

Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group

Thematic Area ENERGY SUPPLY

Goals

The Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group aims to promote the accelerated global deployment of solar and wind energy technologies. Through its activities, the Working Group seeks to allay the incremental costs of providing wind and solar energy to all regions of the world.

Potential Impact

The Working Group facilitates deployment of solar and wind energy technologies and thus contributes to reduced emissions, a secure and affordable energy supply, and a global green economy. The Working Group also allows different actors to connect through the projects and thus facilitates a unique global dialogue, which serves to overcome barriers to deployment of renewable energy technologies via elevating innovative policies and solutions from the technical level to the highest political level.

Why?

Scaling up the deployment of solar and wind requires stable, long-term policy frameworks and a market design that accounts for externalities and that increases power system flexibility to ensure system adequacy with greater variable renewables. The Working Group has a role to play in terms of increasing awareness of the potential of solar and wind energy, their socioeconomic benefits, and the most cost-efficient policies to support their deployment.

Activities

Working Group members conduct and publish extensive analyses that provide stakeholders with policy recommendations and best practices. Members worked on two such projects in 2015–2016.

- **Renewable Energy Auctions: A Guide to Design.** IRENA coordinated this analysis of various design options of the auction scheme, the results of which were published in June 2015.
- **Securing the Value of Wind and Solar Power.** The International Energy Agency's (IEA's) Renewable Energy Division is carrying out this study, which analyzes different approaches for system and market integration of variable renewable energies. It also entails a capacity-building component in emerging economies via extensive case studies. The final report will include strategy recommendations on crafting policies that maximize the value of wind and solar power for the power system.

Progress

- **Published *Renewable Energy Auctions: A Guide to Design* in June 2015.** The number of countries relying on auctions has increased from just 6 in 2005 to more than 60 in early 2015. This report presents lessons learned and best practices on how governments can design and implement auctions cost-efficiently while ensuring that projects awarded come online in a timely manner. The guide presents the main trade-offs involved in auction design decisions and suggests ways to find the right balance for each jurisdiction. Results of this analysis were presented and discussed by an expert panel at the June 2015 European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Brussels.
- ***Securing the Value of Wind and Solar Power.*** This report will be finalized for presentation at CEM7 in San Francisco. Together with the IEA, the Working Group is preparing a Ministerial roundtable on this topic area, which will leverage the project's impact.
- **Actively sought to expand geographic scope** via outreach to China and Indonesia to encourage participation in the analysis *Securing the Value of Wind and Solar Power*, as well as in the initiative in general. In addition, the initiative has increased outreach to the private sector.

Next Steps

- **Continue to focus on increased, cost-efficient deployment of renewable energy sources** (in particular solar and wind) and system and grid integration of variable renewables.
- **Finalize** the ongoing IEA Grid Integration of Variable Renewables (GIVAR) analysis.
- **Coordinate an IRENA report on cost reduction potentials of solar and wind energy technologies for electricity generation** (including onshore and offshore wind energy, solar PV, and concentrated solar power [CSP] technologies).

Lead CEM Government(s) Denmark, Germany, Spain

Participating CEM Government(s) France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United States of America

Other Key Partners

Operating Agents: IEA, IRENA

Other official members (non-CEM): CENER, CIEMAT, Deutsche WindGuard GmbH, DIE, DLR, DTU, EOI, Fraunhofer Institute for System and Innovation Research, GeoModel Solar, GIZ, GWS, IEA-RETD, IEEJ, ISI, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, Mines ParisTech, NREL, Prognos AG, REEEP, REN21, RES4MED, RENAC, TERI, UKERC, UNEP
