



workshop

on International
Standards in support
of policies for
energy efficiency
and **renewable**
energy

Thursday 13 March 2014, Paris, France



Summary report

Growing role of International Standards in policy development

Although standards are an integral part of policies, technology development and market creation, they are often a hidden aspect.

Progress towards more sustainable energy systems hinges not only on effective policies but also on private sector investment in clean technologies. International standards are essential to create the certainty and clarity needed for market development and allow investors to develop viable business models.

At the IEA-IEC-ISO workshop, policymakers, representatives from international standardization organizations and other key stakeholders joined forces to explore how International Standards can support policymakers to accelerate energy efficiency (EE) and the use of renewable energies (RE).

Setting the scene: radical changes in the energy world

Global energy demand is expected to increase by 33% between now and 2025. As electricity becomes an ever

more important aspect of economic development, great electrification is taking place and the power demands in the coming years will be driven by emerging economies and developing countries. In this setting, the scaling up of EE and RE is crucial to support the global economy and the climate.

Recommendations

- International Standards should be used in support of EE and RE policies
- Most if not all technical solutions are globally relevant so needs identified nationally or regionally should be brought to the international level as soon as possible to support global advances in EE and RE.
- Public and private sectors should work hand-in-hand
- For industry it's important that the marketplace has a level playing field and for policymakers it's important to reduce risk, without hindering the market. International Standards should be developed in response to policy ambitions and conversely, policy may also be influenced by technical developments. Working in alignment on a global scale will accelerate advances in EE and the use of RE.
- Transparency and collaboration are key

Many efforts are underway to map policy and standardization needs in EE and RE. An early exchange of information at the international level between the policymakers and the

standards developing organizations would enhance alignment. A more proactive, targeted outreach by standardisation bodies and policymakers is therefore encouraged to improve communication and interaction.

More concretely, policymakers should engage more with the leadership of IEC and ISO and any horizontal committees dealing with energy efficiency and renewables (e.g. currently IEC/ACEE and ISO/SAG-E). In turn, the IEC and ISO should engage with relevant policy fora of the IEA and other intergovernmental organizations in the field (e.g., IRENA).

Systemic and holistic approaches are necessary

In the words of Lord Kelvin “if you can't measure things, you can't improve them”, but measuring something is only the very first step towards finding a solution that will make a difference on the ground. Nowadays, standards need to cover topics such as installation, operation and maintenance as well as performance and safety. Cross sector approaches should be used as efficiencies typically show up across the whole system.

Coherent direction is required

Governments need to be clear about the policy objectives for EE and RE and should align policies as far as possible so that International Standards can be developed in support of these goals. This will be essential if we wish to provide simple harmonized global solutions.

