World Energy Outlook 2019

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Context

• The energy world is marked by a series of deep disparities, between:
  - The calm in well-supplied oil markets versus deep geopolitical tensions and uncertainties
  - The need for rapid cuts in emissions, while these emissions reach historic highs
  - The promise of energy for all, while 850 million people remain without access to electricity

• Cost reductions & digitalisation are boosting new technologies, but they still need a helping hand from policy

• More than ever, energy decision makers need to take a hard, evidence-based look at the choices ahead

• The World Energy Outlook does not forecast what will happen; it explores different possible futures
The last century has witnessed multiple transitions to and from different fuels and technologies. The challenge today is one of scale: global energy use is ten times higher than in 1919.
Shale can stay higher for longer

The dramatic growth of recent years in US shale is set to slow, but the resources are there to maintain high output for many years to come. This provides a strong counterweight to efforts to “manage oil markets.”
When consumers needed more energy in the past, they traditionally turned to oil. In the future, they turn first to electricity – even more so in the Sustainable Development Scenario.
Developing economies in Asia account for half of global growth in gas demand, with industrial consumers taking the largest share, and this provides the spur for almost all the growth in gas trade, led by LNG.
With rapidly rising population and a major switch away from the traditional use of biomass, Africa emerges as a major source of global growth for oil, natural gas and renewables.
The power mix is being re-shaped by the rise of renewables and natural gas. In 2040, renewables account for nearly half of total electricity generation.
Electricity moves to the heart of modern energy security

Hour-to-hour adjustments required in power systems due to variability in demand, wind and solar

Global needs for flexibility double to 2040, but today's market designs may not bring sufficient investment to deliver it, e.g. in power plants, networks, demand-side response and energy storage, including batteries.
No single or simple solutions to reach sustainable energy goals

A host of policies and technologies will be needed across every sector to keep climate targets within reach, and further technology innovation will be essential to aid the pursuit of a 1.5°C stabilisation.
Conclusions

• Energy policies are adjusting to new pressures and imperatives, but the overall response is still far from adequate to meet the energy security and environmental threats the world now faces.

• The oil & gas landscape is being profoundly reshaped by shale, ushering in a period of intense competition among suppliers & adding impetus to the rethink of company business models & strategies.

• Solar, wind, storage & digital technologies are transforming the electricity sector, but an inclusive and deep transition also means tackling legacy issues from existing infrastructure.

• Energy is vital for Africa’s development, and Africa’s energy future is increasingly influential for global trends as it undergoes the largest urbanisation the world has ever seen.

• All have a part to play, but governments must take the lead in writing the next chapter in energy history and steering us onto a more secure and sustainable course.