02 May 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, The African Energy Commission (AFREC) has conducted an Expert Group Meeting to develop training modules for the four questionnaires used by AFREC to collect energy data from the 55 African Union Member States.
The main aim of the EGM is to make training modules on the AFREC questionnaires available to African energy statisticians. The specifics objectives are the following:

- Design the framework of the training modules on the AFREC questionnaires;
- Propose the content of the training modules for the four questionnaires;
- Develop a case study to enable the trainees to master all the input data necessary to complete each questionnaire;
- Examine the adequate duration (number of hours) of training for the four questionnaires;
- Discuss the selection criteria for trainers and trainees at the national, regional and continental level;
- Discuss the training schedule;
- Discuss the follow up methods after training.

On behalf of AFREC's Executive Director, Mr. Rashid Ali Abdallah, Mr. Nougbohoue Samson Bel-Aube, Head of Energy Information System and Statistics, emphasized on the importance of Africa relying on African Experts thus the move to engage expert focal points who have mastered the questionnaires and have been trained by AFREC before to develop the modules with AFREC. He also highlighted the importance of energy data therefore the need to improve data collection from the member states. He highlighted that as is the mandate of AFREC, support to member countries for energy data collection for the four questionnaires will continue to ensure continued capacity building and to ensure AFREC receives reliable and accurate energy data to develop the African Energy Balance.
The Experts will review and validate the training modules for each of the four questionnaires. They will prepare a Master Module to use when training participants as a guide, they will also prepare practical exercises that will be used for hands on training for member states focal points.

AFREC has several initiatives lined up that will improve the state of energy data availability, these include the production of the Annual Africa Energy Outlook, this year an Electricity Outlook will be produced. AFREC in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD and IAEA is looking at Energy modelling and is currently seeking funding to support member states to collect their biomass data.

**Notes to Editor**

**About the African Energy Information System**

Since 2012, AFREC has put in place a platform named the African Energy Information System (AEIS) and a capacity building programme to support National Focal Points (NFPs) in the Member States, to coordinate energy data collection and validation at national level by using four questionnaires: Energy statistics (Energy Balance) and Energy efficiency for residential sector, Power Plants Capacity, and Energy Prices and Taxes. In 2020, AFREC conducted a comprehensive improvement of the AEIS and the new AEIS is now composed of the following elements: Profile of data collectors, Excel questionnaires (Data collection Tools), Data submission mechanism (online data collection), Data storage platform, Data dissemination and reporting system (publications and online data visualization tools) and Data managers and analysts (user interface for analysis dedicated to NFPs).
About the African Energy Commission

The African Energy Commission (AFREC) is a specialised energy agency of the African Union, mandated to implement African energy programmes by coordinating, harmonising, protect, conserve, develop, promote rational exploitation, commercialization, resource mobilisation and integration of energy resources for all AU Member states.

AFREC is also entrusted with the responsibility to design, create and set up the continental energy database, and facilitate rapid dissemination of information among AU member states, Regional Economic communities in Africa, investors amongst others.

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