



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

CONCEPT NOTE

Latin America and Caribbean Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy (FFRE) Workshop, Costa Rica

1. Context and Rationale

With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement adopted in 2015, the issue of energy transition is becoming ever more central to both national and global agendas. The Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Goal 7) advocates universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. It aims for a substantial increase in the share of renewables in the global energy mix, while increasing affordability of energy and doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

In line with its capacity development mandate, and in response to requests from Member States, UNDESA and its UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) have supported the organisation of training workshops on Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy (FFRE) transition policies and fiscal reforms. A first one-week workshop was hosted in Mauritius in May 2014 for the benefits of policymakers of ten island states, mostly from the Indian Ocean basin. The event also provided the opportunity to develop a FFRE capacity building and collaborative policymaking methodology, already re-used with other regional groups, notably in Nairobi for East African and South Asian countries in October 2014.

In a spirit of continuity in integrating more sustainable energy-related activities in its portfolio and considering the growing interest generated by such UNOSD-supported activities, UNOSD has pledged to continue its efforts supporting Goal 7, including the transition of fossil fuel towards renewable energy. Accordingly, as part of its 2017-18 Work Plan approved by its Steering Committee in May 2017, UNOSD is planning to implement a FFRE workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean region, with 20 to 30 participating countries. UNOSD is therefore working in collaboration with the Costa Rica Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) and the UN Country Team of Costa Rica to host a bilingual (Spanish and English) FFRE workshop in that country in November 2018.

2. Objectives

The objective of the FFRE workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean region is to support the capacity development of policymakers and other stakeholders from twenty to thirty countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region in implementing a swift and profound transition to renewable energy through implementing sustainable energy-related policy reforms. The workshop will convene heads or senior level officials of those countries' line ministries and departments such as energy, transport, economic development, natural resources and environment, and sustainability strategy agencies, SDGs implementation coordinating offices and the like.

The specific objectives are:

- To train thirty to forty (30-40) participants from twenty to thirty (20-30) countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy (FFRE) transition policies, and other environmental policy reforms through lectures, plenary and working group discussions, guided peer-review and discussions of/on case studies and

- To produce a participant's handbook summarizing the training to provide participants with practical guidance so they can move forward implementing their strategies and workplans towards FFRE transition in their counties. The participant's handbook will include basic FFRE profiling and trends in both technical and policy terms, including a discussion of the main political economic factors supporting or impeding FFRE transition and other environmental policy reforms; an analysis of the cases provided by participants during the workshop, as well as analyses of the potential for fossil fuel subsidy reform and renewable energy deployment in the participating countries; and all other workshop materials and outputs (PPT slides, photographs, bibliographies, manuals...).

3. Outputs

The workshop will have a number of deliverables, some that will prepare and guide discussions during the event, and others resulting from its training and deliberations. They include:

- Training material, to be prepared by consultants in consultation with UNOSD's Senior SD Expert, including session overheads, hand-outs and other didactical tools, detailed workshop agenda, an introductory report looking at basic FFRE profiling and trends in both technical and policy terms, including a discussion of the main political and economic factors supporting or impeding FFRE transition and other environmental policy reforms, a case study template, evaluation questionnaire;
- Training workshop, involving the facilitating all sessions by consultants and the UNOSD Senior SD Expert through lectures, moderation of plenary seminars, supporting working groups, and guiding peer-review and collaborative processes. Consultants and staff will also coordinate and collect the work of rapporteurs for all plenary and breakout working sessions, and support the collaborative peer-review and discussion of case studies and country-specific strategies and plans towards implementing FFRE transition in participating countries;
- Mobilisation of Network and CoP participants, and setting-up of collaborative priorities, strategies, and work plans;
- **Participants' handbook** summarizing the training to provide participants with practical guidance for implementing FFRE transition in their counties, to include:
 - Basic FFRE profiling and trends in both technical and policy terms, including a discussion of the main political economic factors supporting or impeding FFRE and other environmental policy reforms;
 - Responses of participants to the questionnaire prior to the workshop – FFRE profiling and trends in technical and policy terms in the region
 - An analysis of all cases provided by participants during the workshop, including analyses of the potential for fossil fuel subsidy reform and renewable energy deployment in the participating countries;
 - All workshop materials and outputs (PPT slides, photographs, bibliographies, manuals)
- Substantive contract report that will include an overview of the workshop implementation and learning process, an evaluation of the workshop based on the participants' questionnaires and assessment by the consultants on both methodology and the achievement of objectives as well as on logistics issues, which should highlight strengths and weaknesses, and recommend options for improvement of future UNOSD support of FFRE capacity building.

4. Tentative Agenda

The workshop will follow the format typical of a capacity development and collaborative meeting. It will consist of a number of plenary sessions, lectures, interactive working group sessions and peer-review workshops. Time will be allocated for:

- Day 1: Review of fossil fuel and renewable energy issues;
- Day 2: The political economy of energy policies;
- Day 3: Designing and implementing a FFRE fiscal reform policy at country-level;
- Day 4: Drafting and peer-reviewing of country-specific strategies and work plans;
- Day 5: Collaborative writing and recommendations; site visits.

5. Schedule and Venue

The FFRE workshop is scheduled on 12-16 November 2018 in Costa Rica, at a venue suitable for the number of participants and cost-effective from the perspective of working efficiency and convenience of subsistence.

6. Participants and Organisers

The FFRE workshop will bring together heads of responsible units or senior policy-making experts already active in sustainability planning and implementation in their respective countries. Experts in FFRE fiscal reforms, with a long experience of delivering such training in both developed and developing countries, are being contracted to prepare, facilitate and report on the event. The UNOSD Senior SD Expert, as well the Head of UNOSD, will participate to coordinate the delivery of the event and document it for the purpose of replicating such training for other groups of countries in the near future.