

CONCEPT NOTE

Workshop Capacity Development for Mainstreaming Energy Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Targets and Indicators into Statistical Programmes in Selected Latin American Countries

BACKGROUND

One of the major outcomes from the United Nations Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development is the development of a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will become an essential element of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A major effort, led by the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs of the General Assembly, produced a final proposal of SDGs and targets in July 2014. The result of the deliberations of the OWG is a document that identifies 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The issue of Energy has a proposed stand-alone and dedicated SDG with 5 targets two of which are means of implementation.

Sustainable Energy is a key enabler of sustainable development for all countries and all people. Countries will not be able to achieve their development goals without access to reliable and affordable sustainable energy services. Energy is critical to tackling poverty eradication, while decarbonizing energy is central to mitigating climate change. Energy powers opportunities. It transforms lives, economies and countries.

Based on the energy SDG and corresponding targets proposed by the OWG, a set of indicators needs to be defined to assess and monitor progress towards sustainable energy for all. At the same time, the energy SDG should take into account the different national realities and energy resources and systems as well as the capacities and levels of development, always considering national priorities. Proposed energy goals and corresponding targets at the national level need to address and incorporate in a balanced way the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and their linkages.

The major initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on “Sustainable Energy for All” in cooperation with the World Bank, the International Energy Agency and other UN agencies including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has been developing a “Global Tracking Framework” for energy in which issues related to energy statistics, goals, targets and indicators are being assessed.¹ The UN Statistics Division and the Division for Sustainable Development are also involved in efforts to define energy indicators and statistics for sustainable development. These efforts are very important and will provide ample

¹ WB/IEA, *Global Tracking Framework*, Sustainable Energy for All, 2013.

knowledge and understanding of global, regional and national energy objectives. Therefore it is necessary to use this information to start developing the specific national programmes on energy goals, targets and indicators based on the specific circumstances and priorities for each country.

The Division for Sustainable Development of UNDESA in the past has led research efforts in the elaboration of methodologies and guidelines for the formulation of “Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development.”² These efforts included the implementation, testing and assessment of sets of energy indicators in 7 countries.³

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include representatives from public organizations (preferably from energy and statistical offices and ministries), relevant policy makers, academia and NGOs involved in the research, development, management and implementation of energy data and technology programmes and policies in selected Latin American countries.

LOCATION AND TIME

The Workshop will be held at the United Nations Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City, Panama on 4-6 February 2015.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this workshop will be to build capacities on: (i) assessing current national energy statistics and indicators programmes within the context of the SDGs effort, (ii) addressing the needs for supporting the proposed energy SDG, targets and potential indicators; (iii) assessing the needs for adapting global energy SDGs, targets and indicators to the national circumstances; (iv) defining a plan of action for improving national programmes to incorporate energy SDGs, targets and indicators.

At the conclusion of this capacity development event, it is anticipated that the participants will gain: (i) an enhanced understanding of the challenges posed by adapting and implementing energy SDGs, targets and indicators to the national circumstances and priorities; (ii) knowledge of the needs to modify current programmes to incorporate the new set of SDGs, targets and indicators being proposed by the OWG; and (iii) knowledge on the formulation of plans of implementation supporting the new sets of SDGs, targets and indicators in national statistical programmes.

² IAEA/UNDESA/IEA/Eurostat/EEA, *Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies*, Vienna, 2005.

³ UNDESA/ IAEA, *Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development: Country Studies on Brazil, Cuba, Lithuania, Mexico, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Thailand*, New York, 2007.

FOR INFORMATION

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