

## Concept Note<sup>1</sup>

### The Global Coalition for Energy Planning

The Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP) is a non-binding voluntary initiative that serves as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, particularly in developing countries. The Coalition aims to facilitate flexible and dynamic engagement among members to achieve meaningful outcomes for energy planning.

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### I. Context

The global community stands at a critical juncture. The mandate from the first Global Stocktake to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030 requires an unprecedented mobilization of capital. However, a significant financing gap persists, with clean energy investment remaining overwhelmingly concentrated in advanced economies and few other countries. This imbalance jeopardizes the pace of the global energy transition and threatens to deepen inequalities and leave many developing nations behind, for example, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African countries, which face acute climate vulnerability and unique structural challenges.

Closing this gap requires more than just financial instruments; it demands the creation of durable, investment-grade enabling environments. In this context, robust, country-owned energy planning ecosystems have emerged as powerful enablers to provide the evidence, clarity, and predictability that investors require. It is not the plan document itself that unlocks investment, but the entire

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<sup>1</sup> Note: This concept note consolidates the full range of feedback received since the initial proposal for the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP), developed following the G20 Energy Transition Working Group discussions in October 2024. It reflects inputs gathered from country representatives, organizations, and stakeholders up to and including the 1st Energy Planning Summit held in Rio de Janeiro on 3–4 June 2025.

ecosystem behind it: the institutions, the coordination mechanisms, the stakeholder participation, and the technical capacity that, together, build trust and reduce risk.

Recognizing this, the Brazilian G20 Presidency in 2024 championed the creation of the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP), an initiative formally endorsed by G20 countries<sup>2</sup> and officially launched at the 1<sup>st</sup> Energy Planning Summit, hosted by Brazil in Rio de Janeiro in June 2025. The GCEP is a voluntary, non-binding global initiative established to address this challenge directly.

The Coalition's core mission is to drive investment for a just and equitable transition by fostering innovation in energy planning and advancing risk allocation strategies, by serving as high-level political amplifier for the planning activity and as a translator between the energy planning and global finance communities. By focusing on how to turn ambitious national goals into bankable realities, the GCEP aims to fill the empty space between technical assistance and large-scale capital mobilization. It also serves as an advocate for its members, promoting an evidence-based understanding of the investment landscape in emerging and developing economies and clarifying where key risks lie, how they can be allocated, and what mechanisms can make that allocation investable.

## II. Core Principles

The work of the Global Coalition for Energy Planning is guided by the following five core principles. These principles inform all activities under the Agenda for Action and ensure the Coalition remains aligned with its mission.

- **Promoting transparent and effective energy planning.**
- **Facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity building.**
- **Catalyzing investments by creating enabling environments.**
- **Encouraging national ownership of energy planning processes and inclusive participation.**
- **Leveraging existing initiatives and partnerships.**

## III. Overarching goals

The GCEP is a demand-driven initiative dedicated to empowering countries, with a special focus on the unique challenges faced across the developing world. To achieve its mission, the Coalition will pursue three strategic goals, framed as a call to action:

1. **Enhance countries' capacity to attract investment.** The GCEP will help countries develop credible, long-term visions that create a stable pipeline of bankable projects. A primary goal

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<sup>2</sup> The GCEP exists independently of any specific international forum, including the G20. Like other collaborative efforts that have emerged from various international processes, GCEP may engage with other multilateral platforms including G20, COP, and others where such engagement advances its mission. The Coalition welcomes participation from G20 countries recognizing their perspectives on energy planning advancement and investment mobilization, while remaining open to all countries interested in exploring how energy planning might contribute to clean energy investment.

is to support members in formulating and implementing ambitious energy strategies that ensure energy security, drive economic development, and meet climate commitments, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

2. **Reduce the cost of the energy transition.** While the overall cost is influenced by diverse factors, the GCEP will support in reducing the cost of capital in emerging and developing economies by promoting transparency, sound policy and regulatory design, and a shared language between planners and financiers.
3. **Enhance coordination of global planning support.** The GCEP will serve as a hub to align the efforts of international organizations, development banks, and bilateral partners. **It will map existing initiatives, offer a 'single portal' for countries seeking support,** and amplify partner work through joint *campaigns* avoiding duplication and maximizing impact.

#### IV. GCEP in the Global Landscape

The Coalition recognizes the diverse range of initiatives already supporting countries in energy planning, from international organizations to development banks and bilateral partners. While this landscape offers valuable technical assistance and vibrant communities of practice, it can also be fragmented, making it challenging for countries to navigate the available support and for partners to align their efforts for maximum impact.

The GCEP is not intended to replace or compete with established platforms. Its distinct value is to serve as coordination hub and political amplifier - creating synergies, addressing gaps, and elevating existing work to the highest levels of policy dialogue and financial decision-making. It will provide a 'single portal' for countries seeking support and a 'unifying brand' for partner activities.

The Coalition complements the essential work of its global and regional partners by connecting credible technical plans with political and financial communities to turn them into financed projects. A core activity will be **maintaining a public mapping of energy planning support initiatives worldwide**. Where strong partner initiatives already meet a specific need, the GCEP will amplify their work through joint *campaigns* under its banner, avoiding duplication and ensuring agile and flexible member-led action.

#### V. The GCEP Agenda for Action

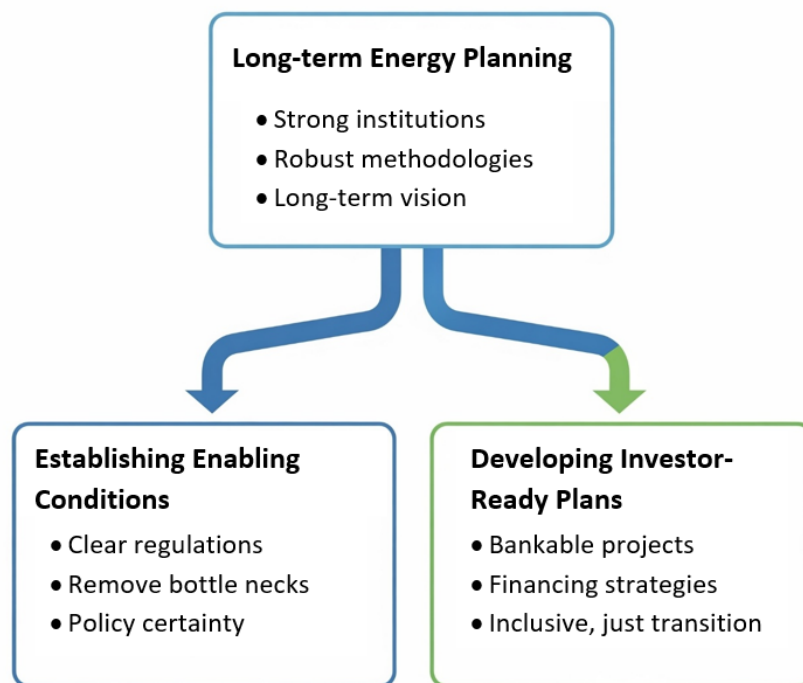
The Agenda for Action, as described in this section, provides the overarching framework for the Coalition's work through its workstreams. This framework is operationalized through a dedicated **Agenda for Action document**, developed and updated in consultation with Members and Partners. That document translates the framework into concrete activities, deliverables, and milestones, ensuring that the Coalition's work remains dynamic and responsive to evolving priorities.

##### A Common Framework for Planning and Investment

The Agenda for Action follows a clear process to turn national ambition into investable reality (*Figure 1*), beginning with *long-term energy planning* supported by strong institutions and sound methodologies that connect short-term actions with a long-term vision, ensuring continuity and trust.

Effective energy planning helps to create a favorable *investment environment* by providing evidence for policymaking and establishing predictable regulatory frameworks that address value-chain bottlenecks.

The process must ultimately bridge vision and implementation by producing *investor-ready plans* that translate into a pipeline of bankable projects. These plans should be inclusive, addressing energy poverty, social equity, and access to services like electricity and clean cooking. This holistic approach underpins the *GCEP's workstreams structure*.



**Figure 1.** GCEP holistic process to turn national plans into investments

### The Workstreams Approach

The Agenda for Action is delivered through flexible, member-led, workstreams operating under a "challenge-led engagement" model<sup>3</sup>. For the initial phase of the Coalition, **two workstreams have been identified** through extensive stakeholder consultations. This structure is designed to adapt to emerging priorities and requirements of the Coalition's members.

#### Workstream 1: From planning to investment

This high-level workstreams is the core of the GCEP's mission. It focused on strengthening the nexus between energy planning, policy, and finance to unlock investment at scale. It serves as the main

<sup>3</sup> **Challenge-led engagement model** is a demand-driven approach where a country or organization with a specific challenge (e.g., integrating high shares of renewables) can engage with the relevant GCEP workstream to find solutions. Conversely, a member with particular expertise can contribute its knowledge to the workstream that addresses that specific challenge.

forum for political dialogue among decision-makers from governments, financial institutions, and the private sector, primarily through the *GCEP's High-Level Dialogues*.

Key priorities include:

- **De-risking investment through policy innovation:** Facilitate dialogues and share best practices in risk allocation, design of bankable contracts, and policies for managing uncertainties.
- **Turning plans into investable pipelines of projects:** Share methodologies for translating strategies into structured project pipelines attractive for investors, including support for project preparation and feasibility studies.
- **Investment-grade planning standards:** Work with financiers to define high-quality energy investment planning and develop practical guidance to help countries achieve it.

**Institutional governance for implementation:** Strengthen governance frameworks that connect energy planning with financing and delivery.

## **Workstream 2: Enhancing technical and implementation capacity**

This workstream serves as the Coalition's technical backbone, strengthening countries' capacities to plan and deliver just and resilient energy transitions through improved data, tools, and institutional skills.

Key priorities include:

- **Data, modeling, and digitalization:** Improve quality, accessibility, and policy relevance of energy data and modeling tools. This workstream will explore how better data collection, advanced modeling, and transparent scenarios can reduce market information gaps, align national modeling with local priorities, and enhance investor confidence and regulatory clarity. Special emphasis will be placed on innovative methodologies that strengthen the technical foundation of planning and support their effective use by financial institutions to mobilize investment.
- **Resilient and efficient energy systems:** Address technical challenges of the energy transition, including planning for high shares of variable renewables, enhancing grid flexibility, and incorporating climate resilience into infrastructure design. This includes a strong focus on energy efficiency as a critical resource for system resilience.
- **Energy access and transition planning:** Support inclusive transitions by position energy access as a platform for economic development, including electricity, clean cooking, and sustainable cooling. A primary modality will be the facilitation of a South-South knowledge exchange to produce a "basket of solutions" on policy and financing for energy access.

- **Institutional governance for implementation:** Equipping countries with the knowledge on data and tools, and the institutional capacities needed to develop robust policies, regulations, and plans for a just and resilient energy transition.

### Workstream Leadership

Each workstream will be led or co-led by interested Members, including countries, inter-governmental organizations, or financial institutions. Within each workstream, specific priorities will be championed by a member with recognized expertise in the thematic area.

The workstream lead (or co-leads) is responsible for developing, in consultation with the champions, a coordinated programme of activities that outlines key deliverables, knowledge products, or any other service for the Coalition's participants. To ensure strategic alignment and accountability, leads will coordinate regularly with the Secretariat to report on progress and streamline activities.

## VI. Engagement and Governance Framework

The Coalition is a voluntary, member-driven initiative with light, flexible, and agile governance to maximize impact and minimize administrative burden. Membership is open to all countries, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders committed to its guiding principles.

### a) Light and agile governance model

To ensure effective coordination and strategic direction, the GCEP operates with two core coordination roles, supported by a member-led decision-making process.

- **The Chair:** Rotates biennially among participating Member countries on a voluntary basis, alternating between developing and developed economies to promote inclusivity and global balance. The Chair provides high-level political leadership, host the Biennial Energy Planning Summit, champions the Agenda for Action, and – In partnership with the Secretariat – leads the resource mobilization strategy.
- **The Secretariat:** The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) serves as the permanent Secretariat, providing institutional continuity. The Secretariat supports the Chair and Members by coordinating activities, managing communications, organizing the Biennial Summit, tracking progress, and facilitating collaboration across workstreams. The Secretariat acts as a neutral facilitator; strategic and policy decisions remain with the Members.
- **Consultative Board:** The main deliberative body of the GCEP is its Consultative Board, composed exclusively of Members. Countries and regional groupings (such as the European Union and the African Union) hold both voice and vote. Other Members may participate with voice but not vote. The Board provides continuity, strategic direction, and coordination among Members.

The Consultative Board meets in ordinary session at least twice per year:

- The first meeting of the year preceding the start of a new Chair's term is dedicated to the election of the next Chair.
- The second meeting, held later in the year, focuses on deliberating and adopting Coalition's strategic priorities for the following year.

Additional extraordinary meetings may be convened as needed. All decisions are taken by consensus or, when necessary, through voting procedures defined in the Board's internal rules of procedure to be developed by the Secretariat.

#### **b) Membership and partnership framework**

The GCEP utilizes a two-tiered framework to engage a broad range of stakeholders. Formal participation in the Coalition is established by endorsing the **GCEP Letter of Principles**.

- **Members:** Core participation is open to national governments, regional integration bodies, intergovernmental organizations, and multilateral and national development banks, that endorse the GCEP Letter of Principles. On the recommendation of a country Member, membership may also extend to international platforms and knowledge institutions with a global mandate for public-private cooperation in the energy of financial sector. Members drive the Coalition's strategic direction and are expected to take an active role in the Agenda for Action.
- **Partners:** The Coalition welcomes contributions from a broad range of Partners, including development agencies, regulators, utilities, private sector entities, civil society, philanthropic organizations, and research institutions. Partners are essential contributors, providing technical expertise, case studies, and innovative solutions that enrich the work of the GCEP.
- **Roles and expectations:** All contributions to the GCEP are made on a voluntary basis. However, Members and Partners are encouraged to engage actively by sharing knowledge and expertise, participating in workstreams activities, co-hosting events, and contributing to the GCEP's knowledge products. This active, "challenge-led" engagement is the key to the Coalition's success.

Participation in the Coalition will be formalized by submitting a Membership and Partnership Commitment Form—via Note Verbale for members, and via official email for partners—to the IRENA Secretariat.

## **VII. Resource Mobilization Strategy**

The Global Coalition for Energy Planning operates on a principle of shared ownership and collective responsibility. Its resource mobilization strategy is designed to be phased, pragmatic, and value-driven, ensuring the Coalition's long-term sustainability and impact.

In its initial phase, the GCEP will rely primarily on in-kind contributions of its Members and Partners – such as hosting events, seconding expert staff, sharing knowledge, and leading or championing



workstreams activities. This model allows us to leverage the extensive expertise and existing resources of its participants to drive the Agenda for Action.

Recognizing that an in-kind model alone may limit ambition, the Chair and Secretariat are tasked with developing and implementing a long-term resource mobilization plan, following a phased approach:

- **Years 1-2:** Focus on consolidating in-kind contributions and securing targeted voluntary funding from Members and Partners for specific, high-impact activities and to support the participation of developing countries in the Coalition's activities.
- **Years 3+:** Based on the demonstrated value and successful outcomes of its initial phase, the GCEP will explore the establishment of a more formal and sustainable funding mechanisms to support its core Secretariat functions and expand programme delivery.

The GCEP's resource mobilization rests on delivering tangible services and value to its members. Each workstream will produce concrete outputs—from high-level political dialogue to targeted technical guidance—that help countries attract investment. Over time, the Coalition will also facilitate dialogue on innovative financing instruments, such as performance-based climate finance and carbon credit markets, exploring how robust energy planning can position countries to access these opportunities.

## **VIII. Flagship Convenings**

The Global Coalition for Energy Planning brings its members and partners together through two primary types of convenings, designed to foster dialogue at both strategic and operational levels.

### **a) The Biennial Energy Planning Summit**

The Energy Planning Summit is the GCEP's primary, high-level convening platform. Hosted biennially by the rotating Chair country, the Summit brings together high-level officials and decision-makers from governments, financial institutions, and international organizations.

The purpose of the Summit is to provide a global stage to:

- Set the strategic direction for the Coalition's next cycle of work, building on priorities adopted by the Consultative Board.
- Review progress on the GCEP Agenda for Action.
- Foster high-level political commitment to the role of energy planning in mobilizing investment.
- Formally welcome new members to the Coalition.

While the Summit is not a formal decision-making body, it plays a critical role in endorsing and amplifying the Coalition's strategic direction, reinforcing shared ownership of its agenda, and enhancing political visibility for its initiatives. To ensure productive and inclusive discussions, the Summit employs a variety of formats, including high-level panels and interactive, collaborative sessions designed to facilitate genuine dialogue and the co-creation of priorities.

### **b) The high-level dialogues on planning and finance**



To maintain momentum between the biennial Summits, the GCEP convenes a series of structured High-Level Dialogues. These dialogues are the Coalition's primary mechanism for continuous, focused engagement between the energy planning and finance communities.

These dialogues are designed to address critical knowledge gaps by fostering a common language and identifying practical barriers and opportunities for investment. By bringing technical experts and financial actors together, these sessions ensure that GCEP's work remains grounded in on-the-ground realities and aligned with real-world investment needs. To address specific contexts, these dialogues may be organized at a regional level in partnership with local institutions.

### **Workstream-led activities**

In addition to these flagship convenings, each workstream will organize its own specific activities, such as technical workshops or peer-to-peer dialogues, in line with its respective work programme. This ensures a continuous stream of engagement and progress on GCEP's thematic priorities.