

## EXPERT WORKSHOP:

# Policy Best Practices for Accelerating the Deployment of Low-Carbon Energy and Climate Technologies

*Regional focus: Middle East and North Africa, Caspian and Black Sea regions*

**23 September 2014**

International Energy Agency  
9 rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris

## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Policy and decision makers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the Caspian and Black Sea regions have at their disposal a range of policy tools and measures to support the uptake of climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies, particularly renewable energy, energy efficiency and water efficiency technologies. But for the countries in these regions to fulfil their low-carbon energy potential, stakeholders must address a complex array of policy, technical, institutional and financial challenges, said experts at a workshop in Paris on 23 September 2014.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) in collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) hosted a workshop that provided over 60 international and regional experts with the opportunity to share views on the current landscape of policy practices that foster low-carbon energy technology deployment. The meeting was organised into four main sessions: (i) *policy pathways in support of EE&RE deployment*; (ii) *policy pathways in support of the wider scope of climate technologies*; (iii) *experiences of governmental agencies and policy makers*; and (iv) *developing and implementing policy frameworks at the local level*. Experts from international, regional and national organisations, both government and non-government, provided examples of policies for supporting the deployment of EE and RE technologies, both in the Black Sea/Caspian and MENA regions, and beyond by way of comparative example.

A number of themes emerged. Participants discussed the value of an “energy system” or “whole of economy” approach to considering climate technologies, particularly in the context of the energy-water-food nexus, and at the same time, some discussants referred to the importance of understanding the specificities of and conditions for individual technology clusters. Participants noted the importance of stable yet flexible policy frameworks that are adapted to the level of market maturity of relevant climate technologies and that can be adapted over time as market maturity progresses.

Many policy best practices were highlighted, while considerable barriers were also brought to light, including mixed market signals, inadequacy of institutional and regulatory/legal architecture, lack of skilled human capacity, and informational asymmetries such as the absence of sufficient awareness-raising activities to influence lifestyle factors. Participants noted a range of features that can assist in overcoming barriers—for instance, understanding regional contexts, appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders, political support, consistent market signals within the energy sector, identifying local project “champions”, sound energy data and effective policy implementation monitoring mechanisms.

This one-day event was co-ordinated by the IEA's [International Low-Carbon Energy Technology Platform](#) in the framework of a wider collaboration between the IEA and the EBRD. The key messages from the workshop will feed into an IEA *Insights Paper* on policy needs and best practices for the deployment of low-carbon energy technologies, which will be released early next year. Later in 2015, a publication on market assessment methodologies will follow, building on one or more regional workshops aimed at collecting information and strengthening IEA engagement with partner countries in the MENA and Black Sea/Caspian regions. Drawing on important insights gathered through this workshop and analytical work that will follow, some country pilot studies are planned to be conducted in 2015-2016. All publications produced in the framework of the IEA-EBRD collaboration will be made freely available on the IEA website.