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

**Session 3. Communicating scenarios to build strong public  
 and political support for the energy transition.**

Co-hosted with: Canada

*Wednesday, 29 October 2025. Bonn, Germany. 14:15-15:45 (CET)*

1. **Context**

Scenarios are powerful tools for decision-making, but their value depends on how results are communicated and understood. Too often, scenario outputs remain confined to technical audiences, leaving untapped opportunities to build broader public and political support. Governments and institutions are finding that linking scenario insights to everyday concerns, household costs, employment, reliability of supply, makes them more accessible and compelling.

This session will focus on how countries and organizations have turned complex modelling results into narratives that resonate. It will highlight strategies for framing costs and benefits, emphasizing social and economic opportunities, and showing how scenarios anticipate and manage risks. It will also present ***IRENA’s participatory planning toolkit***, which provides practical methods for engaging diverse stakeholders in scenario processes and co-developing narratives that inspire action.

1. **Objective**

To identify practical approaches for using LTES outputs and participatory processes to build public trust, political support, and shared ownership of the energy transition.

1. **Expected outcomes**

* Lessons on framing scenario results to emphasize affordability, jobs, and reliability.
* Practical approaches for translating technical outputs into compelling narratives that resonate with non-expert audiences.
* Examples of partnerships and communication channels that amplified the reach and impact of scenario messages.
* Insights into participatory methods that strengthen ownership and legitimacy of scenario outcomes.

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

**Moderator:** IRENA (TBC)

**Start:** 14:15 (CET)

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| **Duration** | **Details** |
| 05 min | **Welcome and introduction by moderator.**  *Overview of the session and context of the topic.* |
| 15 min | **Scene-setting presentations.**  *Communicating scenario results*  *Speaker: Nadeem Goussous. IRENA*  *Insights from participatory processes.*  *Speaker: Evangelos Panos. Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI)* |
| 50 min | **Panel discussion.**  *Panelist:*   * *Franziska Bock. Delft University of Technology.* * *Emily Leadbetter. National Energy System Operator. NESO (TBC)* * *Tatiana Giron Useche. Unidad de Planeación Minero Energética. Colombia (TBC)* * *Denmark. (TBC)* * *Evangelos Panos. Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI)* * *Canada (TBC)* |
| 17 min | **Floor interventions/Q&A** |
| 03 min | **Wrap-up of the session** |

1. **Proposed guiding questions**

Academic/research

* What approaches (visuals, narratives, participatory methods) make scenario results understandable and trusted by non-expert audiences?
* What evidence have you seen about what *does not* work in communicating scenarios?

**For system operator**

* Which aspects of your scenarios (e.g. reliability, cost implications, grid expansion) have resonated most with policymakers and the public?
* How have you framed potentially controversial findings (grid siting, investment costs) to maintain support?

**For national planners / government**

* What lessons from Colombia show how scenario insights can be linked to social and economic concerns (jobs, affordability)?
* How have participatory processes been used to strengthen buy-in from ministries, communities, or parliament?
* How has Denmark used scenarios to build long-term political consensus and public acceptance of ambitious renewables targets?
* What communication practices ensured the message stayed credible across different governments and political cycles?

**Cross-cutting question for all**

* Looking at your experience, what single adjustment in how scenarios are communicated would most help build stronger political and public support for the transition?