



Africa Energy Forum Webinar Concept Note
“Building a harmonized and centralized Energy database through
the Africa Energy Information System”
(AFREC & AfDB)

21 October 2020

Introduction

An essential driver of the emerging data revolution in Africa is the strengthening of the statistical function at the pan-African organizations, namely the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to address the issue of statistical underdevelopment in the Region. Indeed, as defined by the Reference Regional Strategic Framework¹ (RRSF) for statistical capacity building in Africa, the African Statistical System comprises the abovementioned pan-African organizations, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the Regional Economic Communities and sub-regional organizations, as well as National Statistics Offices, Regional Statistical Training Centers, Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies. Among other responsibilities, these pan-African organizations are mandated to play a significant role in ensuring the harmonization of statistics in Africa and developing a continental statistical database. In this respect, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Energy Commission (AFREC), a specialized technical agency of AU, have collaborated to build a modern Energy Information System (AEIS) for the African Continent.

The Africa Energy Forum (AEF) is the global investment conference & exhibition for Africa's energy, infrastructure & industrial sectors. The highly attended forum brings together decision-makers in Africa's energy sector to form partnerships, identify opportunities and collectively move the industry forward. The AEF 2020 event will be conducted virtually under the overall theme "*The 5th Industrial Revolution: Energy, Technology, Purpose, Inclusivity, Harnessing Technology for Humanity to Recover Better*".

The AfDB in collaboration with AFREC intends to hold a webinar at the African Energy Forum to present and discuss with relevant stakeholders in the energy data space, the scope and features of the AEIS in contributing to energy data availability and harmonization in Africa under the proposed theme "*Building a harmonized and centralized Energy data through the Africa Energy Information System*". This Concept Note presents the background of the AEIS, the objectives and expected results of the webinar, the target audience, and the organization of the webinars.

Background

AFREC has a mandate to ensure coordination, protection, conservation, and development of energy resources on the African continent while ensuring rational exploitation, commercialization, and integration of the same. To achieve its mandate, AFREC has been collecting energy statistics data from African Member states and disseminating them to continental and regional African institutions, and International organizations that use this data as their main source of energy statistics. For close to a decade now, AFREC has established a network of National Focal Points (NFP) located within the Ministries of the African Member States responsible for energy to collect primary information on all the different energy sources (fossil fuels, renewables, electricity, etc), socioeconomic data, performance indicators, and historical data. In collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) and other stakeholders, AFREC developed an Africa Energy Statistics Database (AESD), and an Africa Energy Statistics Questionnaire (AESQ), collectively called the Africa Energy Information System (AEIS) and available through AFREC's

¹ <https://www.uneca.org/publications/reference-regional-strategic-framework-statistical-capacity-building-africa>

website². Based on this experience, AFREC has undertaken an assessment of its statistical activities in order to identify what needs to be done to enhance its impact on various energy topics in Africa (including energy information). Consequently, **AFREC has decided to modernize its statistical processes starting from data collection to validation, processing, and disseminating the energy statistics and information.**

The AfDB is supporting AFREC in this modernization effort of the AEIS as the Bank is one of the main users of the AFREC's database and publish widely statistical information based on this source through the Africa Energy Portal³. The Bank sees in this collaboration an opportunity to strengthen the African Statistical System, in general, and particularly AFREC's statistical capacity. The AEIS improvement will result in better harmonization of energy statistics, increased coordination of statistical activities, and rationalized collection and dissemination of statistical information as well as availability of the most recent energy data on Africa. The 2020 Africa Energy Information System (AEIS) exhibits the following characteristics: (i) its coverage is wide enough to include the monitoring of the UN Sustainable development Goals, the detailed energy balances of all African Countries, energy efficiencies data in all sectors of the economy, energy prices, and taxes, and many more; (ii) it provides online technical, interactive and visualization tools for data providers and end-users; (iii) it is aligned with the statistical systems in the Continent; (iv) it rationalizes and speed-up the data collection process; and (iv) it offers an opportunity for capacity buildings in the energy sector.

The objectives and expected outcome of the webinar

The objectives of the webinar are to : (i) introduce to the international community the public accessible 2020 AEIS; (ii) highlight the key features of the AEIS as tool for harmonization and coordination of statistical activities as well as rationalization of collection and dissemination of statistical information in Africa; (iii) discuss the role AEIS will play in supporting the energy sector and the continent to recover better, and (iv) establish appropriate collaborations and partnerships among stakeholders around the AEIS. The presentation of the 2020 AEIS will focus on its key features including the way it provides for harmonization of statistics, leverages coordination of statistical activities on the energy sector, ensures collaboration among Member Countries and Development Partners, and facilitates statistical capacity-building aspects.

Some expected outcomes are (i) the 2020 AEIS positioned as the most important energy data source in Africa, (ii) identify how best AEIS (and partners) can support the African Energy sector and the continent to recover better through a provision of up to data and information, and (iii) the AEIS established as a catalyst for capacity building in energy statistics in Africa.

Target audience

This webinar will be organized during the Africa Energy Forum.

The target audience of the webinar will be the African Ministers of Energy or their representatives and high-level stakeholders at regional organizations and institutions such as RE&EE, RPPs, RECs, APUA and international organizations such AFREC, AfDB, AU-NEPAD, European

² <https://afrec-energy.org/>

³ <https://africa-energy-portal.org>

Commission, FAO, Eurostat, UNSTAT, AFRISTAT, AEEP, World Bank, IRENA, IEA, OPEC, JODI, AREI, UNECA, Africa Power Pools, AFUR, Association of Regulators, etc.

Format of the webinar

The webinar will be organized during the Africa Energy Forum from 20 – 28 October 2020 for one-hour and half duration and will comprise presentations, interactive discussions and question and answers sessions among participants.

The proposed summary program outline will be as follows:

1. Opening and setting the scene (20min):

- Opening remarks by AfDB and AFREC
- Invited keynote speaker
- Presentation of the AEIS.

2. Panel discussion (25min):

After a short presentation introducing the AEIS, the moderator will engage panelists and discussants to answer questions around following issues:

- *How the AEIS is going to make a contribution to the sector, in particular towards achieving the UN SDG7 goals?*
- *To which extent the AEIS will play a mitigation role in supporting the energy sector to recover better from the COVID-19?*
- *Taking stock of the AEIS, what should be done to increase the role of regional organizations such as the regional power pools, RECs and RE&EE centers to enhance data collection and processing at regional level (in timely manner) and achieve fostering energy cooperation in Africa?*

3. Speaking slot for partners as discussants (20min): how the partnership will help to enhance availability and harmonization of data:

- IEA
- IRENA
- WORLD BANK
- UNSD

4. Question & Answers session (10min)