

Concept Note

Panel Discussion

Implementation of SDG7 at National Level and Regional Level in Asia and the Pacific:

Lessons Learnt for the Way Forward

Kiev, Ukraine

13 November 2018

Background

Sound energy policies can contribute to sustainable development and equitable economic growth. However, policies formulated without an evidence-based approach may not adequately guide the utilization of energy resources. This can lead to significant social, environmental and economic impacts that hinder the realization of national sustainable development ambitions, notably the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has developed a project titled “Evidence-based Policies for the Sustainable Use of Energy Resources”. Through this initiative ESCAP is working with its member States to strengthen the capacities of policymakers to develop stronger, evidence-based policies, which will accelerate progress on the achievement of SDG7.

ESCAP is supporting a number of governments across the Asia-Pacific region, including Fiji, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Thailand and Tonga, through the project to assist in achieving their specific policy goals for SDG7.

This panel discussion is mainly focused on the different policy development approaches at national and regional levels to achieve sustainable energy development including the SDG7. It will provide a platform for policymakers from ministries of energy and other relevant ministries to reflect on addressing the policy hurdles to achieve SDG7 at national level. Representatives from governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, the private sector and academia will comment on the shared insights and lessons learnt. The insights shared during the session will be drawn from the results of the project implementation and other relevant activities. Interactive discussions will be encouraged to make it dynamic session with interactive exchange from the audience.

Moreover, policymakers from the target countries will share their country experiences to assess energy development trends and future scenarios using data, policy and analytical tools. They will be able to apply the knowledge gained from informational tools and project activities to evidence-based policymaking efforts. ESCAP will also be able to share details of its efforts to support its member countries through an online database, the *Asia-Pacific Energy Portal*

(www.asiapacificenergy.org), which provides energy statistics, policies and other data on infrastructure and energy.

At the same time, solutions need to be tailored to different needs based on country context. International assistance and support must match national policy priorities and national information management systems must be able to provide the data needed for these activities. Reflecting on the lessons learnt from the project, its development process and the results achieved so far, the region will be able to benefit from more tailored assistance from regional and international stakeholders. Furthermore, lessons learnt contribute to better shaping ESCAP's one-stop-shop knowledge platform to the countries needs as desired inputs can be made available in a centralized manner.

Session approach

Moderated by ESCAP, officials and policymakers will reflect their experience from the implementation of the project "*Evidence-based Policies for the Sustainable Use of Energy Resources*" and beyond. After sharing their insights, policy experts from governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, the private sector and academia will distill lessons learnt and identify the way forward.

During the panel discussion, comments from the audience will be encouraged to contribute to the debate and to raise questions of interest.

The questions that will be discussed focus on the following areas:

- What are the challenges and opportunities to develop sound policies in achieving SDG7?
- How and what kind of evidence is used for the policy development process?
- What are the hurdles and benefits to support national efforts in achieving SDG7 through regional cooperation and external agencies, such as multilateral development agencies?
- What information and data would be useful to have in a national and regional knowledge repository to facilitate achieving SDG7 and working with external agencies?

Participants

Policymakers from Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Thailand as well as institutions such as multilateral banks, regional bodies, NGOs and private sector will be invited as panelists. Stakeholders with an interest in SDG7, effective development cooperation and evidence-based policy making should attend this session.

Time and date

The session will take place from 14.00-15.30 on Tuesday, 13 November 2018, at the International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.