

Breakout Session 1: Common Challenges – Discussion Questions

Groups 1A and 1B:

1. What are the largest energy subsidies in your country? Have there been recent reforms of these?
2. What are the challenges for charging market-based tariffs in the energy sector?
3. What social impact mitigation policies have been put in place to protect vulnerable groups from people from price rises in your country?

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Groups 2A and 2B:

1. Did the government try to reform energy subsidies in your country in recent years? If so, what were the key obstacles to reform?
2. Do electricity, gas and heating tariffs for end consumers in your country reflect international market energy prices?
3. Are there social support schemes available for low-income households to help them pay their energy bills?

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Groups 3A and 3B:

1. What are prevailing energy subsidies mechanisms (e.g., budget transfers, tax benefits to producers, cross-subsidies between different fuels, capital injections into state companies, etc.) still used in your country?
2. How frequently are electricity, gas and heating tariffs for end consumers are revised in your country? How are prices decided?
3. What groups of households are eligible for utility subsidies from the state? Is means-testing used to evaluate eligibility of households for utility subsidies?

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Groups 4A and 4B:

1. If the government reformed energy subsidies in the last five years, have results of the reform being sustained over long run? If any, what measures were taken to prevent the roll back?
2. What were key communication strategies of your government to gain acceptance of energy subsidy reform/considerable increase of energy tariffs for households? Have these strategies been successful?
3. What is the share of households receiving social support from state to help them pay their energy bills?

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Groups 5A and 5B:

1. Are the majority of energy and utility companies in state or private ownership? What is the situation in oil and gas, electricity and heat sectors?
2. What energy pricing methodology (cost plus, market parity, etc.) is used in your country?
3. Are energy bills charged based on metering or approved normative consumption? What is the share of households consumption of gas, electricity and heat currently covered with metering?