

IEA Ministerial Roundtable

Mobilising Investments for Secure and Sustainable Power Systems

Chairs' Summary

29 May 2020
14h00 – 16h00 CEST
Held via video conference

International
Energy Agency

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A secure power sector is crucial for our economies today – and vital for economic development and sustainable recoveries tomorrow.

Global energy leaders met via videoconference on 29 May 2020 to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the electricity sector, its implications for investments in the power sector that are needed to support clean energy transitions, and the opportunities for international co-operation and collaboration. The roundtable discussion was one in a series leading up to the International Energy Agency's Clean Energy Transitions Summit, which will take place on 9 July 2020.

Participants recognised the critical importance of the electricity sector in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic to keep essential services running, hospitals open, and communication flowing. They applauded the efforts of electricity companies and their employees in keeping the lights on despite the health risks involved.

The response to the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a marked reduction in electricity demand. The recent [IEA Global Energy Review](#) estimates that global electricity demand could fall by 5% overall in 2020 and by up to 10% in some regions. The consequent reduction in revenues will leave many utilities – both state-owned and private – financially weaker and less able to make much-needed new investments in future.

Participants in the meeting expressed concern over the finding by the IEA *World Energy Investment* report that capital spending in the power sector is set to drop in 2020. Global investments in low carbon generation, grids, flexibility and storage are out of step with the needs of sustainable and resilient power systems that have growing shares of variable renewables.

Electricity demand will inevitably rebound and new investment will be needed to keep systems secure. Participants acknowledged that governments have a crucial role in ensuring the healthy development of the electricity sector by improving market rules and policies both



in the short and long term. Governments should also work together to accelerate investment in sustainable and secure power systems, with effective co-operation the key to facilitating international financial flows, provision of technical assistance and the exchange of best practices. Governments must remain vigilant on near- and long-term risks to electricity security and ensure that tomorrow's systems remain reliable even as they are transformed by the rise of clean energy technologies.

Clean energy transitions will be a key focus in the lead up to COP 26 and beyond. Participants recognised the leadership of the IEA on clean energy transitions and welcomed the upcoming Clean Energy Transitions Summit that will take place on 9 July 2020.

As the co-chairs of this event, we would like to thank all participants for their active engagement and constructive contributions.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng'.

Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng M.P.
Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth
United Kingdom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Birol'.

Dr. Fatih Birol
Executive Director
International Energy Agency

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