

Fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly
Global Coalition for Energy Planning: Shaping the Agenda for Action
11 January 2025, 14:30 – 16:00 GST
Location: Room A1, St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

This meeting offered an opportunity to present the main principles and expected work to be done under the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP) to delegates attending the 15th IRENA General Assembly. The discussion highlighted the critical role of energy planning in reducing investment risks and attracting private capital, especially in developing countries. The session was attended by approximately 100+ participants, primarily government officials.

Introductory Remarks

Gauri Singh, Deputy Director-General, IRENA Welcomed participants and noted that the session was



developed in close collaboration with Brazil's Ministry of Energy and Mines, who also spearheaded the energy planning discussion during Brazil's 2024 G20 presidency. She noted that investment for the energy transition is a challenge in emerging and developing economies and that effective national energy planning is a solution for stakeholders. Energy planning is vital as well-established institutional frameworks and coordinated planning

processes are essential to building investor confidence, addressing risks, and offering the predictability critical for attracting private capital. She highlighted the role of the Global Network on LTES in facilitating the exchange of best practices and innovative planning approaches. Additionally, she highlighted that IRENA supports institutional capacity building in energy planning and collaborates with the African Union to enhance energy planning capacity as the AU developed the Continental Power Sector Masterplan (CMP). She praised Brazil's leadership during its 2024 G20 presidency in elevating the role of energy planning in tackling the energy transition challenges and proposing the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP). She noted that IRENA has been invited to serve as the secretariat for this Coalition.

H.E. Mr Alexandre Silveira, Minister of Mines and Energy of Brazil



Noted that a just energy transition is vital for Brazil. He noted that in 2025, Brazil is committed to strengthening governance in cross-cutting issues, including renewable energy for global sustainability, and is honoured to host the BRICS summit and the UNFCCC COP 30. These 2 events and the 2024 G20 presidency highlight Brazil's role as a leader in the global energy transition. He noted that the Global Coalition for

Energy Planning (GCEP) was proposed and approved to ensure the transition benefits both developing and developed countries during Brazil's 2024 G20 presidency. He highlighted the role of the green economy and the need for global cooperation to ensure a fair energy transition. GCEP will work to close the investment gap faced by developing countries. Through GCEP, countries will share energy planning experiences and strategies to attract capital, thereby ensuring a 6 fold increase in investment, which is

necessary to attain climate goals. He noted the 5 principles of GCEP: promoting transparent and effective energy planning; facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity building; catalyzing investments through enabling environments; encouraging national ownership and inclusive participation; and leveraging existing initiatives and partnerships. He noted that the energy transition must take place in accordance with the sovereignty of each nation and should be context-specific to the various national goals and situations. He noted that development banks, multilateral institutions, and private banks would be engaged through GCEP, and countries and international organisations must work together to bridge the investment gap. Given IRENA's track record in the field of energy planning, he invited IRENA to be the secretariat of GCEP and support the technical work.

Scene Setting Presentation

Asami Miketa, *Head of Energy Planning and Power Sector Transformation, IRENA*



Introduced the Global Network on LTES, a platform comprising 31 member countries and 14 technical institutions. She highlighted that IRENA would leverage its expertise in engaging the broader energy planning community through the Global Network on LTES and partnership with Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) in its role as the GCEP secretariat. She noted that the Global Network on LTES has hosted over 70 technical and high-level dialogues and currently engages the finance community. She said that the Global Collaition for Energy Planning (GCEP) will elevate the finnacing for energy transition discussion to the high-level political agenda, foster synergies among global and regional initiatives, and catalyse investment for the energy transition. She noted that long-term energy planning can be an enabler for investment and highlighted that the discussions on scenarios and investment within the Global Network on LTES began in 2019 during the LTES Forum and was featured during the 2023 and 2024 IRENA Assembly LTES Side Events and recently under the auspices of the 2024 G20 Energy Transition Working Group. She noted that the key takeaways from the G20 working group included the importance of ownership and national sovereignty in the energy planning process and the necessity of using effective planning to create an enabling environment. Additionally, countries highlighted the necessity of building the confidence of G20 countries to increase their foreign investments which can be achieved by countries gaining an understanding governmental planning processes in investment-seeking countries and the importance of leveraging excellent (existing) regional and global initiatives.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Mariana de Assis Especie**, *Special Advisor, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Brazil*

Panellists



Mr. Carl-Christian Munk-Nielsen, *Director, Danish Energy Agency.*



Ms. Rowena Guevara, *Undersecretary Department of Energy, Philippines*



Dr. Claire Nicolas, *Senior Energy Economist- Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, World Bank*



Mr. Ariel Yopez, *Principal Economic Advisor, Inter-American Development Bank*

Key Take Aways

- Long-term energy planning provides investors with visibility and predictability, lowering perceived risks and capital costs. The involvement of the financial sector in planning processes helps identify potential barriers and ensures bankable project pipelines.
- A growing disconnect exists between government ambitions and implementation capability, particularly in developing countries. The experiences shared by the World Bank and others highlight that without strengthening technical and planning capabilities within government institutions and utilities, countries will struggle to achieve their energy transition targets.
- The GCEP emerges as a timely global platform to reduce investment risks through enhanced national energy planning capabilities and a non-binding collaborative approach. It aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, technical support and stakeholder engagement - recognizing planning's critical role in accelerating clean energy investment, particularly in developing countries.

Carl-Christian Munk-Nielsen (Denmark) noted that Denmark utilizes a transparent, comprehensive annual planning and projection system that provided stakeholders with long-term visibility of national energy plans.



The Danish infrastructure planning process meticulously considers multiple factors, including renewable resource potential, proximity to demand centers, environmental impacts, and community acceptance. He stated that the country had developed a robust framework of market incentives through targeted subsidies and taxes to accelerate green investments. A notable feature of the

Danish system is the establishment of broad political agreements that consistently receives over 90%

parliamentary support, ensuring policy stability across electoral cycles. **Denmark emphasized transparency throughout the planning processes to create a secure investment environment.** It was noted that Danish officials actively advocated for the inclusion of financial sector representatives in planning forums to identify potential oversights and enhance coordination.

Rowena Guevara (Philippines) noted that energy planning in the Philippines is driven by ambitious renewable energy targets, aiming to achieve 35% renewable energy in the national energy mix by 2030 and 50% by 2040. The government has undertaken significant policy reforms to facilitate investment, including allowing 100% foreign ownership of renewable projects and implementing Green Energy Auctions to ensure revenue stability. The Philippine administration has streamlined administrative processes through a virtual one-stop shop for renewable project permits. Additionally, the government actively invests in enabling infrastructure such as offshore wind ports and geothermal risk mitigation programs.



It was highlighted that The Philippines engages the central and commercial banks to expand renewable energy financing. Philippine authorities have implemented innovative policies combining renewable energy with storage systems to address grid constraints. The Philippines is actively leveraging existing mechanisms, including its membership of the Global Network on LTES and platforms such as regional energy finance dialogues and disaster-resilient planning frameworks. The country looks forward to participating in the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GEP), a comprehensive knowledge exchange hub with integrated data capabilities.

Claire Nicolas (World Bank) noted that the World Bank emphasizes the importance of planning and setting credible targets. The institution has identified disconnects between government ambitions and utility investment plans in various countries. The Bank acknowledges the increasing complexity of planning due to rapid sector evolution, utility unbundling, and market transitions. In response to these challenges, the World Bank advocates for diverse expertise and modelling approaches in energy planning while stressing the critical importance of coordinating short-term and long-term planning horizons. The institution particularly emphasizes the importance of enhancing the capacities of utilities and energy ministries. Additionally, the importance of aligning power sector planning with broader economy-wide decarbonization efforts was reiterated.



Ariel Yopez (Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)) noted that the IDB has actively supported Latin American countries in scaling up renewable energy through customized planning models. The bank emphasizes the importance of contextualizing planning approaches to each country's circumstances while facilitating knowledge sharing. The IDB collaborates with technical partners, including NREL, to provide specialized planning assistance. The institution focuses on building sustainable technical capabilities within government institutions and stresses the importance of maintaining planning flexibility to accommodate rapid technological changes and innovations, including battery storage.



Floor Interventions



Keisuke Sadamori (*International Energy Agency (IEA)*) noted that energy planning is a critical tool for reducing investment risks and capital costs. He noted that the IEA recently released a Clean Energy Investment Roadmap in support of Brazil's G20 presidency. In the publication, the IEA recommends prioritizing capacity building for national energy planning, focusing on data and long-term energy scenario modelling, as a primary focus.

The IEA emphasizes the necessity of aligning strategies with multiple development objectives, including energy security, industrialization, just transition, and climate goals. Additionally, the IEA notes the importance of infrastructure planning, with special attention to power grids. The agency called for a quadrupling of concessional finance for grids in emerging economies by 2035. Finally, IEA expressed support to the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP) and accepted the invitation to support this initiative.

Stefan Mager (*GIZ*) highlighted that GIZ emphasizes long-term energy planning as a powerful risk mitigation tool for private sector engagement. The organization prioritizes the capacity enhancement of planning institutions across partner countries. The importance of maintaining transparency regarding political interests within planning processes was underscored. The organization recognizes the necessity for flexibility in long-term planning to adapt to innovations such as the rapid growth of battery storage in Germany's electricity sector. Finally, it was noted that GIZ recently began using artificial intelligence to accelerate planning processes while maintaining essential long-term perspectives.

Jean-Francois Gagne (*Clean Energy Ministerial*) noted that the Clean Energy Ministerial links planning activities to three fundamental priorities: investment, fuels, and inclusivity. CEM is exploring the interlinkages between planning and implementation aspects while examining fuel supply-demand planning to ensure appropriate infrastructure development. The organization places significant emphasis on incorporating community engagement into long-term plan development to secure social buy-in.

Representative from African Union Development Agency – NEPAD highlighted Africa's ambitious renewable energy targets, aiming for 63% renewables (763 GW) by 2063. The organization emphasizes the need for planning to extend beyond national boundaries and incorporate regional transmission considerations. It was noted that AUDA-NEPAD stresses the fundamental importance of institutional capacity building and advocates for incorporating 1.5°C scenario considerations in Africa's planning processes.

Wei Huang (*International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*) noted that the IAEA offers an extensive suite of energy planning tools and capacity-building support to more than 150 countries and advocates for

inclusive planning processes. The agency has partnered with IRENA on the Continental Master Plan for Africa (CMP) support work. Further, the IAEA organized a COP29 event focused on financing low-carbon technologies with international partners and has signed a memorandum of understanding regarding energy planning support with the COP29 presidency.

Representative from African Union Energy Partnership (AUEP) noted that the organization recognizes the fundamental challenge of establishing reliable energy statistics as a prerequisite for effective planning. The organization works closely with member states to collect and disseminate energy data, though significant gaps remain. The AU advocates for comprehensive planning that considers the full energy mix beyond renewable resources. The organization emphasizes the importance of integrating regional and national planning dimensions. It was highlighted that AUEP supports the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP) initiative.

Closing Remarks

Roland Roesch, Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre, thanked participants for their contributions and participation. He noted that the discussions highlighted the importance of energy planning frameworks in accelerating the global energy transition. This is vital, given the scale and pace of investments necessary for the transition. He reiterated the importance of the Brazilian G20 presidency, identifying energy planning as a key to unlocking investment and the need for synergies and alignment in energy planning, which resulted in the formation of the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP). He referenced the 2024 IRENA and BNDES [Development Banks and Energy Planning: Attracting Private Investment for the Energy Transition; the Brazilian Case](#) report, which examined Brazil's experience and illustrates how strategic partnership between national energy planning institutions and the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) created a successful model for investment attraction. The report highlights the importance of strong institutional governance, strategic collaboration for public and private investment, and robust long-term planning capacities in securing investment. He underscored the importance of GCEP for all participants as it ensures that countries gain a better understanding of global investment opportunities, gain access to new partnership models, and enhance their national planning frameworks. He reiterated IRENA's commitment to supporting GCEP given their proven track record in energy planning support and experience in mobilising partnerships with financial institutions and other strategic partners.

