Fifth International Forum on Long-Term Energy Scenarios (LTES) for the Clean Energy Transition

Session 2: Effective Communication of Long-Term Energy Scenarios

1. Description

Since 2018, IRENA's Global Network on Long-Term Energy Scenarios (LTES) has served as the international platform for exchanging knowledge to improve scenario development processes and their use in decision-making. Through the Global Network on LTES, IRENA and its member countries emphasize the importance of effective national energy planning as the backbone of strategic national development. An effective planning process integrates innovation, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and aligns with national development planning to facilitate the access to financing mechanisms to achieve energy and climate goals.

A prominent workstream of the Global Network on LTES is the development of a toolkit on participatory processes for long-term energy scenario development (forthcoming, 2024). This toolkit emphasizes the importance of effectively communicating scenarios to different groups of stakeholders through diverse methods, and through actively involving them in the scenario development process. Throughout the toolkit's development, as well as many past discussions, energy planners shared many methods and tools to communicate scenarios and results, ranging from well-established methods such as reports and policy briefs to more recent and innovative digital tools leveraging data visualization, interactivity, and gamification.

2. Objective

The session's objective is to facilitate the dissemination of expert knowledge on scenario communication and methods for effective policymaking, and how scenarios' purposes and uses can necessitate a change in the communication strategy and tools to guide policy and investment decisions.

3. Expected outcomes
- Dissemination of good practices for communicating long-term energy scenarios to stakeholders, including policymakers and investors.
- Participants will gain a better understanding of how to tailor scenario communication strategies and tools to effectively guide policy and investment decisions.
- The session will inform the ongoing development of the forthcoming toolkit on participatory scenario development.

4. Proposed Agenda (90 minutes)

Time	Content
5 min	Welcome remarks and introduction by the moderator Moderator: Asami Miketa, IRENA
7 min	IRENA Presentation on the Participatory Processes Toolkit (focus on communication) Presenter: Nadeem Goussous, IRENA,
55 mins	Moderated panel discussion with a prepared opening question (slides can be used, see section 5), including: Panellists: Alessia De Vita, GET.transform Paul Koutstaal, PBL Angelina LaRose, EIA (virtual) Paul Deane, UCC (virtual)
20 mins	Audience Q&A and interventions
3 mins	Closing remarks

5. Suggested guiding questions

- Opening round of statements (5 minutes each):
  - In this panel, we have experts from governments, scientific institutions, and development agencies. Your work is diverse, and the purpose and use of your scenarios vary significantly. Could you please introduce yourself, describe the type of planning or planning support your institution provides, and explain its primary purpose?
  - Follow-up: How does this influence your approach to communicating your scenarios?

- How do you involve different stakeholders in your scenario development process? Does increased engagement during the development process enhance your ability to communicate the results more effectively?
- Can you share an instance where effective—or innovative—communication of your plan significantly influenced decision-making or policy development? What were the key factors that contributed to its success? Conversely, have you encountered a situation where a specific communication approach didn't work as expected? What went wrong, and what did you learn from that experience?
- What are some key challenges you've encountered in communicating complex energy scenarios to diverse stakeholder groups, and how have you addressed them?