6th International Forum on Long-Term Energy Scenarios (LTES) for the Clean Energy Transition

**Session 2. Turning grid planning to bankable grid pipelines:   
risk allocation and policy signals from scenarios**

Co-hosted with: Brazil

*Wednesday, 29 October 2025. Bonn, Germany. 11:45-13:15 (CET)*

1. **Context**

Transmission and distribution networks are among the most cited bottlenecks to scaling renewables for the clean energy transition. Governments use LTES to map where and when new grid capacity will be needed, but investors need more than long-term projections: they require specific signals that reduce uncertainty *i.e.* which corridors will advance, what costs are expected, and how risks will be managed.

This session will explore how scenario-informed grid planning can generate such signals and how they are operationalized through institutional arrangements and financial instruments. It will examine which risks, from currency exposure and off-taker creditworthiness to permitting and political uncertainty, most constrain capital, and how allocation mechanisms are evolving to address them.

The session will generate insights that inform the Global Coalition for Energy Planning’s work on Planning to Investment. These outputs will also contribute to COP30 Action Agenda priorities under Axis 1 (Transitioning Energy, Industry and Transport), particularly the objectives of tripling renewables and mobilizing finance, and to cross-cutting enablers on climate finance and institutional strengthening.

1. **Objective**

To identify how scenario-based grid planning can be translated into investor-relevant signals and risk allocation frameworks, and to distill practical lessons that inform GCEP recommendations.

1. **Expected outcomes**

* Practical lessons on how LTES-based grid planning informed investor signals and project pipelines.
* Shared understanding of which risks most constrain private investment in grids, and which allocation options are under consideration.
* Insights into institutional steps (regulatory, financial, governance) that help translate planning outputs into bankable projects.
* Inputs to GCEP Workstream 1 (Planning to Investment) and, strategically, to the COP30 Action Agenda’s goal of bridging ambition with implementation.

1. **Proposed Agenda (90 min)**

**Moderator:** (TBC)

**Start:** 11:45 (CET)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Duration** | **Details** |
| 05 min | **Welcome and introduction by moderator.**  *Overview of the session and context of the topic.* |
| 07 min | **Scene-setting presentation.**  *How scenarios can integrate supply chain risks and resilience strategies*  *Speakers:*   * *Lucas de Oliveira, EPE, Brazil. National experiences in transmission auctions.* * *Gayathri Nair, Programme Officer-Technology and Infrastructure for Grid Integration. IRENA. Delivering large-scale grid infrastructure projects.* |
| 15 min | **Opening round of panelist statements.**  *Panelists share how their institution/country is addressing the planning-to-investment gap in grids, and which risks are most pressing.* |
| 50 min | **Panel discussion.**  *This session will explore how LTES outputs are shaping grid investment pipelines. Panelists will discuss how these signals translate into risk-allocation options and which risks most constrain private capital.*  *Panelist:*   * *Arturo Alarcon. Inter-American Development Bank.* * *Dennis Volk. BNetzA. Germany* |
| 10 min | **Floor interventions/Q&A** |
| 03 min | **Wrap-up of the session** |

1. **Proposed guiding questions**

For governments:

* Which outputs from your national planning (e.g. scenarios, corridor maps, CAPEX estimates) have been most effective in giving investors visibility?
* What single risk has most limited private capital in your grid pipelines, and how are you addressing it?

For MDB:

* When a government approaches you with a grid project, what planning signals or documentation must be in place before you can mobilize capital?
* Which risk allocation tools have you used most often in grid projects, and what made them viable?

For regulator:

* How does Germany translate its long-term scenarios into corridor decisions and tenders?
* What regulatory steps give investors confidence that those projects will materialize?

For private sector:

* From an investor or supplier perspective, which policy signals from planning frameworks reduce uncertainty in your grid investments?
* Which risks most influence your willingness to finance or supply, and how do you see them best allocated?

For regional/international initiatives:

* How can regional or international planning initiatives use LTES to identify corridors and create investable pipelines?
* What standards or coordination mechanisms are needed so international investors can trust those pipelines?

Cross-cutting wrap-up question (for all):

* Looking at your experience, what single adjustment in how scenarios and grid plans are prepared would most help unlock capital?