

Terms of Reference

IRENA Long-term Energy Scenarios Network (LTES Network)

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LTES Network is a network of long-term energy scenario practitioners at governments, as well as technical institutions that are officially supporting these governments with the development and use of long-term energy scenarios. The Network is administrated by IRENA, and its membership and activities are on a voluntary base. This document briefly outlines the overall structure of the LTES Network, including its context, strategic objectives, activities and membership criteria.

Context

The world's energy system is facing profound changes. Innovation in the way energy is generated, distributed and used, as well as how energy systems operate and link with wider infrastructure, paves the way for the emergence of completely new dynamics. At the same time, the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement call for an unprecedented transition to clean energy. In this context, those responsible for policy and investments are looking to minimise the risk of poor choices and take full advantage of disruptive technologies. However, the expansion and decentralisation of actors and technologies in new clean energy landscapes can create uncertainty and pose significant challenges in coordination.

Long-term energy scenarios, which explore socio-technical pathways over 20+ years, have traditionally been an invaluable tool in addressing such issues. They have long been used as the basis for productive dialogue and strategic decision making, but are today's scenarios, including the processes surrounding their development and use, good enough to capture transformational change?

Addressing these new challenges in the context of the clean energy transition gains prominence in the programmatic activities of IRENA. An increasing number of IRENA member countries expressed interest in exchanging experiences amongst their scenario practitioners to improve their long-term planning practices.

Strategic objective

The strategic objectives of the LTES Network are to share and expand good practices in long-term energy scenario development and use, in support of governments aiming to use long-term scenario planning to guide the clean energy transition. The LTES Network aims to provide a voluntary-based global platform to facilitate the exchange among national and regional energy scenario practitioners in the government sector from around the world while connecting them with experts from leading technical institutions that support the practitioners.

The specific focus of the LTES Network is to define:

- » Key elements (e.g. technical, economic, social) that should be reflected in scenarios of the clean energy transition – particularly those addressing uncharted pathways.
- » Improved modelling approaches to develop robust clean energy transition scenarios.
- » Planning processes to better integrate clean energy transition scenarios in policymaking.
- » Modalities to enhance scenario planning capacity within governments.

Activities

The activities under the LTES Network will include but are not limited to:

- » **Forums:** high-level dialogues and workshops that are organised by IRENA to gather a large audience of policy practitioners and scenario developers and users.
- » **Workshops:** short detailed technical discussion sessions in the sidelines of IRENA's strategic and programmatic activities, or at international energy conferences and seminars.
- » **Webinars:** sharing national or institutional knowledge through IRENA's LTES Network webinar series.
- » **Reports:** peer-reviewed reports that synthesise insights from the LTES Network activities.

IRENA is responsible for defining and guiding the overall strategic objectives, membership criteria and operation of the LTES Network, after consultation with members as appropriate. The focus areas of activities will be led by the members' interests. IRENA coordinates the involvement of the LTES Network in IRENA's programmatic activities as well.

The LTES Network will start with a duration of 5 years. It will be subject to review in 2025 in consultation with members, during which the next phase of the Network will be defined.

Membership

Formal participation in the LTES Network is open to both government institutions that are responsible for the development of official government scenarios, as well as technical institutions that are supporting these governments in the process of development and use of scenarios. Participation of the members in activities of the LTES Network is on a voluntary basis.

- » LTES Network welcomes membership applications from those entities with established energy planning and scenario development practices whose strategic objectives are compatible with those of the LTES Network and those that are willing to support the overall strategic objectives and activities of the Network.
- » Application to the LTES Network will be made by submitting the *Membership Application Form* and the *Scenario and Planning Survey* to IRENA, along with the institution's logo file.
- » Members are encouraged to take suitable measures to support the activities of the LTES Network through the allocation of in-kind resources needed to implement the LTES Network activities. This may include but is not limited to participation in and/or co-hosting of events, presenting in the webinar series, or contributing to drafting and reviewing reports.
- » Members provide a focal point of contact to handle communication with the LTES Network and participate in update calls with other members. The members shall inform IRENA in the case of a change of focal point.
- » Members agree to IRENA using their logos in LTES Network communication materials, subject, in respect of each member, to such conditions that it may have notified to IRENA in writing.

Membership of the LTES Network is voluntary. Membership does not give rise to legal or financial obligations for Members. Members can withdraw from the LTES Network at any time.

For more information, contact: LTES@irena.org