

Technical Forum of Energy Planners – Virtual Technical Seminars

Long-term energy scenarios (LTES) for developing national clean energy transition plans in Latin America

February – March 2021

A joint initiative of IRENA, ECLAC and GET.transform to support knowledge exchange between government energy planners in Latin America

About the Technical Forum of Energy Planners

The “*Technical Forum of Energy Planners*” (*FOREPLEN*, for its acronym in Spanish) is a permanent forum for cooperation that brings together the teams and entities involved in energy planning in Latin America, in order to generate - jointly and with a long-term vision - the necessary knowledge that leads to the planning of sustainable, safe and affordable energy systems, aiming at complementarity within the framework of an energy transition in the Region.

Virtual series objective

To provide a platform to exchange knowledge, collect best practices and experiences from government energy planners in Latin America in the ***Development and use of long-term energy scenarios to guide national energy plans in the clean energy transition.***

Background

The world’s energy systems are facing profound changes. Innovations in the way energy is generated, distributed and consumed, are moving us towards a more digitalized, decentralized and decarbonised energy system. IRENA’s [Global Renewables Outlook 2050](#) presents a transformative scenario for [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) that is compliant with the Paris Agreement, and shows that electrification of transport, industry and other sectors will cause electricity share in final energy consumption to reach 39% by 2050, compared to today’s 18%. Solar PV, wind and hydropower installed capacity would need to grow almost four-fold by 2050.

Long-term energy scenarios (LTES) have been used for decades by many countries in Latin America to inform national long-term energy planning and strategy documents, such as National Energy Plans or Power Master Plans. LTES can be deemed critical for guiding policymakers and investors in the clean energy transition, to make strategic, forward-looking energy decisions that consider new trends and uncertainties across technology, market, and policy directions. LTES are also a crucial communication tool to open national debate and to reach consensus on desired visions for a just and inclusive energy transition. Many countries in the region are in the midst of developing or have recently developed long-term national energy plans based on scenario analysis.

IRENA has launched the **[“Long-term Energy Scenarios Network” \(LTES Network\)](#)**, which aims to provide a platform for national and regional energy scenario practitioners from member countries to

share experience and good practices in the use and development of scenarios to guide the clean energy transition. In 2020 IRENA published “[Scenarios for the Energy Transition: Global experience and best practices](#)”, which presents a collection of over 50 practices from over 20 governments and technical institutions worldwide, dedicated to improving the use and development of long-term energy scenarios to guide the clean energy transition. Between 2018 and 2019 IRENA held a first LTES webinar series grouping members and partners of the CEM LTES Campaign, see the webinar recording [here](#).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) organises the “Technical Forum of Energy Planners” initiative (FOREPLEN, for its acronym in Spanish) since 2018 to coordinate efforts among energy planners in the region and provide a technical exchange platform to strengthen cooperation between UN-ECLAC member countries in regional energy planning issues.

On 2019 GET.transform became an implementing partner of FOREPLEN, contributing, among others, with the provision of advisory services and expert technical input. GET.transform is part of a European multi-donor platform delivering on international energy and climate goals, providing advisory services to public actors for governing energy transitions and large-scale clean energy investments, focused on integrated energy and climate planning, integration of renewable energy, and energy decentralization.

Within the scope of FOREPLEN, the “[Mapping of Energy Planning Practices](#)” study is being completed to showcase planning processes and identify challenges in energy planning in the region, contributing to creating a framework for understanding energy planning scope, methodology and processes among countries in the region.

Main themes and guiding questions

The overarching topic of the seminar series is:

“The development and use of long-term energy scenarios to guide national energy plans in the clean energy transition.”

This includes efforts that countries have been carrying out to enhance the use and development of scenarios to capture the complexities of the clean energy transition. ***The virtual seminar is not meant to present quantitative scenario results or share energy policies, targets or goals about new energy sector infrastructure.***

The series of seminars will explore the topic around three main themes, which will provide the framework for the presentations and discussion. Presenters are free to choose to evidence their experience and good practices according to the following themes

Theme 1: Development of scenarios

- **Establishing a strong governance structure.** The clean energy transition and the development of ambitious national energy plans will require broad participation and stronger co-ordination across different government institutions. Are there good practices on developing efficient governance structures for the development of LTES? For example:
 - Participatory processes
 - Coordination among governmental entities responsible for scenarios development

- **Expanding the boundaries of scenarios.** Model results are inevitably shaped by the scope of the model itself. To adequately reflect the complexities of the clean energy transition, models and scenarios need to better address new technologies, business models and disruptive innovations. What efforts are being made to expand the scope of the LTES developed in your country? For example:
 - Including socio-economic elements of a just transition (impact on jobs, GDP, etc.)
 - Accounting for innovation in the energy sector (Electromobility, digitalisation, distributed generation)

Theme 2: Use of scenarios

- **Clarifying the purpose of the use of the scenario building.** Scenarios can be used for different purposes, depending on the context and the goals being pursued. What are the types and purposes of use of LTES in your country? For example:
 - To Forecast or Backcast
 - To Build Consensus or to Raise target ambition
 - To Plan infrastructure development or to Explore alternatives
- **Transparent and effective communication.** Transparency enhances the quality of scenarios and builds trust. To be useful, scenario assumptions and results also need to be clearly communicated to wide segments of the population. What approaches have been implemented in your country to increase transparency? For example:
 - Online visualisation platforms of scenarios
 - Scenario information process and data publicly available

Theme 3: Scenario capacity building

- **Building the right type of scenario capacity in government.** The capacity to use scenarios can be created through the use of modelling tools within government institutions. If modelling is outsourced, governments must still ensure they have the capacity to understand the results. What examples are there of enhancing capacity to develop and use scenarios? For example:
 - Inhouse in ministries and specialized agencies
 - External in academia or in cooperation with private institutions

Format

Speakers: Energy planning government officials and experts in regional and technical bodies supporting government in long-term energy planning in Latin America. **Each speaker will have a 15-minute presentation slot. Speakers will receive a presentation template with corresponding guidelines**

Moderators: Officers from ECLAC, GET.transform and IRENA.

Session outline: Each seminar session will last **90 minutes** and will consist of two presentations followed by a Q&A session with the audience, as shown below. Polling may be included to include one or two questions to the audience and obtain immediate feedback pertaining to relevant issues in each presentation.

Table 1 Session outline

Session outline	Time – Total 1.5 hours
Introduction by moderator	10 minutes
First country presentation	15 minutes
Second country presentation	15 minutes
Conversation with moderator	20 minutes
Q&A from the audience	20 minutes
Conclusion and wrap up	10 min

Dates: The series will run bi-weekly every other Wednesday, following the tentative schedule below:

Table 2 Tentative schedule of seminars

Seminar	Date	Countries and institutions	Theme
1	Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 12h00 – 13h30 (Santiago)	Brasil: Empresa de Pesquisa Energetica Colombia: Unidad de Planeación Minero Energética	1, 2 or 3
2	Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 12h00 – 13h30 (Santiago)	Costa Rica: Secretaría Planificación Subsector Energía Panamá: Secretaría Nacional de Energía	1, 2 or 3
3	Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 12h00 – 13h30 (Santiago)	Ecuador: Ministerio de Energía y Recursos Naturales No Renovables Uruguay: Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería	1, 2 or 3
4	Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 12h00 – 13h30 (Santiago)	Chile: Ministerio de Energía El Salvador: Consejo Nacional de Energía	1, 2 or 3
5	Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 12h00 – 13h30 (Santiago)	Argentina: Secretaría de Energía República Dominicana: Ministerio de Energía y Minas	1, 2 or 3

Target audience & Outreach

Government officials, researchers, academia, private sector, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations that provide energy planning support for countries in Latin America and elsewhere.

These will be open events and will hence be promoted on social media by each of the three implementing partners: IRENA, CEPAL, and GET.transform.

Further information

ECLAC will facilitate the event sessions through its Webex platform, as well as the simultaneous translation service for the series. All seminars will be recorded and available on IRENA's, ECLAC's and GET.transform's websites.

Language: Events will be in Spanish, English or, in some instances, Portuguese (with simultaneous translation to the other languages, depending on the event).

For more information please contact IRENA at ltres@irena.org