

Remarks by IEF Director of Energy Dialogue Christof van Agt
Virtual Olade IADB WB workshop on the
methodological harmonization of energy statistics
Quito, Ecuador
Monday 5 October 2020

Thank you, Anders, colleagues for the kind introduction. On behalf of the International Energy Forum it is of course a pleasure to assist in the launching of this virtual workshop on methodological harmonization of energy statistics with the Latin American Development Organization, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

As the coordinator of the Joint Organisations Initiative – JODI, IEF strongly supports any and all efforts to improve greater consistency in energy data gathering methods to improve the comparability of data and elevate the global energy dialogue through higher standards in statistical reliability.

The new Secretary General of the IEF attaches great importance to the opportunities offered in strengthening collaboration with OLADE, the IEA, as partners in JODI, to improve energy market data transparency in Latin America and the Caribbean, and also work with the IADB, WB, and IMF to advance global energy dialogue agendas in the region based on robust, relevant, and more regular data submission.

To facilitate this and enhance overall energy data transparency, international cooperation frameworks in the context of the Program for Strengthening of Management and Dissemination of Energy Information for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean plays a pivotal role.

Accelerating the flow of complete and reliable data comes at a premium in any crisis to which COVID-19 takes no exemption. The impact of the pandemic calls for a renewed and sharpened focus on challenges surrounding energy data transparency. The IEF in collaboration with JODI partners and other organisations, aims to take the challenge in a holistic, and integrated approach forward. This includes:

- Leveraging digital solutions to accelerate data submissions and enhance market transparency.
- Expand partnerships to enhance energy data coverage on the IEF platform to better inform on energy security, market stability.
- Leverage data to mobilise investment in universal energy access, climate neutral growth, and achieve sustainable development goals by this decade.

This virtual workshop is timely and fits well with our renewed regional engagement and the commitment of the IEF to re-energise and accelerate joint efforts to improve market transparency and move the global energy dialogue forward.

This workshop will help us to advance our work and inform upcoming IEF Ministerial meeting including the:

- The 7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum hosted by Malaysia on 3 December 2020, and
- The next the 17th IEF International Energy Ministerial and Business Forum hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2021.