

Summary Report
Participatory Strategies for Developing Just and Renewable-Based Energy Pathways
16th April 2024, 14:00 – 15:30

Jean-François Gagné, Head of Secretariat, Clean Energy Ministerial, presided over the dialogue and invited Roland Roesch, Director at IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre, to introduce the topic. Opening remarks were also delivered by Vera Rodenhoff, Deputy Director-General at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change, Germany, and Simon Fløe Nielsen, Deputy Director at the Danish Energy Agency, Denmark.

The keynote speech was delivered by André Bernier, Director-General, Electricity Resources Branch, Natural Resources Canada. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Asami Miketa, Head of Energy Transition Planning, and Power Sector Transformation, IRENA.

Following the keynote speech, a panel discussion titled “Building Consensus for Renewable-Based Energy Pathways” was moderated by Jean-François Gagné. The panellists included Odilio Villanero, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Panama, Panama; Ruby B. De Guzman, Director, Department of Energy, Philippines; Bruno Sousa, Deputy Director for Energy, Directorate General of Energy and Geological Resources, Portugal; and Frederick K. Appiah, Deputy Director, Renewable Energy, Energy Commission, Ghana

The event concluded with floor interventions, followed by closing remarks from Asami Miketa.

Opening remarks.

1. Mr. Gagné, opened the session by addressing the significance of long-term energy scenarios (LTES) in aiding global clean energy transitions. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between countries and organizations like IRENA to harness effective scenario-based energy planning for informed policy decision-making and investment in the energy sector.

2. Dr. Roesch discussed the pivotal role of LTES in strategic energy planning. He highlighted the necessity for comprehensive and inclusive LTES that integrate economic, social, and environmental considerations to effectively support the implementation of national and international climate goals. He concluded by announcing an upcoming toolkit developed by IRENA to assist governments in engaging stakeholders more effectively.

3. Ms. Rodenhoff discussed the significance of LTES from Germany's perspective, explaining that these scenarios are crucial for reaching the country's energy, climate, and sustainability goals, highlighting their 2045 scenarios. She emphasized that knowing the destination ("B") is vital for planning the path ("A to B") effectively. Ms. Rodenhoff also discussed the importance of updating and comparing scenarios regularly to adapt to new circumstances and ensure they remain relevant and actionable. She highlighted Germany's participatory approach to scenario development, which includes stakeholders from various sectors, enhancing acceptance, social cohesion, and the robustness of the planning process.

4. Mr. Nielsen shared Denmark's experience with energy planning, which started in response to the oil crisis and evolved to address climate change. He discussed Denmark's legal targets for emission reductions and climate neutrality, supported by annual policy revisions and stakeholder consultations. Mr. Nielsen emphasized the role of LTES in providing a solid foundation for policy decisions and the importance of involving a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and academia, to ensure comprehensive and effective energy policies. He also touched upon related topics with regards to social acceptance, such as living close to infrastructure, and considerations for agriculture and land-use and its effect on communities.

Keynote and introductory presentations.

5. Mr. Bernier, in his keynote presentation, discussed Canada's approach to integrating “participatory processes” in energy planning. He shared examples of how Canada employs different stakeholder engagement processes to balance regional and national interests in energy development through three examples: the Regional Energy and Resource Tables, the Electricity Advisory Council, and the Energy Modelling Hub, each demonstrating the integration of stakeholder input in project development, policy advice, and analytical practices. Mr. Bernier emphasized the importance of these “participatory processes” in making decisions more durable and reflective of diverse perspectives.

6. Dr. Miketa highlighted the role of the LTES Network in fostering global collaboration among energy planning practitioners. She detailed the network's activities, such as dialogue events and the development of resources like the participatory process toolkit. Ms. Miketa stressed the importance of comprehensive and participatory planning and noted the diversity of approaches in LTES practices across different countries, which enriches the global dialogue on clean energy transition.

The panel discussion titled "Building Consensus for Renewable-Based Energy Pathways" was moderated by Mr. Gagné. The discussion explored the challenges and strategies of building national consensus for renewables-based and just energy transition pathways.

7. Mr. Villanero detailed Panama's inclusive approach to energy planning, starting from the creation of the National Energy Plan in 2015. He discussed the extensive consultations that engaged over 800 individuals through workshops and the formation of interinstitutional committees that guide the implementation of national strategies. Mr. Villanero emphasized the collaborative nature of these processes, which involve government, academia, and the private sector, ensuring that Panama's energy policies are comprehensive and sustainable.

8. Ms. De Guzman presented the Philippines' engagement with LTES through its Energy Policy and Planning Bureau. She detailed the country's strategies for transitioning to renewable energy, enhancing transmission systems, and decommissioning coal-fired power plants. Ms. De Guzman underscored the importance of involving local government units and other stakeholders in developing regional energy plans, which has led to successful implementations in provinces like Iloilo and Palawan.

9. Mr. Sousa discussed Portugal's successes and challenges in incorporating stakeholder input into its National Energy and Climate Plan. He highlighted how participatory strategies led to higher renewable energy targets and improved grid planning. Mr. Sousa emphasized the critical role of continuous dialogue with municipalities and citizens to ensure a fair and just transition, especially in sensitive projects like offshore wind farms and lithium mining.

10. Mr. Appiah shared Ghana's experience with the LTES Network, which has positively influenced the country's National Energy Transition Framework. He outlined Ghana's improved methodical engagement with various stakeholders, including utilities, policymakers, and community groups, to ensure their perspectives are integrated into the energy planning process. Mr. Appiah highlighted the importance of this comprehensive stakeholder involvement in developing a framework that is widely accepted and effective.

The floor was then opened for further comments and questions from the audience and panel.

11. The Nigerian delegate discussed significant reforms aimed at improving energy access and promoting renewable energy. Notable changes include amending the Nigerian Constitution to decentralize electricity management, allowing states and private entities to generate and distribute power. This shift was reinforced by a new Electricity Act and other policies to facilitate renewable energy integration and grid improvements. The representative called for international investment to leverage these reforms.

12. The Bangladeshi delegate discussed the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, a comprehensive 50-year strategy addressing climate adaptation and renewable energy goals. The delegate emphasized the importance of regional cooperation with neighbouring countries to meet these targets, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts in sustainable energy development.

13. The Ugandan delegate highlighted their comprehensive legislative and policy frameworks aimed at climate action, including a climate change law and a Renewable Energy Policy. The delegate emphasized the need for investments to expand renewable energy infrastructure and utilize local minerals for domestic production, reducing emissions and fostering economic growth.

14. Mr. Nielsen emphasized the importance of long-term planning and scenario analysis in guiding nations toward sound decisions that support the green transition. He highlighted that such scenarios help avoid poor choices, given the limited resources available for climate and environmental initiatives. Stressing the need for public and financial stability, he advocated for improved models and data inputs to enhance decision-making. He suggested that the LTES Network should support countries in developing advanced and refined models to ensure effective policy formulation and implementation.

15. Ms. Rodenhoff underscored the importance of aligning long-term energy scenarios with other planning frameworks to enhance their relevance and appeal to investors and businesses. She noted that while these models provide crucial guidance, they must periodically be revised to accommodate new circumstances, such as economic shifts or natural events. This adaptability ensures that plans remain ambitious yet realistic, providing the necessary security for planners and stakeholders involved.

16. Mr. Gagné highlighted the comprehensive tools developed by experts over many years, emphasizing the value of sharing this extensive knowledge through IRENA's LTES Network. He praised the network's role in involving diverse stakeholders in the dialogue on long-term energy planning and encouraged broader participation. He concluded by passing the discussion to Dr. Miketa for closing remarks on the future of the LTES network.

Closing remarks

17. Dr. Miketa expressed gratitude to participants and speakers for their contributions to the dialogue on LTES. She reflected on the key lessons from the LTES network, emphasizing that successful energy planning focuses on continuous strategic processes rather than fixed plans. She highlighted the diversity of planning approaches globally, noting that learning from varied experiences enhances planning frameworks. Dr. Miketa underscored the role of the LTES Network as a platform for sharing best practices, inviting more countries with robust planning frameworks to join the Network. She concluded by thanking the session's moderator, and the leadership provided by Germany and Denmark, looking forward to further discussions and collaborations.