

International Workshop on Energy Statistics
(Aguascalientes, Mexico, 2-5 December 2008)

Findings and conclusions

The Workshop

General

1. Welcomed the United Nations Statistics Division's initiative to hold an international workshop on energy statistics to consult with countries on issues they face in the collection, compilation and dissemination of energy statistics, especially with developing countries and to inform countries about the status of preparation of *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics* (IRES);
2. Expressed gratitude to National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and Secretaria de Energia (SENER) of Mexico for co-organizing of the workshop and for providing the facilities and excellent logistical support;
3. Appreciated active involvement of the Oslo Group Secretariat and the Chair of the InterEnerStat in the workshop;
4. Urged participants to actively participate in the electronic discussion forum created by the Oslo Group Secretariat;
5. Was in favour of running similar workshops in other regions in due time (the RF representative proposed to hold such a workshop for CIS countries)

Towards international recommendations for energy statistics

6. The Workshop strongly supported the revision and updating of international recommendations for energy statistics and appreciated work done to date by UNSD, the Oslo Group and InterEnerStat. In particular, the workshop agreed that the preparation of IRES be guided, inter alia, by the following principles previously approved by the Oslo Group:
 - (i) needs of major user groups should be considered as a starting point and be taken into account to the maximum extent possible to ensure that the compiled data are policy relevant, meet the needs of the energy community (both producers and users) and provide a solid foundation for integration of energy statistics into a broader system of official statistics and accounting framework;

- (ii) the revision should be conducted in close consultation with both national statistical offices and national agencies currently compiling energy statistics as well as with the relevant international and supranational organizations;
 - (iii) while providing recommendations on data items and their definitions care should be taken that (a) necessary data sources are available to compile such data, (b) collection of such data items will not create significant additional reporting burden, and (c) collection procedures can be implemented by most countries to ensure improved cross-country comparability;
 - (iv) the revision should be seen in the context of promoting an integrated approach in the national statistical system which requires, to the extent possible, the use of harmonized concepts, classifications, and standardized data compilation methods in order to achieve maximum efficiency and minimize reporting burden;
 - (v) additional guidance on more practical/technical matters to assist countries in the implementation of IRES should be treated in ESCM. During the revision process, the Oslo Group will decide on what will be covered in ESCM and to what extent.
7. Endorsed the proposal that IRES will be flexible enough to ensure its implementation in all countries irrespective of the level of development of their statistical systems;
 8. Welcomed the conduct of the first round of a worldwide consultation on scope and content of IRES and supported the proposal to organize the second round of the consultation on the full text of the provisional draft;
 9. Expressed the desirability of development of a common international questionnaire on energy statistics to reduce the response burden to countries and to ensure improved availability of energy data to uses;

Scope of official energy statistics

10. Confirmed that IRES should provide a firm foundation for official energy statistics;
11. Concluded that strengthening of energy statistics as an effective part of official statistics does not necessarily mean that more of those statistics have to be produced by a national statistical office. Other national solutions can exist depending on the set up of the national statistical system and resource allocation between its members. The main point is that the quality requirements adopted in official statistics are fully followed in energy statistics;
12. Agreed, in this connection, that the quality dimensions should be clearly articulated and promoted in the revised international recommendations;
13. Concluded that taking into account the most urgent needs of energy policy makers and serious resource constrains which most countries face, the current revision

- process should give priority to basic energy statistics and energy balances; however, the recommendations should be forward looking as well and provide the basis for compilation of energy accounts as much as possible;
14. Agreed that IRES should cover all relevant aspects of the statistical process (from underlying concepts and classifications to data compilation strategies and data dissemination policies);
 15. Supported the view that the scope of energy statistics in IRES should be defined in broad terms to reflect different user needs as well the different situations in country energy markets and energy sectors;
 16. Agreed that the list of data items that are within the scope of energy statistics in IRES should be comprehensive, so that countries will be able to select the relevant items for the collection and compilation of energy statistics based on their own statistical circumstances, resources and policy relevance;

Harmonization of definitions in energy statistics and developing standard international energy classification

17. Recognized the importance of the harmonized definitions for the preparation of IRES and encouraged IEA, the Oslo Group and UNSD to give this the highest priority and strongly supported the development of a standard international energy classification; efforts should be made to develop a correspondence tables with other international classifications as it would facilitate the integration of energy statistics in general statistical system;
18. Concluded that the harmonization of definitions for use by different national and international institutions is a necessary step to ensure an effective compilation of energy statistics and its use;

Data compilation strategies

19. Emphasized the importance of recommendations for data compilation as countries often face numerous problems in this area; IRES may focus on main data sources and data compilation strategies while ESCM should contain a more detailed description of good country practices;
20. Encouraged more transparency and further strengthening of the legal foundation of official statistics to improve inter-agency coordination in countries where several institutions compile various subsets of energy data;
21. Concluded that building a common system of energy supply and use data (energy database/data warehouse) to meet the needs of all users, including needs of energy analysts and compilers of energy accounts, is an example of a good practice which

countries may wish to follow; a more detailed elaboration of such a system might be provided in ESCM;

Institutional arrangement in compilation of energy statistics

22. Recognized the importance of international recommendations on institutional arrangements in compilation and dissemination of energy statistics. Such recommendations would help countries to find the most effective ways to coordinate activities of the relevant agencies in data collection, reduce response burden and avoid the duplication of work; IRES should emphasize the importance of such coordination as a prerequisite for an effective, integrated energy statistics programme;
23. Considered useful that IRES presents advantages and disadvantages of centralized and decentralized statistical systems and emphasizes the importance of institutional arrangements which clearly specify the roles of the agencies involved.

Units of measurement and conversion factors

24. Welcomed the efforts to harmonize units of measurements and conversion factors. In particular, the workshop welcomed the development of default standard calorific values, possibly by geographical regions, which would be used in the absence of country specific calorific values.

Compilation of Energy Balances

25. Agreed that preparation of the recommendations on compilation of energy balances should be given priority; those recommendations should focus on general principles of compilation of such balances and be flexible enough to ensure their implementation in countries with different needs and statistical capacities;
26. Expressed interest in the possibility of having guidelines for the compilation of spatially disaggregated energy balances; this might be a topic for ESCM
27. Took note of the importance of energy efficiency indicators for policy making and encouraged to find ways to collect data for such indicators in the most effective way (for example, use of metering devices in households etc.)

Data quality assurance, metadata and dissemination

28. Welcomed the proposal for IRES to include recommendations for data quality assurance including on quality dimensions of energy data and on quality reporting; similar recommendations for other areas of statistics should be taken into account, good country practices in this area should be collected and presented in ESCM;

29. Agreed that recommendations for compilation metadata should be part of IRES, similar recommendations for other areas of statistics should be taken into account, good country practices in this area should be collected and presented in ESCM;
30. Supported the development of the guiding principles for energy statistics disseminations; this should include recommendations on confidentiality, equality and objectivity as adopted in international recommendations for other areas of official statistics; this should also include recommendations to disseminate free as much as possible data on energy statistics, especially using Internet. The workshop recognized that adjustments may be necessary for energy statistics in defining and dealing with confidentiality and the release of information; and emphasized the importance of neutrality of the agency disseminating energy statistics.

Uses of energy statistics

31. Agreed that a chapter on uses of energy statistics would be helpful and took note of the presentations on the uses of energy statistics and balances for the compilation of energy accounts and for the calculation of CO₂ emission from fuel combustion;
32. Took note of the preparation of a complementary document *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy* (SEEA-E), which will provide the international statistical standard for energy accounts and agreed that the recommendations included in IRES should facilitate the compilation of energy accounts by the interested countries as much as possible; ESCM should contain more detailed description of good practices in this respect;
33. Took note of the work carried out by IEA on the estimation of CO₂ emission from fuel combustion based on the IPCC methodology and expresses support for inclusion of the description of emission estimations in the chapter on uses of energy statistics;

Selected issues of special importance for developing countries

34. Identified the following as issues of special importance for developing countries:
 - (i) Biomass. Given the high relevance of biomass in developing countries, the workshop emphasized the need in clear recommendations on definitions, classifications, and data collection strategies for biomass.
 - (ii) Losses in electricity transmission and distribution. Given that often the losses in transmission and distribution are the result of illegal connection to the system, it was considered important to provide guidance on the measurements of these losses.

- (iii) The development of default calorific factors. Especially for those countries that are unable to produce or collect country specific calorific values, it was considered particularly important to have reference standard default values,
- (iv) Use of available data. In order to take full advantage of available information and duplicate efforts to collect data, it was noted that IRES should provide recommendations on the use of available data, when possible, including administrative data.
- (v) Guidelines for data collection from Agriculture and Households. It was noted that for some countries it is often difficult to obtain reliable information on these sectors and it was suggested IRES contains specific guidelines on data collection strategies for them.