

The Second Virtual Meeting of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

CONCLUSIONS

Chapter 1

The meeting concluded that:

- (a) The chapter is well structured and contains most of the desired elements.
- (b) All comments and textual input from the participants should be included in the revised chapter. In particular, the following:
- (c) The manual being a public good, the requirement of easy/convenient access remains and the language is part of this access. The writing team should therefore look for opportunities to clear complex/advanced language out.
- (d) The chapter should contain more about required budget. To be able to make high quality 'official' energy statistics you need a minimum of funding (which of course can vary from country to country and over time).
- (e) The use of “energy products” and “energy sector” needs to be revisited.
- (f) The first two sentences in para 23(i) should refer to ‘stock levels’ instead of ‘stocks’.
- (g) Para 26 should be rephrased to reflect that energy statistics is collected for multiple purposes.
- (h) Para 11 should mention also that IRES would serve as a reference in developing energy statistics work programs in developing countries.
- (i) Transparency should be added to para 16”.
- (j) Examples of what international organisations can do to assist countries in developing energy statistics work programmes as part of their national official statistics, like providing manuals, expertise, regular training programmes and workshops should be added to para 18.
- (k) Include in para 21 (vi) “economic development, energy security and sustainability “as examples of global challenges in addition to climate change.
- (l) In para 22 include under bullet (i) the extraction, distribution and storage of energy products.
- (m) A 4th bullet on monitoring the impact of energy policy on the economy – market transparency, price shocks, GDP, etc should be added to para 23.
- (n) *The general public* benefit from the availability of timely energy statistics to evaluate the energy and environmental situation in order to make more informed decisions but also the public needs info on energy costs, prices, and their trends to inform decision-making about efficiency, sustainability, and the economy.
- (o) There should be included some kind of recommendation for policy makers to provide sufficient budget. Policy makers tend to ask for more and better statistics, while budgets for making statistics are reduced.

Chapter 2

The meeting concluded that:

- (a) All comments and textual input from the participants should be incorporated into the revised chapter. In particular the following points should be reflected:
- (b) The title of the chapter should remain “Scope of Energy Statistics”, but the relationship between the scope of IRES and the scope of Energy Statistics should be further clarified at the next OG meeting.
- (c) The data items that are needed for the compilation of energy accounts should be discussed in chapter 11 of IRES;
- (d) The definition of energy products need to be further clarified. In addition, the use of the term “energy product” should be used consistently in the manuscript.
- (e) The examples suggested by SEI are better examples and ask the writing team to elaborate these comments into the text.
- (f) Para 5 of chapter 2 reflected the decision taken during the 4th Oslo Group meeting to exclude data items on reserves/resources from IRES. However, interest for their inclusion in IRES was expressed again during the 2nd Virtual meeting. UNSD is invited to further explore the issue of how data compilation on energy reserves /resources can be addressed.
- (g) Replace para 4 with the following: Countries are encouraged to define the scope of their national energy statistics within the context of the overall reference list in chapter 6 and other guidelines taking into account their needs, priorities and resources, by identifying those data items relevant for national compilation.
- (h) Rephrase the last sentence of para 8 as follows: it is important not only for energy planning but also for environmental concerns, to distinguish between renewable and non-renewable energy products as well as to distinguish “infinite” renewable like solar from cyclical renewable like biomass.”
- (i) The text should refer to ‘energy industries’ as opposed to ‘energy sector’. Energy industries would be defined in terms of their principal activity.
- (j) The definitions in the chapter will be reviewed in light of the InterEnerStat definitions.

Chapter 3

The meeting concluded that:

- (a) All comments and textual input from the participants should be included in the revised text. In particular the following is highlighted:
- (b) SIEC is very much welcomed by countries having to face different definitions and classification in their reporting obligations. It is a general concern that SIEC becomes a final generally accepted classification of products.
- (c) The opinion was expressed that the title of the chapter should be “International Standard Energy Classification” .
- (d) The chapter should start with section C “Purpose and scope of SIEC”.
- (e) The part on “Historical background” can be shortened without loss of information.

- (f) The explanation of the scope and the definition of “energy products” need to be elaborated to clarify several boundary issues such as what constitute an energy product and to explain when such product is included even when used for non-energy purposes. Similarly, the inclusion in the classification of non-energy products when used for energy purposes (e.g. agricultural crops, waste products).
- (g) Definitions and the classification of energy products should be general for all official statistics. This means that definitions and classifications have to be multipurpose. This classification has to be integrated in metadata and be in active use both for data collection (reporting from respondents) and in editing and processing, dissemination, and international reporting.
- (h) The text should be clear in the usage of the word energy products, energy carriers and energy sources. The definition of “energy” as “electricity and heat” is not possible.
- (i) Definition of SIEC categories is required
- (j) The definitions used for ‘waste’ categories will require careful consideration.
- (k) The writing team should consider a further breakdown of Municipal waste in renewable and non renewable and to rename Industrial waste into Non renewable industrial waste.
- (l) Colliery methane is missing in the proposed classification.
- (m) The classification should make consistent use of residual classes, a rigorous coding system and develop comprehensive explanatory notes for each category.
- (n) The starting point for the classification is the list of harmonized definitions of products by InterEnerStat. However, in order to maintain the multipurpose character of the classification, there is the need to include other products such as uranium that are relevant for energy but not included in energy balances.
- (o) Paragraph 6 will be written by InterEnerStat

Chapter 7

The meeting concluded that:

- (a) All comments and textual input from the participants should be included in the revised chapter. In particular, the following:
- (b) The title of the chapter should be revisited to better reflect the content.
- (c) To the extent possible the chapter should make reference to other UN documents covering general practices/recommendations on data sources, data collection and data compilation; thus focusing more to the specific aspects that are relevant in energy statistics.
- (d) There are different ways in which terms ‘data sources’, ‘data collection’ and ‘data compilation’ may be understood. The use of these terms in the chapter is in line with other international recommendations approved by the Statistical Commission. The chapter should be reviewed to ensure that these terms are clearly explained.
- (e) Expand the paragraph on infra-annual data collection
- (f) The Institutional framework should be further elaborated in the ESCM

Chapter 11

The meeting concluded that:

- (a) All comments and textual input from the participants should be included in the revised chapter. In particular, the following:
- (b) The title of the chapter should be revisited to reflect the move from basic energy statistics to energy accounts and not the other way around. Proposed titles were:
 - i. Energy balances and the relation to other statistics or
 - ii. The use of basic energy statistics in other statistics or
 - iii. Relation of Energy Balances with Energy Accounts and other Statistics or
 - iv. Use of Energy Balances in the Compilation of Energy Accounts and other Statistics
- (c) The draft has some missing elements such as the use of energy statistics and energy balances for emission inventories/energy accounts and national accounts.
- (d) While it is not necessary to describe in detail the SEEA-E in chapter 11, it is useful to describe the main differences between energy balances and energy accounts (as defined by SEEA-E) such as the use of territory and residence principles and the use of standard industrial classification in energy accounts. On the basis of these differences, the chapter should explain which additional data items are necessary to produce energy accounts on the basis of basic energy statistics.
- (e) The chapter should clearly describe the links between energy statistics and energy balances to the SEEA-E. Given that the SEEA-E will also contain a section on the bridge between energy balances and energy accounts, the preparation of this part should be coordinated with the work on the SEEA-E so that IRES and SEEA-E are fully consistent.
- (f) There is a need to address the need for additional data to build energy efficiency indicators.

Issue paper 14 on the pro and cons of the gross vs. net calorific values

The meeting concluded that:

- (a) The paper covered well the key issues and that the fine balance to be made in choosing between producing figures on a net or on a gross basis were highlighted
- (b) Gross calorific values are preferable from a technical point of view
- (c) The amount of heat recuperated is not enough to justify the change from today's practice to use net calorific value to gross calorific value

Issue paper 16 on monitoring the quality of energy statistics

The meeting had no particular comment to the paper and the questions it raised. In particular, the question whether all participating organisations can adhere to the proposed system, and which level of reporting and assessing/auditing/peer reviewing they find acceptable, is pending. The paper will be discussed at the next Oslo Group meeting in Ireland.