SEEA - Energy
Expert Group Meeting

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

New York, 5-7 October 2011

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on SEEA-Energy

1. Opening and objectives of the meeting

2. Status of the SEEA-Energy revision process
Status of the SEEA revision process
(for information and background)

Discussion of chapters of the draft SEEA-Energy:

3. Chapter 1. Introduction and general discussion
(for discussion)
The Expert Group Meeting will discuss and provide guidance on whether Chapter 1 appropriately introduces the SEEA-Energy. Does it address its targeted audience; does it describe the relationship of SEEA-Energy to other manuals (SEEA; IRES; Energy Balances; 2008 SNA etc.)? and its relationship to the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual?

4. Chapter 2. The SEEA-Energy Framework
(for discussion)
The session will consist of the presentation of the SEEA-Energy accounting framework, including the general rules and principles related to accounting for energy. The presentation of the chapter will be followed by the general discussion. The discussion could be structured around the following questions: Is an overview of the main types of tables used in the SEEA-Energy required?
Is a description of accounting for stocks and flows required, along with the notion of economic units? Would the chapter benefit from a general description of important accounting rules and principles (both economic accounting and energy accounting)?

5. Chapter 3. Physical Assets Accounts

(for discussion)

The session will consist of a general presentation on the chapter on physical asset accounts. This chapter is concerned with defining energy resources and, for the various asset types, recording the level of each asset at a point in time, as well as the various component changes between points in time. The chapter overview will be followed by a presentation on issues of consistency between the SEEA and the SEEA-Energy and a general discussion. The discussion could be structured around the following questions: Is the classification of energy resources (Table 3.1) by type (coal, oil etc.) comprehensive? Are the classes grouped appropriately? Do the tables presented in this chapter look appropriate? Is anything missing?

6. Chapter 4. Monetary Assets Accounts

(for discussion)

The session will consist of a general presentation of the content of the chapter on monetary asset accounts, that is, defining those energy resources for which monetary valuation is appropriate; describing preferred valuation techniques and setting out some of the key issues in energy resource valuation. This will be followed by a presentation on issues of consistency between the SEEA and the SEEA-Energy and a general discussion.

The general discussion could be structured around the following questions: Are the links to physical assets accounts and to SNA balance sheets made clear? Is the description of NPV technique to value energy assets clear? Is the suggested treatment of *specific taxes less subsidies* at para 4.41 (noting that the draft SEEA does not explicitly recommend – or mention – this approach) appropriate? Is it appropriate that the SEEA-Energy adopt an approach to NPV measurement in which all components of physical changes in stock levels (discoveries, reappraisals etc.) are valued through the NPV asset valuation model? Or is the simpler approach adopted in the draft SEEA preferred? We could consider our response if London Group confirms the position taken in the SEEA (following global consultation) that asset valuation should include 'probable' as well as 'proven' resources. Do the tables presented in this chapter provide sufficient guidance on the type of monetary assets accounts to be produced? Is anything missing?

7. Chapter 5. Physical Flow Accounts

(for discussion)

The session will consist of a general presentation of the content of the chapter on physical flow accounts which covers definition and measurement of relevant physical flows of energy from the environment to the economy; within the economy; and certain flows back to the environment. This will be followed by a presentation on issues of consistency between the SEEA and the SEEA-Energy and a general discussion.

The general discussion could include the following questions: Do the tables look appropriate and useful? E.g. is it useful to include the simplified supply and use tables? (e.g. tables 5.1 and 5.2 - i.e. omitting residuals on the use side, and energy resources on the supply side). Or should SEEA-Energy tables be extended to include all flows from both supply and use sides – as in the draft SEEA. The draft SEEA-Energy shows flows

of renewable energy only in the form of output of products. Would it be more useful to show (as the draft SEEA does) flows of renewable energy as energy resources (natural inputs)? How should nuclear energy be accounted for in the SEEA-Energy: Should the SEEA-Energy include the flows of nuclear energy as energy resources? And if so how? Should nuclear fuels (uranium) be included as products in the accounts? Or should only the output of primary energy products (electricity / heat) be included? Is it acceptable to use terminology 'net' and 'gross' flows – as the SEEA does – given that the terms are used differently than in energy statistics or is it better to avoid these terms, as in the draft SEEA-Energy? Is anything missing?

8. Chapter 6. Monetary and Hybrid Flow Accounts

(for discussion)

The session will consist of a general presentation of the content of the chapter on physical flow accounts, which describes economic transactions related to supply and use of energy; along with a range of energy-related monetary transactions of interest. Hybrid accounts combine monetary and physical information to highlight inter-relationships between monetary and physical aspects of energy. It will be followed by a presentation on issues of consistency between the SEEA and the SEEA-Energy and a general discussion.

The general discussion could be structured around the following questions: Does this chapter present a clear discussion of monetary supply and use tables, and links to the SNA? Is the description of hybrid accounts clear and does the narrative convince us of the usefulness of these accounts? Do you have any general comments about the tables presented? Is the repetition of discussion of resource rent and depletion between Chapters 6 and 4 useful? Is the description of the sequence of depletion-adjusted accounts clear and is the purpose of these accounts similarly evident? Does the absence of a dedicated discussion of tradable permits to emit carbon seem appropriate? Is it appropriate to include the section on environmental activities and expenditure accounts within SEEA-Energy? Is anything missing?

9. Chapter 7. Presentation and use of Energy Accounts

(for discussion)

The session will consist of a general presentation of the content of the chapter on physical flow accounts, including the contribution of energy to national income and wealth; key items of interest in the supply and use of energy (for example renewable energy); decoupling analyses; and analyses of energy use and air emissions. The Expert Group Meeting will discuss and provide guidance on how SEEA-Energy should promote the use of energy accounts the structure and content of this chapter, including its relationship to other relevant initiatives e.g. indicator initiatives such as green economy and green growth, measuring sustainable development and so on. Chapter 7 of the draft SEEA-Energy provides guidance on the presentation and use of energy accounts – is this guidance helpful and can you suggest improvements?

10. Annexes, Glossary and Tables

(for discussion)

The SEEA-Energy contains the following Annexes

Main tables

Classifications related to: (1) energy resources and fixed assets; (2) energy products; and (3) environmental protection, resource use and management activities

List of indicators

The Expert Group meeting will discuss whether the scope and content of the Annexes, glossary and tables is appropriate.

11. Future work

(for discussion)

The Expert Group Meeting will discuss the future work for the finalization of the SEEA-Energy, the outline of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual and a possible plan for the implementation of SEEA-Energy.