



# Towards the Revised International Recommendations for Energy Statistics

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics  
InterEnerStat**

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# Outline

- 1) Decision of the Statistical Commission in 2005:  
establishment of a city group on energy statistics and an  
intersecretariat working group on energy statistics
- 2) Outline of the revision process
- 3) Points for discussion

## 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission in 2005

The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 36<sup>th</sup> Session (1-4 March 2005) conducted a programme review of energy statistics based on report by Statistics Norway. Following the discussion, the Commission emphasized the importance of further work to ensure compilation of high quality energy statistics and, inter alia,

## 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission in 2005

- (j) recommended that, given the wide range of technical and other issues covered by the programme review, the United Nations Statistics Division convene an ad hoc expert working group to:
  - (i) Outline priorities for tackling these issues;
  - (ii) Identify the most appropriate forums within which to address these issues (for example, city group, group of Friends of the Chair, inter secretariat working group), including relationships with existing bodies;
  - (iii) Report back to the Bureau of the Commission with an outline of a specific mandate and recommendations with a timetable;
- (k) Authorized the Bureau to take forward the recommendations of the ad hoc expert working group and to ensure that the implementation of concrete measures began before the next session of the Commission.

# Ad Hoc expert group on energy statistics in 2005

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) convene an Ad-hoc expert group on energy statistics on 23-25 May 2005.

The Expert group recommended to:

- (a) Develop global international standards for official energy statistics;
- (b) Strengthen official energy statistics as part of the system of national statistics;
- (c) Adopt performance measures for countries;
- (d) Formalize international collaboration and coordination to reduce response burden and make the most efficient use of existing resources;
- (e) Create an international community of energy statisticians.

# Ad Hoc expert group on energy statistics in 2005

The Expert group recommended also that this work should be carried out by two complementary working groups, a city group to contribute to the development of improved methods and international standards for national official energy statistics and an inter-secretariat working group to enhance international collaboration and coordination. The terms of reference of both groups were drafted and submitted to the Commission's Bureau.

## 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission in 2005

The Expert group recommendations including establishment and terms of reference of both groups were approved by the Bureau, and the Statistical Commission was informed about the recommendation in 2006 (37th Session). The Commission at its 37th session commended the progress made and

## 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission in 2005

(b) Recognized the significance of energy statistics, recommended their development as part of official statistics, including consideration of the need for greater transparency in the documentation of metadata and emphasized the need for capacity-building and training of statisticians;

(c) Supported the establishment and mandate of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics and requested proper coordination mechanisms between them;

(d) Supported the review of the United Nations manuals on energy statistics and requested that the review be based on all relevant methodological work in energy statistics;

(e) Emphasized the urgent need for harmonization of energy definitions and compilation methodologies and for the development of international standards in energy statistics;

(f) Supported the establishment of a broadly based review team to propose common concepts and definitions, and requested that the UNSD submit the modalities of that review team to the Bureau of the Commission



# The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

The **objective** of the city group is to address methodological issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics by pooling expertise in the energy community.

In addressing these issues, the city group should, as a priority:

- (a) Identify users' needs;
- (b) Define the scope of official energy statistics;
- (c) Identify and collect national and international best practices;
- (d) Review and contribute to the updating of the United Nations handbooks and manuals on energy statistics;

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- (d) Review and contribute to the updating of the United Nations handbooks and manuals on energy statistics;
- (e) Identify gaps in the coverage of existing methodologies and develop methodologies to cover gaps;
- (f) Adopt links or develop bridges to international standard concepts and classifications in economic/environmental statistics to facilitate the integration and interface of energy statistics with other statistical systems;
- (g) Recommend a core set of tables as minimum requirements at the national and international level to satisfy the major users' needs.

# The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

*Members of the city group.* The city group members can be energy statistics experts from national statistical offices and/or energy ministries/authorities, experts from international organizations engaged in energy statistics as well as experts from academia and the private sector on an ad hoc basis as advisers.

*The time frame and reporting to the Commission.* The time frame in which to implement these tasks is five years, from 2006 to 2010. The suggested working methods for the city group are electronic discussions and annual meetings. The city group will report annually to the Commission.

# The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

The first meeting of the city group on energy statistics was convened by Statistics Norway from 6-8 February 2006 in Oslo, Norway. The group discussed its future activities in the context of its mandate and adopted the name Oslo Group.

The second meeting was held from 5-7 February 2007 in New Delhi, India. Oslo Group is working, among other things, on topics to be covered during the revision of the existing recommendations for basic energy statistics, balances and accounts. The whole spectrum of the group activities is reflected in its annual reports to the Commission and in documents available on its website.

# The Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics, InterEnerStat

The Commission's Bureau approved the following terms of reference for the intersecretariat group.

The **objective** of the intersecretariat working group on energy statistics is to enhance the coordination of international energy statistics and the collaboration of international (global, regional and sectoral) organizations with a view to improving the availability and quality of international energy statistics without increasing the response burden on countries and by making best use of resources.

# The Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics, InterEnerStat

In addressing the issues, the intersecretariat working group will give priority to

(a) Making an inventory of the current data collection, processing and dissemination system of the major organizations working on energy statistics

(b) Reducing the reporting burden by harmonizing data collection, processing and dissemination, by limiting duplication and/or by building links/bridges between existing energy statistics questionnaires, concepts,

methods and timetables;

(c) Improving sharing of the collecting/processing work between

Organizations and enhancing data-sharing and data transmission once data validation procedures have been agreed and implemented;

(d) Improving the coordination of energy statistics with social, economic and environmental statistics at the international level;

(e) Promoting training and capacity-building and coordinating the related efforts;

(f) Creating joint forums to promote the dialogue of statisticians and the user community;

(g) Raising the profile of energy statistics and energy statisticians at all levels.

# The Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics, InterEnerStat

International organizations and agencies engaged in the collection of energy statistics from countries at the global, regional and sectoral levels and major users of international energy statistics should be invited to join the intersecretariat working group.

*Secretariat of the group and reporting to the Commission.*  
The secretariat of the intersecretariat working group will rotate among the members biennially. The intersecretariat working group will act as a permanent body and will report to the Commission periodically

# The Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics, InterEnerStat

The first meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (InterEnerStat) was convened by the International Energy Agency (IEA) from 22-23 November 2005 to discuss the status of cooperation between organizations on energy statistics and to explore ways and means to improve it. As a follow-up to that meeting IEA conducted a number of important activities including creation of the working group website.



# The Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics, InterEnerStat

UNSD sees a potential for incorporation in the work of InterEnerStat of more practices endorsed by the Commission for the intersecretariat groups mandated by and reporting to it.

InterEnerStat needs to develop **a long term work programme** with a clearly identified deliverables and timetables in accordance with the mandate given by the Commission. In this connection **the rules of procedure should be clarified to ensure more transparency and effectiveness of the decision making process**. The work programme should include clear **commitments** with respect to the **preparation of inputs into the revision process of international recommendations for energy statistics**. Proper documentation of the process and results achieved is equally important. The InterEnerStat website is an effective tool for making information accessible and also should store all relevant documents discussed at the meetings as well as the meeting reports. **Regular reporting** to the Commission on its activities, achievements and problems is a part of the mandate. The group complied with it and this good practice should continue. UNSD proposes that InterEnerStat **meets annually and produces annual reports to the Commission**.

# Manuals on energy statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission

The following two manuals, which are currently supporting the work of statisticians working world-wide on basic energy statistics, were prepared for and adopted by the Statistical Commission:

- Concepts and methods in energy statistics, with special reference to energy accounts and balances, A technical report, F.29., New York, 1982
- Energy statistics: definitions, units of measure and conversion factors, F.44., New York, 1987

In order to facilitate the compilation of basic energy statistics in the developing countries, the United Nations Statistics Division also completed a manual addressing these countries specific needs:

- Energy statistics: a manual for developing countries, F.56., New York, 1991.

## Outline of the revision process on the energy statistics manuals

UNSD decided to review and consolidate all relevant (and updated) recommendations, which merit adoption by the Commission, into one document to be known as *International Recommendation for Energy Statistics* (IRES). Additional guidance on more practical/technical matters (e.g., good practices, country case studies, etc.) to assist countries in implementation of IRES is to be provided in *Energy Statistics Compilers Manual* (ESCM).

The updated IRES is to firmly position energy statistics within the system of official statistics (especially with respect to economic and environmental statistics and accounting). This implies adherence to Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as well as use of applicable statistical common frameworks and policies.

# Outline of the revision process on the energy statistics manuals

Topics to be briefly covered in Introduction/Overview

- Scope of basic energy statistics
- Energy products/energy commodities
- An overview of energy flows/energy transactions
- Energy production and energy producing sector including transformation/conversion of energy carriers
- Imports
- Energy use
- Putting it all together - towards Energy Supply and Use database (ESU)
- Quality assessment, metadata and dissemination
- Energy balances
- IRES and Energy Accounting

# Outline of the revision process on the energy statistics manuals

The list incorporates explicitly or implicitly all main areas which are identified in the research agenda of Oslo Group (presented in their disposition on updates of the UN energy statistics manuals) as well as topics covered in Energy Statistics Manual (IEA, OECD and Eurostat). It contains also a number of additional topics which inclusion in IRES should be further discussed.

The preparation of IRES will be coordinated with the on-going work carried out by UNSD, under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental- Economic Accounts (UNCEEAA), on the elevation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) to the level of international statistical standard by 2010 upon approval by the UN Statistical Commission.

## Organization of the revision process

IRES is scheduled for submission to 41st session of the Commission (**March 2010**). To meet this deadline a **well organized revision process** and **firm commitments** of all involved parties will be required. Preparation of ESCM should be seen as a parallel process as topics which might be treated in IRES in general terms would need further elaboration to assist data compilers. Ideally, ESCM should be ready by the end of 2010.

# Organization of the revision process

The main milestones of the revision process include

- (i) preparation of an annotated outline of the IRES,
- (ii) global consultation with countries on that outline,
- (iii) preparation of the first version of IRES,
- (iv) global consultation on draft IRES;
- (v) preparation of the amended draft of IRES, its review and endorsement by the UN Expert Group on Energy statistics [Q3, 2009], and
- (vi) submission of the final draft of IRES to the Commission (December 2009).

## Organization of the revision process

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Ideally, ESCM should be ready by the end of 2010.

Both **Oslo Group and InterEnerStat** are the key content providers to IRES and ESCM in accordance with the mandates given to them by the Commission. UNSD role is to organize and coordinate the revision process, consolidate inputs into the successive versions of the draft IRES and to submit the final draft of IRES to the Commission.



## Points for discussion

InterEnergStat is invited to express their views on

- organisation of the revision process of international recommendations for energy statistics, scope and content of IRES;
- feasibility of the proposed timetable; and
- details of commitments of InterEnerStat with respect to inputs for the revision process.

**Further information is available at:**

**<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/default.htm>**