

Energy storage policy updates kabul

The pledge would bring the United Nations (UN) in line with recent commitments by G7 and G20 countries and modelling by the International Energy Agency (IEA), which found that 1.5TW of storage will be needed to enable global renewable energy targets.

Ahead of the multilateral United Nations climate summit, which will take place from 11 to 22 November in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, the COP29 Presidency has published nine Declarations and Pledges for its Action Agenda.

The Action Agenda was first outlined last month. The Azerbaijani Presidency has now issued the final texts of Declarations and Pledges, which alongside commitment to the Energy Storage and Grids Pledge, include a Green Energy Pledge to establish "green energy zones and corridors."

In the historic 2015 Paris Agreement, the UN set the goal of limiting global temperature increases to less than 2°C below pre-industrial levels and to within 1.5°C, recognising that renewable energy deployment would need to be tripled by 2030 and energy efficiency improvement rates doubled.

The final text of the Energy Storage and Grids Pledge for COP29 recognises the essential role both play in the power sector's decarbonisation, including facilitating the increased integration of renewable energy and providing stable and secure supply of electricity.

It also recognises that the cost of batteries has fallen on average by 90% since 2009, and concurs with IEA and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) findings of the benefits of storage for the grid.

These include the ability of storage to smooth variable renewable energy (VRE) generation, alleviate grid congestion and provide grid services, such as frequency and voltage regulation ancillary services.

These include policy and regulatory frameworks that facilitate the adoption of storage and remove barriers to investment such as double-charging for use of the grid--something the Energy Storage Coalition in Europe recently strongly advocated for.

There should be better planning regimes for investment in national power sectors that take a more holistic view of how energy storage at different scales can benefit the network, the Presidency said, while technology development and deployment that can reduce the costs and increase efficiency of energy storage systems should also be pursued.

It also calls for a more diversified and transparent supply chain for materials and components, including analysis of alternative or emerging technologies, encouraging standardisation across products and

strengthening international collaboration, as well as fostering a more inclusive and socially aware industry.

Meanwhile, on the grid side, the addition or refurbishment of more than 25,000,000km of grid infrastructure will be needed by 2030, while by 2040, the IEA has projected more than 40,000,000km of grid refurbishment or addition would be needed.

The Pledge makes seven suggestions, including exploring the role of batteries as a transmission or distribution asset, addressing planning and permitting bottlenecks to grid development, supporting renewable energy integration, and others.

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