

Economic and Social Council

Measures to reduce energy dependency



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Introduction

In the complex arena of global affairs, the issue of energy dependency has emerged as a paramount concern, affecting nations across economic, environmental, and geopolitical spectrums. At the Conference, as we gather to address this pressing challenge, the need for measures to reduce energy dependency takes center stage. Navigating the delicate balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability, our task is to collaboratively explore pragmatic solutions that recognize the unique circumstances of each nation while fostering global cooperation. The intricacies of this issue demand our collective attention, and this conference provides a crucial platform for the exchange of ideas and the negotiation of policies. Let us approach this discourse with a commitment to finding common ground, fostering innovation, and building a sustainable future. May our discussions be characterized by cooperation, compromise, and a shared determination to craft meaningful measures that transcend borders, ushering in a more resilient, secure, and sustainable global energy landscape.

Definition of Key Terms

Energy Dependency: Energy dependency refers to the reliance of a nation or region on external sources for its energy needs. This reliance can manifest in the form of importing fossil fuels, electricity, or other energy resources to meet domestic demand.

Renewable Energy: Renewable energy is derived from sources that are naturally replenished. Examples include solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power.

Energy Security: Energy security involves ensuring a stable and reliable supply of energy resources to meet the needs of a nation, minimizing vulnerability to disruptions and price fluctuations.



Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems: Photovoltaics, commonly referred to as PV or solar photovoltaics, enable the direct conversion of light energy—mostly from sunlight—through solar cells into electrical energy. This technology was first used in space exploration in 1958. After that, it was used to power personal electronic gadgets like parking meters and calculators. These days, the production of grid-connected power, particularly from ground-mounted solar arrays and rooftop solar farms, is by far its most important application.

Biomass energy: Biomass refers to all organic materials of plant or animal origin utilized as an energy source. Broadly defined, biomass encompasses the entire organic substance generated or produced by plants, animals, and humans.

Net-zero: Global net-zero emissions describe the state in which carbon dioxide emissions resulting from human activities and the removal of these gases are in balance over a specific period. It is often simply referred to as net zero.

LNG (liquefied natural gas): liquefied natural gas it consists of around 98 per cent methane. It is colorless and non-toxic.



General Overview

Energy independence affects people's daily lives and goes beyond simply switching to renewable energy sources. It means freeing ourselves from dependence to meet our own energy needs. We saw this at the start of the war in Ukraine, when Russia decided to cut off gas supplies, leading to shortages and rising gas prices across Europe. As no country in the world wants to have a shortage of these resources, this situation has once again highlighted the importance of becoming independent of other countries.

To ensure a more stable and secure economy, nations need to ensure that they are not dependent on the decisions of major oil and gas exporters such as Russia, Iraq, Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates. They can protect themselves from geopolitical uncertainties and external disruptions by encouraging diversification of energy sources and promoting self-sufficiency. This not only reduces economic risks, but also contributes to a more resilient and sustainable energy and national future. During the Russian gas cut-off mentioned above, the impact of dependence on the actions of less dominant energy exporters became clear. It highlighted the vulnerability of such dependence. Countries can proactively respond to changing geopolitical tensions, trade disputes or sudden changes in the energy policies of major suppliers by diversifying their energy portfolio. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels is also in line with the global goal of combating climate change. Improving the transition to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources.

In conclusion, the goal of energy independence is not only an economic or geopolitical necessity, but also a strategic step towards a more resilient, sustainable and environmentally friendly future. Managing the complexity of the global energy landscape and promoting long-term stability is easier for countries that prioritise diversification, innovation and independence in their energy policies.

Major Parties Involved

Russia: Russia plays a pivotal role in the global landscape of energy dependency, both as a major energy producer and a key geopolitical actor. The nation's significant contributions to the global energy market, particularly in the realms of oil and natural gas, grant it substantial influence and strategic importance.

European Union (EU) : The European Union's influence on the discourse surrounding energy dependency extends far beyond the borders of its member states, making it a central player in the global conversation on sustainable energy and security.

USA: The United States has been working on diversifying its energy sources to reduce dependence on foreign oil. Policies have included promoting domestic



production of oil and natural gas, increasing investment in renewable energy sources, and improving energy efficiency.

France: France has a significant portion of its electricity generated from nuclear power. The country has a long-term commitment to nuclear energy, aiming to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. There is also an increasing focus on renewable energy sources.

Germany: Germany has been a leader in transitioning to renewable energy, known as the "Energiewende." The country is actively working to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, particularly coal, and increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix. Policies include phasing out nuclear power and supporting wind and solar energy.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia, as a major oil-producing nation, has historically been dependent on oil exports for revenue. However, there have been efforts to diversify the economy through initiatives like Vision 2030, which includes investments in renewable energy projects and the development of a more diverse energy sector.

UAE: The UAE has been investing in various energy sources to diversify its energy mix. While it is a significant oil producer, there is a growing focus on renewable energy, with projects such as the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park and nuclear power developments.

Venezuela: Venezuela has traditionally been heavily dependent on oil exports for its revenue. Economic and political challenges have impacted the country's ability to invest in alternative energy sources. The focus has been on stabilizing the oil industry and addressing internal challenges.

Timeline of Events

1859

Edwin L. Drake drills the world's first oil well outside Titusville, Pennsylvania.

1891

First invention of solar system

1942

Enrico Fermi achieved the first controlled nuclear chain reaction in a nuclear reactor as part of the Manhattan Project.

1960

Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, and other oil-exporting nations establish the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

1975

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, passed by the US Congress, establishes the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and mandates the first car fuel efficiency standards.



1980

The Iran-Iraq War was triggered by territorial conflicts over oil fields and cost the lives of millions of people.

1981

U.S. President Ronald Reagan announces his plan to lift price controls on oil and begins disassembling renewable-energy research programs.

1990

Gulf War, Iraq was heavily indebted from the Iran-Iraq war, which ended only two years earlier. Saddam Hussein charged Kuwait, Iraq's affluent neighbor, with taking advantage of the country's oil reserves, even alleging that Kuwait had used its oil wells against Iraq. Tension grew as a result of long-standing disagreements about border and oil resources. In January 1991, the US-led coalition intervened with UN sanction to stop Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which threatened both regional stability and the world's petroleum supply.

2003

The Iraq War in 2003 was a war for oil, with oil companies like ExxonMobil and Chevron benefiting from access to Iraq's previously nationalized oil industry. The invasion, led to the privatization of Iraq's oil sector, with contracts favoring foreign companies and contributing to economic challenges for Iraq. Despite increased oil production, the promised benefits, such as new jobs and improved living conditions, failed to materialize for the Iraqi people.

2008

Oil prices hit a record \$148 a barrel.

2009

China's oil imports surpass domestic production for the first time.

2021

Russia was the third-largest energy producer and energy consumer in the world

June 2022

The European Union (EU) passed its sixth sanctions package against Russia, which included a complete ban on all seaborne crude oil and petroleum product imports from Russia into the EU. The sixth sanctions package also banned EU-based companies from providing any maritime transport services for petroleum cargoes from Russia.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Since the beginning of the Ukrainian war, many European countries have started to invest more money in other energy sources. LNG is at the top of the list, many countries have built connections to import liquefied natural gas from countries other



than Russia. The REPowerEU plan is intended to ensure greater independence from Russia in the EU.

Through the plan, the EU will invest 210 billion euros by 2027, which is less than the EU currently spends on Russian energy. The money is to be channeled into renewable energy, grid expansion and measures to increase energy efficiency. Finalization of gas import agreements with non-Russian nations is underway, along with investments in the joint procurement of LNG (liquefied natural gas). Strategic alliances are being forged with Namibia, Egypt, and Kazakhstan in order to provide a stable and sustainable renewable hydrogen supply. In addition, contracts for the export of natural gas to Europe have been made with Egypt and Israel.

Possible Solutions

Expanding renewable energy sources :

Achieving energy independence requires increasing the usage of renewable energy sources. Diverse alternatives such as hydropower, solar, wind, and biomass can bolster a country's energy supply. Solar energy can be used in large-scale solar farms and on rooftops, particularly with photovoltaic systems. Modern wind turbines, including small-scale ones in isolated locations, are another important source of electricity.

Water moving through a dam can provide hydropower, which is a dependable source of electricity, particularly in nations with rivers. All things considered, putting a high priority on renewable energy is essential to achieving energy independence, lowering dependency on non-renewable resources, and lessening environmental effects. This all-encompassing strategy enhances energy security and promotes a cleaner, more sustainable energy future, supporting international efforts to battle climate change.

Financial Incentives:

It is essential to provide significant financial incentives in order to attain energy independence. To increase investments in renewable energy, governments might make use of instruments like grants, subsidies, tax exemptions, and low-interest loans. Sustainable practices become more widely available when large subsidies are provided for technologies such as wind turbines and solar panels.

Tax credits are a potent tool for promoting the use of renewable energy by giving consumers and businesses incentives. Long-term sustainability is encouraged by phasing off these benefits gradually as the sector develops. Initiatives in green finance, along with advantageous credit terms, facilitate renewable energy projects without placing undue financial strain on them.

Energy Diplomacy:



The transition to sustainable energy on a global scale requires energy diplomacy. Technology and resource sharing is facilitated when international collaboration in renewable energy is encouraged through partnerships. This entails teamwork, information exchange, and collaborative projects to hasten the development of renewable energy solutions. Additionally, through helping developing nations embrace renewable technology, energy diplomacy plays a critical role in reducing global imbalances in energy access. Attending international conferences and agreements demonstrates a dedication to a future powered by sustainable energy and offers avenues for diplomatic exchanges. Energy diplomacy essentially facilitates the shift to renewable energy by encouraging cooperation, tackling energy-related issues, and strengthening the international energy system.

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