Discussant, Session 8
4th meeting of the Oslo City Group on Energy Statistics
2 - 6 February, Ottawa, Canada

Chapter 5: Flows, Stocks and Related Concepts (Ilaria DiMatteo)

Several of the issues raised were touched upon during the discussion of the scope of energy statistics.

One of the issues was how to define the energy sector. I think that in IRES, we should limit the sector to the core energy industries only.

It is also important that IRES covers all data items so that it is possible, if one would like to do so, to link the reserves and the flows. That does not entail changing the definition of the production.

A clear definition of the reference territory is also something we need to agree on, but that I think, should not cause too many problems.

Finally, the discussion and description of the difference between the residence principle and the territory principle should be placed in chapter 11, which deals with the relationship to the energy flow accounts.

Issue 5.1: Definition (and classification) of auto-producers of energy (Jun Toutain)

Regarding the definition of auto-producers, I agree with the conclusion and think that the recommendations are very clear.

However, whereas it might be relatively easy to account for the production, it might be more difficult to account for the auto-producers consumption of energy in relation to their production of the energy sold.

I think this might be an issue, which we need to work on in order to agree on a common method.

Issue 5.2: Treatment of micro power plants (Atle Tostensen)

In relation to the term 'micro power plants', this term should also cover other energy sources like wind power and solar energy.

I do not think that IRES should suggest a specific cut off point. The trade off between quality of the statistics and the response burden is a common problem. I think it will be very difficult to decide on

a certain cut off point. I think the solution is to be pragmatic and that it should be left to each country to decide on.

The UNFC terminology and its potential use in international energy statistics (George Kowalski)

An important lesson learned from the work leading to the UNFC as well as the work carried out in the InterEnerStat group is that it is possible to develop a common framework that links different statistics even though these were developed for different purposes.

I think that it is very important that we make sure that IRES cover all the data items needed in order to link to flows of energy with the reserves, i.e. venting, flaring and reinjection. This does not mean that we should or have to change the definition of production.

In relation to the energy asset accounts described in SEEA-E, it is very clear that the UNFC provides a very useful data source. However, it will probably only be the abbreviated version of the UNFC, which will come into use.

I think that when using the UNFC, it is very important to understand the implications of the change from regarding the stocks as assets to now projects. I think that the statisticians who are going to implement the UNFC probably will need some guidance on that.