

Statistical Commission
Forty-second session
22 - 25 February 2011
Item 3(e) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: energy statistics

Background document
Available in English only

**Final Report of the Second Meeting
of the Expert Group on Energy Statistics**

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

Main conclusions of the Expert Group meeting on Energy Statistics

1. The Expert Group on Energy Statistics (EGM) on Energy Statistics was held from 2-5 November 2010 to review the provisional draft of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES) based on the feedback provided during the worldwide consultation, suggest necessary amendments and endorse the final text of IRES for submission to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption.
2. The discussion was guided by the issues raised during the second stage of worldwide consultation on the provisional draft of IRES. The main conclusions of the EGM are summarized below.

Main conclusions on IRES

3. After reviewing the provisional draft of IRES and the detailed comments received during the consultation, the Expert Group (EG):
 - (a) Discussed and agreed on changes to the provisional draft to be included in the final draft; and
 - (b) Endorsed the provisional draft of IRES and recommended its submission to the UN Statistical Commission at its forty-second session, 22-25 February 2011 after incorporation of the discussed changes.
4. The EG agreed that no structural changes will be made in IRES. The EG also agreed that the recommendations contained in the different chapters of IRES will be presented in IRES in a consolidated form with reference to the relevant paragraphs and chapter. In general, a number of editorial changes were agreed to further explain concepts or to strengthen already existing text.

Main conclusions on individual chapters

5. **Chapter 1: Introduction.** The EG recommended that the chapter include a description of the target audience for IRES and the text be reviewed in order to strengthen the advocacy to energy policy makers for energy statistics and make more explicit the role of IRES and the future *Energy Statistics Compilers Manual* (ESCM).
6. **Chapter 2: Scope of energy statistics.** The EG endorsed the scope and content of the chapter. It agreed that IRES should acknowledge that there are linkages with other statistical domains (i.e. Industrial statistics) and, in this case, synergies should be sought to avoid duplication of data collection. The EG also agreed that a paragraph will be added to acknowledge that there are some differences in terminology between energy statistics and national accounts.
7. **Chapter 3: Standard International Energy Classification.** The EG reached a general agreement on an alternative structure of the Standard International Energy Classification (SIEC) which was prepared based on the comments by the UN Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications and the feedback from the worldwide consultation. The scope of the classification and definitions of individual categories are not affected by this restructuring of SIEC.

8. The process set forth for the finalization of SIEC includes the following:
 - (i) The complete and detailed revised structure of SIEC will be prepared by UNSD in collaboration with IEA and circulated to the Energy Statistics Working Group meeting (30 November - 2 December 2010);
 - (ii) The revised harmonized definitions developed by InterEnerStat will be incorporated in IRES;
 - (iii) The revised SIEC will be circulated at the end of December 2010 to the EGM on Energy Statistics and InterEnerStat for a final round of comments.
9. **Chapter 4: Measurement units and conversion factors.** The EG agreed on scope and content of this chapter. The recommendations presented in section D at the end of chapter 4 of the provisional draft IRES will be placed in the relevant sections of the chapter (consistent with the structure of the other chapters). Additional energy units such as Btu will be acknowledged in paragraph 4.70. The EG also agreed that the list of default calorific values will be modified for biogasoline and biodiesel to reflect more specific default values and that the calorific values for natural gas will be also presented in Gigajoules per volume.
10. **Chapter 5: Energy Flows.** The EG agreed with the scope and content of this chapter as well as the recommendations provided in this chapter. The issue of coverage of ‘energy industries’ was discussed with regard to the inclusion/exclusion of wholesale/retail industries. It was agreed that the issue will be further discussed within the definitions of InterEnerStat and the text will be made clearer in this respect. Also the EG agreed on the inclusion of a definition for ‘country of origin’ and ‘country of destination’ and will acknowledge some of the issues in obtaining relevant information.
11. **Chapter 6: Statistical units and data items.** The EG endorsed the recommendations on the statistical units and the list of data items contained in the preliminary draft of IRES. The EG agreed to include additional data items that allow for the calculation of “electrification rate” and “number of households relying on biomass” and data items on the “taxes on products”. Some clarification to the current list were discussed and agreed. They will be circulated in the detailed report of the meeting.
12. **Chapter 7: Data collection and compilation.** The EG agreed with the scope and content of this chapter as well as the recommendations provided in this chapter. It recognized that the level of detail in the description of data collection and compilation was adequate and further details on country practices (such as, for example, questionnaires for data collections) would be covered in the ESCM. The EG agreed that there will be a reference in this chapter to the overall link between energy statistics and other statistical domains such industrial statistics.
13. **Chapter 8: Energy balances.** The EG agreed with the scope and content of this chapter as well as the recommendations provided in this chapter. It agreed that there are different ways of presenting information on electricity and heat from renewables in the balances and both presentations will be briefly described. The EG also agreed that the balances will include an intermediate aggregate for “final energy consumption”.

14. **Chapter 9: Data quality assurance and metadata.** The EG agreed with the scope and content of this chapter as well as the recommendations provided in this chapter. Minor editorial changes were suggested.

15. **Chapter 10: Dissemination.** The EG agreed with the scope and content of this chapter as well as the recommendations provided in this chapter. A discussion took place on the time lag between the release of data and the end of the reference period. The EG agreed not to change the recommendation presented in the provisional draft of IRES, but at the same time acknowledge that shorter time lag is generally desirable. Minor editorial changes were suggested.

16. **Chapter 11: Use of energy statistics and balances in the compilation of energy accounts and other statistics.** The scope of this chapter was discussed particularly in light of the ongoing work on the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts for Energy (SEEA-E). The EG agreed that the chapter will remain in IRES but the presentation of the SEEA-E will be shortened and will cover only the purpose and uses of the accounts and the main conceptual difference between energy balances and the SEEA-E. No detailed discussion and practical guidance on data conversion or on bridge tables will be included in the chapter; this will be covered in other documents.

17. The EG agree that some text will be included to explain the source for the list of indicators provided in the chapter.

18. The section on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission will be general and make reference to the detailed methodological description of the Calculation of energy-related emission contained in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines. UNSD will seek cooperation with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to prepare such text. The text will be distributed to the EG for final review and inclusion in IRES at the end of December 2010.

19. **Annex A to D.** The EG agreed with the scope and content of the annexes.

Energy Statistics Compilers Manual

20. The EG welcome the suggested outline of the ESCM. It suggested merging the chapters 4 and 5. The chapter on data compilation and calculation of indicators were considered as priority chapters.

Implementation of IRES

21. The EG agreed to the main elements for the implementation of IRES prepared by UNSD.