

A. Introduction

At its 11th meeting the UNCEEA “[r]ecommended that lead agencies develop short term plans for the compilation of priority accounts” and that “lead agencies also develop plans that specify the processes by which data is collected from countries”. These recommendations build upon the request from the UNSC that “the Committee of Experts continue its work on the development of SEEA-compliant databases that include the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with international organizations developing estimates in consultation with countries and only publishing results with countries’ consent”. UNSD is the lead agency for energy accounts; this paper provides an update on the short-term plans for the energy accounts database and proposes a process for the collection of energy accounts. The updated short-term plans are part of a broader strategy to improve the collection of basic energy data for multiple purposes including the energy accounts and energy balances.

B. Short term plans

As requested by the UNSC and UNCEEA, UNSD has completed an assessment of international energy datasets and developed a roadmap for the compilation of energy accounts based on already collected data. It was concluded in the assessment that the International Energy Agency (IEA) detailed energy balances are the most appropriate global database on energy balances to be used as input in the excel based tool developed to assist countries for the compilation of energy accounts. The IEA energy balances present a more detailed breakdown, mainly product-wise, but also concerning certain energy flows (such as non-energy use or own-use by the energy sector). The roadmap provides details on the methodology for the compilation of energy accounts starting from the energy balances. It is supported by an excel based conversion tool which takes as input the energy balances from IEA and produces energy accounts as an output. The tool is a simplification of the Physical Energy Flow Accounts (PEFA) builder developed by Eurostat. The focus of the tool is the compilation of physical supply and use tables for energy as laid out in the Technical Note for Energy.

--Presentation of the roadmap and tool at the London Group meeting on Environmental Accounting

The roadmap and tool for the compilation of the energy accounts were presented at the 23rd meeting of the London Group in October 2017.

--Testing with countries and review by the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee

During various meetings in 2017/2018, including the London Group on Environmental Accounting, countries volunteered to participate in the testing which was launched in May 2018. Preliminary results are expected in June 2018. After the testing has been completed by countries, the results will be summarized by UNSD. The tool and the test results will be discussed by the SEEA CF Technical Committee during one of its meeting during the 3rd quarter of 2018.

--Work on DSDs for exchange of data using SDMX

Parallel to the vetting and testing of the roadmap and excel tool, progress has been made towards the finalization of the DSDs for the various priority accounts including the energy accounts. The DSDs are currently undergoing a pilot review under the purview of the Ownership Group for SDMX.

--Review by the UNCEEA

The complete set of documents and tools, revised in accordance with the outcomes of the above consultations, will be submitted to the UNCEEA for its review and approval in late 2018.

--Updating the UNSC at its 50th session

The report of the UNCEEA to the UNSC will include an update on the steps taken toward the compilation of global databases for SEEA Accounts.

C. Collection of energy accounts

The collection of energy accounts from countries depends on the availability of data in countries. For those countries that already produce energy accounts (e.g. EU countries), it is expected that the data is already available to fill out the physical supply and use table as laid out in the Technical Note. In the future, SDMX is expected to facilitate the sharing of data between countries and international organizations, and the sharing of data across international organizations as well; UNSD will not send data requests to those countries that already provide information to other international organizations if data is sent to another international organization and is shared with UNSD.

For those countries that do not produce energy accounts but provide energy balances to the IEA, UNSD will send to the national statistical office a prefilled energy accounts using the tool agreed to by the UNCEEA. The countries will be asked to review the data, make necessary adjustments and send it back to UNSD for publication. In doing so, countries will be explicitly requested to consent to the publication of the data. Details on the methodology used to produce the accounts from the balances will be made publicly available.

--Formalizing the relationship with IEA

UNSD has had continued discussions with IEA on the use of the detailed energy balances to produce the energy accounts. IEA has provided the data for the testing of the tool. These discussions will need to be formalized in order to facilitate the sharing of the detailed energy balances in a timely fashion.

D. Questions to the UNCEEA

The UNCEEA is invited to provide its views on the short-term process to test the energy tool and medium terms process to collect energy accounts from those countries that compile them and compile energy accounts from energy balances using the simplified tool.