Drafting process of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM) prior to, during and after the 7th Oslo Group meeting – some guidelines

This note is prepared by the UNSD and the Oslo Group secretariat in order to give some guidelines to the coordinators and writers of the various chapters of ESCM in the drafting process prior to, during and after the 7th Oslo Group meeting in Helsinki, Finland 23rd- 26th of October 2012.

1.   Preparation prior to the Oslo group meeting

The coordinators and the volunteers of the ESCM-chapters should aim at having preliminary drafts of the chapters (in particular 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9) for the next Oslo Group meeting or at least a proposal for a detailed annotated outline.

The draft chapters should be to the extent possible complete. Proposals for sections and sub-sections in each chapter should be included. If any section of the chapter needs to be expanded at a later stage, a few paragraphs describing the future content of the section should be included.
There is no pre-specified length for the preliminary drafts of the chapters.

The more complete text is available, the easier and more fruitful will be the discussion at the 7th Oslo Group meeting.

It would be advisable to have preliminary drafts of the chapters available for the Oslo Group by Monday 1st of October 2012. A *suggested* outline of the chapters is shown below. Different approaches are possible and can be chosen by the coordinators of each chapter in consultation with the contributors. However, if there is intent to change the main scope or structure of a chapter, the secretariat of the Oslo Group and UNSD should be informed.

2.   Objectives of the next Oslo group meeting

The sessions of the 7th Oslo Group meeting will focus on the review of the available drafts and annotated outlines, as well as the sharing of country experiences and/or issue papers with the purpose of agreeing on sections/contents of the chapters. The outcome of the 7th Oslo Group meeting should be clear directions that will guide the subsequent revision/drafting of chapters.

A plan for further work after the 7th Oslo Group meeting will be agreed upon at the meeting.

3.   Drafting process

The coordinators of each chapter will take the lead in preparing the preliminary drafts for the 7th Oslo Group meeting. This includes the coordination of inputs, comments and country practices with the group of experts that have volunteered to contribute text to the specific chapters.

Useful reference material for the drafting of the chapters:
- International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES)
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc11/BG-IRES.pdf
- International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual, Rev. 1
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc12/BG-IMTS2010-CM.pdf
- International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual (including supplement)
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?mysearch=merchandise+compilers+manual
- Energy Statistics: A manual for developing countries
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?ID=51

- Eurostat/IEA/OECD - Energy Statistics Manual
  http://www.iea.org/stats/docs/statistics_manual.pdf

Purpose and target audience for the ESCM – whom are we writing for?

As stated in Chapter 1 of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES), the main purpose of IRES is to strengthen energy statistics as part of official statistics by providing recommendations on concepts and definitions, classifications, data sources, data compilation methods, institutional arrangements, approaches to quality assessment and metadata and dissemination policies.

The purpose of the ESCM is to support these efforts by providing information and examples on actual problems and methods for improvements based on experiences from practical work in the field of energy statistics. The target audience for ESCM are statisticians that are involved in the process of establishing, strengthening or improving their energy statistics, as well as statisticians who regularly collect and compile energy statistics, but are interested in learning about other ways/techniques to compile the information needed. The ESCM will also be helpful for users of energy statistics, by giving them better insight in possible strengths and weaknesses of the statistics.

Use of country practices submitted to UNSD and the Oslo Group

The country practices collected should serve as a reference for drafting the chapters and for the selection of country examples in the ESCM.

The complete set of country practices submitted to UNSD and the Oslo Group is available at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/template.htm.

The country examples in the ESCM should serve the purpose of illustrating how countries – under different circumstances – deal with a specific issue.

Place holders could be included in the draft chapters that are prepared for the next Oslo Group meeting to indicate where a country example would be presented in the chapters. The text of the examples could then be drafted or refined after the Oslo Group meeting. In this regard, the Oslo Group meeting could also provide further input into the choice examples.

The revised Compilers Manual for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (see reference above) provides an example on how country practices could be embedded in the ESCM (for example, in text boxes separating them visually from the main text).

It is planned that the ESCM will be published as a hard copy publication. However, since collection and compilation practices in energy statistics are constantly evolving, an electronic version of the document will be periodically updated (in-between formal revisions of the hard copy version of the Manual) to reflect the new methodological developments and to keep compilers abreast with country practices.

Relationship with IRES

While the ESCM is based on the recommendations and definitions provided in IRES, there is no need to fully duplicate the IRES text in the ESCM. References to the relevant parts of IRES should be sufficient in most cases. However, when necessary, some text or recommendations in IRES could be repeated if it helps the reader.

4.   Work plan after the 7th Oslo Group meeting

A revised draft of the ESCM will be prepared after the 7th Oslo Group meeting. According to the process and outline for ESCM agreed upon at the 6th Oslo Group meeting, it "*is expected that the material received will be consolidated in 2012 into a first complete draft of the ESCM which will be reviewed at the Oslo Group meetings and the London Group meetings in 2012 and 2013. UNSD will be involved in the preparation process, consolidate and edit inputs into successive versions of the draft*

ESCM and publish the ESCM". Consultation with the London Group will take place throughout the preparation process.

Since the ESCM is not a normative document (unlike for example IRES), it does not have to go through an official adoption process by the United Nations Statistical Commission. However, depending on the agenda of the Commission, it may be submitted for information as part of the progress report on energy statistics.

5.   Annotated outline of the ESCM and proposal for organizing the chapters

Chapter 1   Conceptual framework
The purpose of this chapter is to present the compiler with a brief summary of the conceptual framework for energy statistics established by IRES and to explain the relationship of energy statistics with economic, environment and other relevant statistics in the preparation of energy balances and accounts. This would include the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA), the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (IRIS 2008) the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA and SEEA-Energy).
   A. Introduction
       This section will introduce the purposes of the ESCM and describe the target audience.
   B. Scope of energy statistics
       This section will describe the scope of energy statistics as set out in IRES, as well as the main conceptual differences between IRES and economic statistics (e.g. territory vs. residence principle, definitions of imports/exports, etc.), and how the ESCM address these differences.
   C. Multi-purpose approach to energy statistics

Chapter 2   Legal foundation and institutional arrangements
This chapter will provide a description of different types of national statistical systems for energy statistics, covering both the legal framework and the institutional arrangements. The advantages and disadvantages of various systems will be discussed and examples of country practices will be provided. Ways to improve the national systems of energy statistics will be elaborated based on principles guiding effective institutional arrangements promoted by IRES. The chapter will contain examples of the national systems of energy statistics of several countries.
   A. Institutional arrangements
       This section will provide a description of different national statistical systems (e.g. centralized and decentralized systems), typical institutions involved in the collection and compilation of energy statistics, typical advantages and disadvantages of centralized and decentralized systems and main types of institutional arrangements for energy statistics.
   B. Legal framework
       This section will describe existing legal frameworks for data collection, for the handling of confidential data, for working relationships among relevant agencies etc.

Chapter 3   Classifications
This chapter will provide details on the relevant classifications for energy statistics, such as the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC), the classification of economic activities for energy statistics used for energy industries and energy consumers (based on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)), and the classification of energy resources. Specific issues in linking these classifications with other international classifications, such as the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the Harmonized System (HS), and the use of existing correspondence tables will be discussed.

Chapter 4   Data sources and data collection

This chapter is based on the list of data items presented in Chapter 6 of IRES. This chapter could be organized in different ways – for example, by SIEC sections (i.e. products), by flows, by a mix of products and flows, or by data sources/data collection methods). We suggest that as a starting point the chapter be organized as follows:

- A general section describing typical data sources, such as different types of surveys, use of administrative sources, modelling, etc. that (at least potentially) apply to all products. This section will also describe the importance of the use of business registers and administrative data.
- Sections specific to different SIEC sections, where for example the choice of the relevant statistical units is further elaborated and specific information on the group of products can be provided.

Data editing, imputation and validation will also be provided together with a description of methods regarding measurement units. The chapter will also include a description of any relevant adjustments that are needed for the energy accounts.

Country examples would be included throughout the chapter.

Chapter 5   Compilation of energy balances

This chapter will provide practical guidance for the compilation of energy balances. In particular, it will describe how to use the data items presented in Chapter 6 of IRES (and discussed in Chapter 4 of the ESCM) in the balances. Data editing and the validation rules inherent to the energy balances will also be addressed here. This chapter will also discuss secondary data sources that can be used for the compilation of balances when only partial data items are available, as well as associated data estimation and reconciliation methods.

- A. Commodity balances

  How to compile commodity balances from the data items in Chapter 4. In the absence of some of the data items, this section will describe secondary sources that can be used for compiling the commodity balances

- B. Energy Balances

  How to go from commodity balances to energy balances; description of the methods for setting the value of primary energy (physical energy content vs. partial substitution methods), use of calorific values;

- C. Validation rules

Chapter 6   Compilation of energy accounts

This chapter will provide practical guidance on the compilation of the energy accounts of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-E) based on the data items in chapter 4. This chapter will also describe the use of secondary sources, such as the energy balances. This chapter is also intended to provide guidance on the compilation of bridge tables between energy balances and energy accounts in order to reconcile and understand the differences between the two tabulations of energy statistics.

Chapter 7   Energy indicators and Greenhouse gas emissions

This chapter will provide examples of country practices in the compilation of various energy indicators including those for sustainable energy development. It will also identify the relevant energy statistics that are necessary for the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions. Parts of this chapter should be coordinated with IEA in light of the IEA manual on energy efficiency indicators, which is planned to be finished by the end of 2012.

Chapter 8   Data quality and metadata

This chapter will provide guidance on the compilation of quality indicators and the preparation of metadata for energy statistics.

- A. Data quality indicators for energy statistics

      B. Metadata
            a. Description of metadata specific for energy statistics
            b. Presentation and disseminations of metadata

Chapter 9   Data dissemination

This chapter is intended to cover guidelines for the dissemination of energy statistics and illustrate country practices (e.g. format, time of release, dealing with data revisions, etc.) and, in particular, dealing with confidentiality.

      A. Reference period and dissemination schedule
      B. Confidentiality
      C. Revision policy
      D. Dissemination format

Countries that have volunteered to contribute to chapters in the ESCM

Based on the report of 6th Oslo Group meeting and communication received by the Oslo Group Secretariat

Outline of the ESCM	Countries/organizations willing to take on the **main responsibility** for writing this chapter	Countries/organizations willing to contribute with **textual input** on this chapter	Countries/organizations willing to contribute with **advice and/or comment** on draft text
Chapter 1: Conceptual framework	Australia	Ghana	Mexico UNSD
Chapter 2: Legal foundation and institutional arrangements	Mexico	Azerbaijan	Canada South Africa UNSD
Chapter 3: Classifications	UNSD	Ghana	IEA
Chapter 4: Data sources and data collection	Austria	Cameroon Canada Congo Ghana Indonesia	Australia Mexico UK UNSD
Chapter 5: Compilation of energy balances	Norway	Cameroon Congo Ghana	Canada China UK IEA UNSD
Chapter 6: Compilation of energy accounts	to be determined	Cameroon Ghana Netherlands	Australia China Mexico South Africa Eurostat
Chapter 7: Energy indicators and Greenhouse gas emissions	Ireland	Azerbaijan Congo Ghana Mexico	Netherlands IAEA UNSD
Chapter 8: Data quality and metadata	Canada	Australia Finland Ghana Mexico	UK IEA UNSD
Chapter 9: Data dissemination	South Africa	Canada Congo Finland Ghana Mexico Thailand UK	UNSD