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Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/235, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, which is submitted to the Statistical Commission for information. The report contains a description of the activities undertaken in 2011-2013, including a description of the preparation of the compilation guidance for energy statistics, the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual and the workplan for the Group's future activities. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

* [E/CN.3/2014/1](#).



Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

I. Background

1. The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics is a city group created by the Statistical Commission to address methodological issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics. The mandate of the Group is contained in annex I to the present report.

2. The Group was established in 2006 on the basis of the issues discussed in the report of the programme reviewer (Statistics Norway) on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2005/3), prepared for the thirty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission, held from 1 to 4 March 2005, and the recommendations of the ad hoc expert group on energy statistics, convened in New York from 23 to 25 May 2005 (see E/CN.3/2005/10). The Commission approved in the same year the establishment of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics to enhance international collaboration and coordination and to harmonize definitions among organizations.

3. The present report contains a description of the activities that took place since the adoption of the international recommendations for energy statistics by the Statistical Commission during its forty-second session in February 2011 and the future activities of the Group. The updated workplan of the Group is also contained in annex I to the present report.

II. Activities of the Oslo Group in 2011-2013

4. With the adoption of the international recommendations for energy statistics by the Statistical Commission in February 2011, the Commission requested that clear guidelines on data sources, on the use of administrative data and on best practices applicable to a wider range of countries be considered in the planned Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, to be prepared through sufficient consultation with relevant Member States and institutions. Thus, the activities of the Oslo Group during the period from 2011 to 2013 focused on the drafting of the Manual between Group meetings and face-to-face discussion during its meetings.

A. Meetings of the Oslo Group

5. Section II.A focuses on the meetings of the Oslo Group that took place from 2011 to 2013. Information about previous Group meetings can be found in its previous reports to the Statistical Commission.

1. Sixth meeting of the Oslo Group: Canberra, 2-5 May 2011

6. The 6th meeting of the Oslo Group was hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and was held in Canberra from 2 to 5 May 2011. The meeting was dedicated to the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual. In particular, the meeting agreed on a three-stage workplan: (a) collection of country practices and textual input for the Manual; (b) consolidation of the material into a complete draft Manual; and (c) consultation and review of the draft.

2. Seventh meeting of the Oslo Group: Helsinki, 23-26 October 2012

7. The 7th meeting of the Oslo Group was hosted by Statistics Finland and held in Helsinki from 23 to 26 October 2012. The meeting gathered 37 representatives from 19 countries and 4 international organizations (the Statistics Division, the International Energy Agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Eurostat). The meeting was dedicated to the review of initial draft chapters for the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, as well as the sharing of country experiences with the purpose of agreeing on the contents of the chapters. The meeting agreed to have a virtual meeting before the 8th meeting of the Oslo Group in order to review the revised draft chapters.

3. Third virtual meeting, 11 April to 17 May 2013

8. The 3rd virtual meeting took place from 11 April to 17 May 2013. It consisted of a structured electronic discussion on the Oslo Group website and was dedicated to the review of the revised draft chapters for the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual. During the meeting, all updated chapters of the Manual were posted for review and comments were received on each updated chapter. The Group secretariat compiled the comments and forwarded them to the Manual chapter leads in order for them to make changes to the chapters in preparation for the review of the entire Manual at the 8th meeting of the Group.

4. Eighth meeting of the Oslo Group: Baku, 24-27 September 2013

9. The 8th meeting of the Oslo Group was hosted by the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, from 24 to 27 September 2013. The meeting gathered 27 representatives from 18 countries and 3 international organizations (the Statistics Division, the International Energy Agency and IAEA). The objectives of the meeting were to review the updated chapters for the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, share country practices and experiences, agree on the next steps for finalizing the Manual and discuss options for the updated workplan of the Group. The members agreed (a) to submit the final versions of the chapters by mid-January 2014, (b) that the Oslo Group should continue its work and (c) to convene the next meeting of the Group at the beginning of May 2014.

5. Ninth meeting of the Oslo Group: Abu Dhabi, 2014

10. The 9th meeting of the Oslo Group will be hosted by the National Bureau of Statistics of the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi at the beginning of May 2014. The objective of the meeting will be to launch new work identified in the updated workplan.

B. Governance of the Oslo Group

11. The Chair and secretariat of the Oslo Group was passed from Statistics Norway to Statistics Canada in March 2013. Andy Kohut from Statistics Canada was elected as the Chair of the Oslo Group during the 7th meeting of the Group in Finland. Jacqueline Gravel and Amélie Angers from Statistics Canada are the new members of the secretariat. A new website was created for the Oslo Group, which is now available at oslogroup.org. The members of the Group and points of contact are contained in annex II.

C. Key outputs

1. Energy Statistics Compilers Manual

12. With the adoption of the international recommendations for energy statistics by the Statistical Commission, the Oslo Group has focused its activities in 2011, 2012 and 2013 on the drafting of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, which is intended to provide practical guidance in the implementation of the recommendations and the forthcoming System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-Energy).

13. The purpose of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual is to provide practical guidance in the collection, compilation and dissemination of energy statistics through country examples. The target users for the Manual are statisticians who are involved in the process of establishing, developing or improving their energy statistics, and statisticians who regularly collect and compile energy statistics and are interested in learning about other ways or techniques to compile the information needed. The Manual will also be helpful for users of energy statistics, by providing them with better insight into the possible strengths and weaknesses of the statistics. The Manual is planned as a forward-looking document with respect to the development and implementation of the multipurpose approach to the compilation of basic statistics. This will enable countries to collect data once and use them many times for various purposes.

14. During the 8th meeting of the Oslo Group in Azerbaijan, the Group reviewed more complete drafts of the Manual chapters and provided detailed comments. It was agreed that chapter coordinators would include the comments from the Group by January 2014 and submit the chapters to the Statistics Division for final editing. It is expected that the Manual will be finalized in the first half of 2014.

2. Country practices

15. The collection and sharing of country practices are part of the Oslo Group mandate. The Energy Statistics Compilers Manual draws heavily on country practices since they serve the purpose of illustrating how countries, under different circumstances, deal with specific issues. The Manual includes examples of country practices regarding such topics as, inter alia, institutional arrangements, data collection, data compilation, energy indicators and quality assurance.

16. The Oslo Group secretariat, in cooperation with the Statistics Division and Group members, prepared in 2011 a template for drafting country practices. The template provides a common format for countries to report and share their practices in the collection, compilation and dissemination of energy statistics. The use of a common format facilitates the comparisons and update of country practices and feeds into the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual. The template was circulated to countries by the Division in February 2012. More than 90 country practices from over 45 countries have now been published on the Division web page at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/template.htm>.

17. The website is expected to reflect the most recent country practices. The Oslo Group members are encouraged to keep their country practices up-to-date online so the information can continue to be relevant and useful.

D. Coordination with other groups

18. The Oslo Group actively collaborates with other groups, such as, inter alia, the London Group on Environmental Accounting, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and the Expert Group on Resource Classification.

1. London Group on Environmental Accounting

19. The Oslo Group on Energy Statistics and the London Group on Environmental Accounting have recognized the importance of strong cooperation and consultation between the two groups with regard to the preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual and, in particular, the chapter on energy accounts, since relevant expertise lies in both groups. The collaboration with the London Group will ensure consistent guidelines on energy statistics, balances and accounts.

20. The inclusion of a chapter on the energy accounts of SEEA-Energy is important in order for the Manual to reflect the multipurpose approach promoted in the international recommendations for energy statistics and the fact that a number of data items in the recommendations were included in support of the energy accounts. However, at its 8th meeting, the Oslo Group recommended to limit the scope of the chapter on energy accounts in the Manual because of the status of development of the chapter and the level of details needed for presenting a complete compilation guidance for the energy accounts, which requires more time and more expertise. It was suggested that further guidance on the full set of accounts could be developed after the completion of the Manual with the active participation and collaboration of the London Group.

2. Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics

21. The Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (InterEnerStat) has focused its work on the harmonization of definitions in energy statistics among international organizations. InterEnerStat, together with the Oslo Group, has been a key provider of content to the international recommendations for energy statistics in accordance with the mandate given to them by the Statistical Commission. The Chair of the Oslo Group has regularly attended InterEnerStat meetings.

III. Future activities of the Oslo Group

22. With the adoption of the international recommendations for energy statistics in 2011 and the advanced stage of preparation of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, the Oslo Group discussed its future work programme during its 8th meeting in Azerbaijan.

A. Finalization of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual

23. The activities until January 2014 will focus on the finalization of the Manual chapters. It is planned that final chapters will be prepared by the chapter coordinators by mid-January 2014 and will be submitted to the Statistics Division, which will review and edit all chapters to ensure consistency and avoid duplication.

It is planned that the Manual will be circulated to the Oslo Group and other relevant groups (such as the London Group) for a final review. It is expected that the Manual will be finalized in the first half of 2014 and it is envisaged that it will be subject to regular updates (for example, every 5 to 10 years).

B. Future areas of work

24. With the work accomplished by the Oslo Group on the international recommendations for energy statistics and the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, and in line with its original mandate, the future activities of the Group will focus on the following areas:

(a) Continue with the collection and sharing of country practices in energy statistics and provide a continuous input into the Statistics Division web page on country practice;

(b) Continue to serve as a forum for sharing expertise and maintain the network of experts in energy statistics;

(c) Focus on the development of improved methods for data collection and compilation in specific areas, such as (i) alternative data sources to energy surveys, such as administrative data; (ii) improved data validation methods; (iii) renewable energy and, in particular, solid biofuels; and (iv) electronic data-collection systems and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for energy statistics;

(d) Promote the improvement of energy data dissemination by further developing recommendations related to dissemination practices (covering, for example, the format of the disseminated data, types of indicators compiled, types of analysis/reports provided, methods and technology);

(e) Develop recommendations for the periodic review of data quality for energy statistics at the country level;

(f) Share country practices and methods for the collection and compilation of energy prices.

25. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Annex I

Mandate and updated workplan of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

1. The original mandate of the Oslo Group, as endorsed by the Statistical Commission, is as follows:

- (a) Identify users' needs;
- (b) Define the scope of official energy statistics;
- (c) Identify and collect national and international best practices;
- (d) Review and contribute to the updating of the United Nations handbooks and manuals on energy statistics;
- (e) Identify gaps in the coverage of existing methodologies and develop methodologies to cover the gaps;
- (f) Adopt links or develop bridges to international standard concepts and classifications in economic/environmental statistics to facilitate the integration and interface of energy statistics with other statistical systems;
- (g) Recommend a core set of tables as minimum requirements at the national and international levels to satisfy the major users' needs.

2. The accomplishments of the Oslo Group to date include the following:

- (a) Developing the international recommendations for energy statistics of 2011 that identified user needs, defined the scope and content for official energy statistics and addressed issues to improve international standards and methods;
- (b) Promoting and supporting the improvement of energy statistics by (i) collecting and sharing country best practices; (ii) establishing a network of experts in energy statistics; (iii) drafting and finalizing the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (2014); and (iv) participating in regional workshops to train energy statisticians.

3. With the work accomplished by the Oslo Group on the international recommendations for energy statistics and the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, and in line with its original mandate, the future activities of the Group will focus on the following areas:

- (a) Continue with the collection and sharing of country practices in energy statistics and provide a continuous input into the Statistics Division web page on country practice;
- (b) Continue to serve as a forum for sharing expertise and maintain the network of experts in energy statistics;
- (c) Focus on the development of improved methods for data collection in specific areas, such as (i) alternative data sources to energy surveys, such as administrative data; (ii) improved data validation methods; (iii) renewable energy and, in particular, solid biofuels; and (iv) electronic data-collection systems and of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for energy statistics;

(d) Promote the improvement of energy data dissemination by further developing recommendations related to dissemination practices (covering, for example, the format of the disseminated data, types of indicators compiled, types of analysis/reports provided, methods and technology);

(e) Develop recommendations for the periodic review of data quality for energy statistics at the country level;

(f) Share country practices and methods for the collection and compilation of energy prices.

Annex II

Members of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

Countries

Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greenland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yemen.

Organizations

The Statistics Departments of Eurostat, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Energy Agency and the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations Statistics Division.

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