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**Fifth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting
New York, 23-25 June 2010
North Lawn Building, Conference Room E**

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE OSLO GROUP - 2009 AND 2010

Paper prepared by Olav Ljones, Chair of the Oslo Group

(for information)

Update on the progress of work of the Oslo Group - 2009 and 2010

Activities in 2009

4th meeting of the Oslo Group: Ottawa, February 2009

The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics met in Ottawa 2 to 6 February 2009 to review the preliminary drafts and outlines of the chapters for the International Recommendations in Energy Statistics - IRES. The meeting agreed on steps to be taken to further progress the work with IRES in 2009 with the aim of presenting final IRES to the Statistical Commission in 2011.

The Oslo Group is concerned with the development of energy statistics as an integrated element of national official statistics and that the national systems for official energy statistics become coherent with international standards and reporting. In 2009 the writing process related to the continued work on IRES and other topics relevant for the development of official energy statistics, was advanced by writing teams consisting of volunteering members. In order to have a finished draft IRES in time for the Oslo Group meeting in February 2010, two virtual meetings were held during autumn 2009 as a binding consultation process along the way.

At the meeting in Ottawa it was decided to put together an expert group to contribute to the drafting of the chapter on Energy Balances. Statistics Norway hosted the start-up workshop in Oslo. The aim was to identify the main elements necessary to provide a proposal for an international harmonized balance, set up a working plan for the drafting of the chapter and share responsibilities for the drafting. On the basis of the conclusions formulated by the expert group on a number of issues discussed during the meeting a draft outline was written and presented to the wider community during the first virtual meeting.

InterEnerStat

The Oslo Group has discussed the second revised harmonised definitions developed by the Inter Secretariat Group (InterEnerStat) and presented comments at the fourth InterEnerStat meeting in Paris October 2009. The harmonized definitions will be very important for IRES as, inter alia, they will serve as the basis for the development of the new standard international energy classification - SIEC. A draft version of SIEC to become a part of IRES was discussed during the second virtual meeting.

<http://og.ssb.no>

The communication between the Oslo Group members during virtual meetings and in-between meetings is ensured by the Oslo Group website administered by the secretariat of the Oslo Group at Statistics Norway. The website is a forum for discussion amongst members and serves as a support in the drafting process of IRES and the accompanying Energy Statistics Compilers Manual - ESCM.

Activities in 2010 and onwards

5th meeting of the Oslo Group: Cork, February 2010

The fifth meeting of the Oslo Group was held in Cork, Ireland in February 2010. The meeting was hosted jointly by Sustainable Energy Ireland and the Central Statistical Organization and was dedicated to review of the first draft of IRES – version 0.

The continued work with IRES in 2010

Preparation of the provisional draft IRES for a worldwide consultation

1. Final conclusions of the Oslo Group meeting in Cork were finalised by mid April 2010
2. The Oslo Group, the London Group and UN Expert Group on classifications provide additional inputs to the next version of the draft IRES
3. UNSD prepares IRES, version 1, by mid June 2010 and makes it available to the Oslo group for review
4. UNSD finalizes IRES, version 1, by the end of June 2010.

Worldwide consultation

Organization of the worldwide consultation

1. IRES, version 1, will be made available on the UNSD website and sent to national statistical offices and energy agencies/ministries and relevant international organizations for comments on 1 July 2010
2. Comments will be requested by 1 September 2010; reminder will be sent on 2 September with a deadline for comments by 15 September 2010
3. UNSD will create a database of countries comments and make it available to the Oslo Group and InterEnerStat early in October 2010; a summary report will be prepared by UNSD (on the web)

Second meeting of UN Expert Group on Energy Statistics

The second meeting of the ad hoc UN Expert Group on Energy Statistics

1. The second meeting of the ad hoc UN Expert Group on Energy Statistics will be held (tentatively) early in November 2010 in New York to review the results of the worldwide consultation, amend and endorse draft IRES

Submission of the final draft IRES to UN Statistical Commission

The final draft IRES will be submitted to the 42nd session of the UN Statistical Commission to be held in February 2011

OG6 and Energy Statistics Compilers Manual

The next meeting of the Oslo Group will be held in Australia 2 - 5 May 2011 and will focus on the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual - ESCM