

United Nations  Nations Unies

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STAT 219/1

12 May 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Worldwide consultation on *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics* (IRES)

I am pleased to invite you to participate in a worldwide consultation on a draft outline of *International Recommendations for Energy Statistics* (IRES). IRES is being developed in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 36th and 37th sessions which, inter alia, recognized the significance of energy statistics, recommended their development as part of official statistics and called for the revision and further development of the relevant international standards.

IRES is intended to cover a broad range of issues from basic concepts, definitions and classifications to data sources, data compilation strategies, energy balances and dissemination. Once approved by the Commission, IRES will provide a firm foundation for a long-term development of energy statistics based on *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*. Additional guidance will be provided in *Energy Statistics Compilers Manual* (ESCM) which will be prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) as a part of IRES implementation programme. Please visit the UNSD website for details at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/ires/default.htm>

The key element in the preparation of IRES is a worldwide consultation with national statistical offices, energy ministries/agencies active in compilation and dissemination of energy statistics and the interested international organizations to ensure that all stakeholders had an opportunity to express their views. The consultation will be conducted in two stages: (i) consultation on a draft outline of the scope and content of the future recommendations (May-June 2008) and (ii) consultation on the full text of the provisional draft of IRES as soon as it is completed.

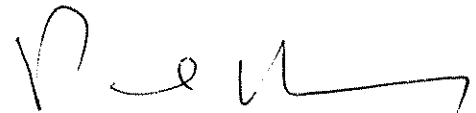
Please see attached a consultation paper contained a draft outline of IRES and a brief questionnaire on the scope and content of the future IRES. I would appreciate your answers to those questions and any additional comments you might have. The outline was prepared by UNSD in close cooperation with the Oslo Group on energy statistics which was established by the Commission with a mandate to review and contribute to the revision of the existing United Nations Handbooks and Manuals on energy statistics.

UNSD would like to assure you that your views will provide a valuable contribution to the development of the revised international recommendations for this area of statistics. If energy statistics, or any part of it, is not under the responsibility of your office, I would be grateful if you could forward a copy of this letter to the relevant agency.

I would appreciate it very much if you send the completed questionnaire to Ms. Ilaria DiMatteo, Officer in Charge of Energy Statistics Section (dimatteo@un.org), by **14 June 2008**. Please also contact her for any questions regarding organization and modalities of the IRES preparation.

I thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Cheung
Director
Statistics Division/DESA