate ends**, and comprehensive reviews of long-standing groups
- A comprehensive review of the structure and functions of all types of groups operating under the Commission is being prepared for the next session (2019)

# Oslo Group 2018

- In this context, the OG met in June 2018 in the Netherlands
- All participants recognized the importance of the OG as a unique forum for countries to discuss current developments in energy statistics
- However, with IRES and ESCM the Group can be said to have completed its mandate (which is a measure of success!)
- To avoid any surprise in the Statistical Commission, and so as to continue its work, the Oslo Group decided to create new focus groups that align current needs with the initial mandate

# OG decisions

- The new groups will focus on the following topics:
  - a) Admin data, big data, new/innovative data sources;
  - b) Best practices and update manuals; and
  - c) Estimation methods, particularly for off grid energy and biomass.
  
- Which fall largely into the following OG mandates:
  - Identify & collect national and international best practices;
  - Review & contribute to updating UN handbooks and manuals on energy statistics; and
  - Identify gaps in the coverage of existing methodologies and develop methodologies to cover gaps.

# Way forward

- To engage OG participants, it was agreed that the Group has to work towards objective outputs.
  - In this respect, the topics selected can provide material for a new UN (joint?) manual, and for future IRES revisions, an idea which received positive views.
  - This possible outcome has to be discussed together with the working methods.
- There was no time to agree on working methods and to select the new Oslo Group Chair.
  - Statistics Finland will keep acting as Chair until the end of the year
  - Given that no-one from the active members has shown any interest, we should enlarge the group to select a chair
  - Use of Webex and other electronic fora was proposed for this task and for selecting the future working methods of the Group.

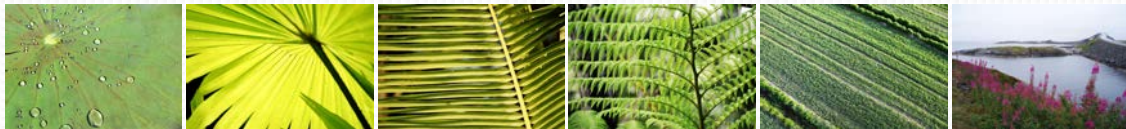


# Way forward

- Statistics Finland will send the material related to the previous meeting and the OG website will be updated accordingly.
- Statistics Finland will also survey the concrete issues to focus on and about the resources available.
- And try to find the next Chair with the help of international organizations.
- However, they cannot keep acting indefinitely and a new Chair has to be selected until the end of the year to avoid gaps in the Chairmanship.



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**Thank you.**

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy>