



## WORKING GROUP AGENDA

**Date: 28 February 2024**

**Time: 10h00-14h00**

**Venue: Ms Teams**

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>	<b>DURATION</b>
1.	Welcome and apologies.	Chairman	10:00 – 10:05
2.	Plenary session - Notes of the last Joint WG meeting 28 June 2023	Chairman- <span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Appendix A</span>	10: 05 – 10:20
3.	Joint Advisory Workgroup sessions in the following order:  a. Assets Management Advisory Workgroup b. Standards Advisory Workgroup c. Sustainability Advisory Workgroup d. Electrification Advisory Workgroup e. Revenue Protection Advisory Workgroup	WG Chairpersons  A Jaykaran  K Mahunonyane T Govender V Padayachee H Hayes	  10:20  11:00 11:40 12:20 13:00
4.	Additional items.	Chairman	13:40
5.	General and closure		14:00



**POWER INSTITUTE OF EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
ADVISORY WORKGROUPS MEETING NOTES**

**DATE: 28 June 2023**

**VENUE: MS Teams Virtual**

**Present:** Vally Padayachee, Troy Govender, Brian Sibanda, Andreas Beutel, Don Ntsala, Kgopisho Mahunonyane, Jayshree Pershad, Kolodi Makola, Kurt Dedekind, Lloyd Setlhogo, Matshediso Mathabatha, Nkateko Khoza, Mariaan Avis, Mondli Mbandazayo, Rens Bindeman, Logan Pillay, Robert Mgunda, Vera T. Mede, Fungai Zowa, Thenjiwe Roda, Jean Venter, Andrew Nkosi.

**APOLOGIES:** Amar Jaykaran, Francois Le Roux, Nick Singh, Mhloimi Seithleko, Chabeli Ramaisa, Portia Papu, Francis Nyikayaramba, Mohobo Nkhasi, Beatrice Nambi.

### **1. WELCOME AND OPENING**

The Executive Officer Mr Vally Padayachee welcomed all in attendance and chaired the meeting.

Participants introduced themselves by stating their names, affiliations, roles, and specific responsibilities within their Utilities/Organisations.

Members also acknowledged attendees from Eskom Research and Development Division attending for the first time.

### **2. PIESA MEMBERSHIP AND MANDATE**

The chair explained that the mandate extends to East and Southern Africa, with member countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, DRC, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique and highlighted its unique position as an organization dedicated to utility collaboration and electrification in the East and Southern African region.

### **3. INITIATIVES AND ADVISORY WORKING GROUPS**

Members discussed the engagements and commitments of each working group and looked at overall interactions and objectives.

- **Electrification Advisory Group**

The core driver for PIESA's initiatives is electrification. The goal involves various technologies and initiatives to bring electricity access to households and communities.

The WG focuses on electrification-related projects, technologies, and standardization efforts of addressing challenges related to electrification and sharing experiences among member countries.

- **Revenue Protection Advisory Group**

The WG deals with challenges related to revenue protection and combating non-technical losses, which is a common problem in many African countries.

- **Assets and Infrastructure Advisory Group**  
Assets management and infrastructure play a crucial role in electrification efforts. Having a stable electrical grid and physical assets are essential components to achieving this goal.
- **Standardisation Advisory Group**  
One of PIESA's key value outputs is sharing technical standards among its member countries. The WG facilitates the exchange of standards related to electricity infrastructure and systems, promoting a collaborative approach.
- **Sustainability Advisory Group:**  
The WG, previously known as the Health and Safety Advisory Group, covers aspects related to sustainability, health, safety, and environmental considerations. It was **SUGGESTED** to add the Just Energy Transition (JET) under the sustainability group's umbrella.

#### 4. VALUE PROPOSITION:

The chair tabled the value proposition of PIESA, and members **NOTED** that it aims in providing opportunities for African countries to engage in knowledge-sharing, projects and collaboration. These opportunities seem to be especially valued by member countries that may not have the same level of resources or exposure to various projects.

- a) **Partnerships and Collaborations:** PIESA is actively working on forming partnerships and collaborations with other like-minded organizations. This includes organizations such as SANEDI, CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research), CESA (Consulting Engineers of South Africa), and Power Africa. These collaborations are intended to enhance PIESA's reach and impact across Africa.
- b) **Expanding Membership:** The organizations mentioned (CSIR, CESA, and Power Africa) are expressing interest in becoming PIESA members due to the synergy between their mandates and PIESA's goals. These partnerships could help PIESA establish itself as a central repository of relevant information for the region.
- c) **Leveraging Expertise:** Partnerships reflect an intention to leverage the collective expertise of various organizations to address the challenges and opportunities in the African energy sector. PIESA aims to create a more substantial impact by pooling resources and knowledge.

#### 5. COMMUNICATION.

##### a) Enhanced Representation

The chair mentioned the intention to have reasonable and adequate representation from all members in the work groups. The goal is to enrich discussions by involving diverse perspectives.

##### b) Representation Challenges

Furthermore, the chair explained the challenges of maintaining consistent representation in the advisory work groups. Factors such as personnel changes, departmental shifts, and job reassignments can impact the continuity of representation.

##### c) Diversity and Representation

The importance of diverse representation from utilities and countries in work groups can contribute to a comprehensive and well-rounded discussion. This can lead to more effective solutions and strategies.

## 6. WORKGROUP FEEDBACK

### 6.1 STANDARDISATION ADVISORY WORKGROUP

Kgopisho Mahunonyane provided an overview of the activities and plans of the Standards Advisory Group within the organization.

- **Group Objectives**

He explained that the group's main objective is to organize and harmonize existing standards, particularly those used by Eskom Distribution, in areas like electrification, cables, and other related fields. The aim is to become a source of reference for these standards within the region.

- **Centralization of Information**

Kgopisho emphasized the importance of centralizing information and making it easily accessible to members, ensuring that standards are readily available and can be accessed seamlessly from various locations.

- **Roadmap and Plans**

Members **NOTED** the group's roadmap, outlining its objectives for the next three years. He mentioned that they are working on lessons learned, integrating with relevant standard bodies, and engaging with the South African power pool.

- **Planned Sessions**

Kgopisho shared the planned session dates, with sessions scheduled for August 31st and 27th. He aims to finalize the year's plan during these sessions and invites expert speakers to discuss topics like electric vehicles and Wi-Fi-based electrification.

- **Site Visits**

He proposed arranging site visits for the group, particularly focusing on distributed generation and electrification in the Western Cape Province. These visits could help members gain insights into practical implementations and projects in the region.

- **Wi-Fi-Based Electrification**

Kgopisho highlighted the importance of Wi-Fi-based electrification as a crucial initiative, mentioning that speakers will discuss this topic during the planned sessions.

- **Smart Grid and Transitioning**

He mentioned that smart metering and smart grid technologies are integrated into the group's plans, given the industry's transition towards these technologies.

### 6.2 ELECTRIFICATION ADVISORY WORKGROUP

The chair presented the main outcomes and strategies of the electrification work group and provided an overview of the electrification status in various member countries.

- **South Africa:** The electrification rate in South Africa is close to 90% on grid electricity application, with about 10% relying on non-grid sources.
- **Lesotho:** Lesotho has around 40% electrification and is mainly focused on mountainous areas.
- **Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe's national electrification rate is about 2%, with 21% electrification in rural areas.
- **Uganda:** Uganda has an electrification rate of approximately 20%.
- **Botswana:** Botswana's electrification rate is around 29%.
- **Kenya:** Kenya has an electrification rate of approximately 40%.

## OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIES OF THE ELECTRIFICATION WORK GROUP

- **Alignment with Africa Agenda 2063**

The electrification work group aims to align its strategies with the Africa Agenda 2063, a comprehensive development plan for the continent that was adopted by all African Heads of State.

- **Accelerated Training and Upskilling**

The group focuses on the rapid development and upskilling of key competencies, including mobile knowledge sharing and e-learning, to address the geographical challenges and distance in the region.

- **E-Learning and Technology**

Utilizing advancements in technology, the group plans to incorporate e-learning approaches into the electrification projects to enhance learning and training processes.

- **Procurement of Funding**

One of the priorities is to secure cost-effective funding, especially through grant funding, for electrification projects. This includes seeking donor funding, grants from initiatives like Power Africa, and other funding opportunities.

## KEY PROJECTS OF THE ELECTRIFICATION WORK GROUP

- **Increased Incorporation of Cost-Effective Alternative Energies**

The group aims to include renewable energies and other alternative energy sources in member countries' energy mix. Different countries may have diverse renewable resources such as solar, wind, hydro, and gas, so the focus is on exploring effective and affordable alternatives to mitigate against rising non-technical losses and the influx of renewable generation by third parties.

- **Evolving Business Models**

The electrification work group seeks to evolve business models to accommodate changing technological landscapes, as well as to address the challenges posed by alternative energy sources and distributed generation.

- **Off-Grid Electrification**

The group emphasizes off-grid electrification, particularly microgrids and community-level solutions. They plan to conduct feasibility studies and Bluetooth studies in member countries, focusing on off-grid and microgrid solutions.

- **Formalizing Informal Settlements**

Inspired by South Africa's efforts to formalize informal settlements and proclaimed areas, the group plans to adapt these learnings for the rest of Africa, aiming to improve electrification in these areas.

- **Densification**

Densification strategies will be applied to existing low-tariff industrial areas to improve energy efficiency and electrification.

## 6.3 ASSET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY WORKGROUP

Nkateko Khoza presented the Asset Management Advisory Committee's progress since the last session in February 2023.

- **Mandate**

Nkateko Khoza tabled the WG's mandate, which includes providing leadership, transferring knowledge, and offering direction on infrastructure asset management.

The WG is responsible for identifying improvement initiatives that can benefit members' business efficiencies.

- **Promotion of Discipline**

The Advisory working group also aims to promote infrastructure asset management as a discipline to enhance service delivery, aligning with industry standards such as ISO 55000

- **Deliverables and Templates**

Nkateko Khoza outlined the key deliverables and templates that the Asset Management workgroup has been working on to support member utilities in aligning with ISO 55000 standards.

- **Asset Management Plan Template**

The asset management WG has developed a strategic plan template that specifies the activities, resources, and timelines required to achieve an organization's asset management objectives for individual assets or asset groups. It serves as a guide for managing assets throughout their lifecycle.

- **Standardization**

ISO 55000 is an international standard for asset management, and the committee's reference to it indicates a commitment to aligning practices with globally recognized guidelines.

- **Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**

Asset management plays a critical role in ensuring the efficient operation and maintenance of infrastructure assets. The collaboration within the Asset Management Advisory Committee allows members to share best practices, experiences, and strategies for effective asset management.

#### **6.4 SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY WORKGROUP.**

Dr. Govender shared his insights and experiences related to the Sustainability Workgroup and indicated that the working group has developed a work plan with milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs) for 2022. The details of this plan will be shared later.

- **Longevity and Representations**

Dr. Govender mentioned that he has been a part of the committee since 2006 and has served as both a member and the Chair. He highlighted the importance of having representation from various utility companies, such as ZESCO in Zambia, LDC in South Africa, ESSET in Malawi, ZESA in Zimbabwe, UMEME in Uganda, and AIM-U in Uganda.

- **Changing Representation:**

He noted that representation has changed over the years, and some utility companies are no longer sending representatives from their environmental and safety departments. He lists some of the utility companies that have been represented and those that are currently not represented.

- **Challenges Faced:**

Dr. Govender outlined several challenges faced by the Sustainability Workgroup:

1. The substantial workload and the need for representatives to allocate time for the group's activities, which can conflict with their responsibilities at their own utilities.
2. Limited support from line managers in terms of time allocation during office hours for Sustainability Workgroup tasks.

3. The financial burden of attending meetings, as travel and accommodation costs are usually not covered by the workgroup or utility budgets.

- **Effect on Outputs**

These challenges have affected the effectiveness of the workgroup, leading to delays in delivering outputs.

- **Issues with Work Group Representation**

Dr. Govender raised the issue of representatives being at different organizational levels (not necessarily senior managers) and how this can impact their ability to provide feedback and cross-pollinate information within their utilities

## **6.5 REVENUE PROTECTION ADVISORY WORKGROUP**

Rens Bindeman presented the Revenue Protection working group progress and its focus on non-technical losses and revenue protection strategies, highlighting that the group's main goal is to standardize revenue protection practices and address issues related to illegal activities and non-technical losses in the utilities sector.

- **Deliverables**

Rens mentioned several initiatives and standards that the group has worked on, including ISO55000 and ISO101, which provide guidelines for revenue protection and infrastructure crimes. He presented the challenges of dealing with issues like ghost vending (where vending machines are stolen or cloned to issue unauthorized tokens) and rogue meters (meters being used in unauthorized ways), and how the group is working on legal and regulatory approaches to address these challenges.

- **Criminal Methods Amendment Act**

Rens mentioned the Criminal Amendment Act in South Africa, which has provisions related to tampering with essential infrastructure, including meters. The group is exploring ways to propagate similar legal changes to other African countries.

- **Cyber Security Standards**

Rens discussed the existing cyber security standards that are in place and to provide web links or copies for interested parties to access. He also emphasized the importance of cyber security, especially given the growing threats and attacks in the digital world, also discussed plans to adopt approved cyber security standards and mentioned the potential for new resources and communication improvements within the work group.

## **7. NEXT JOINT WORKGROUP MEETING**

- 28 February 2024

## **8. CLOSURE**

The Executive Officer thanked all members present and closed the meeting.

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