

Background information on the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was founded in Bonn, Germany, on 26 January 2009. So far, **79 countries** have signed the Statute – 29 African countries, 27 European countries, 16 Asian countries and 7 in Latin America.

The purpose of IRENA is to provide support and advice to industrialised and developing countries in expanding the use of renewable energy sources. IRENA will promote and accelerate the global dissemination of all renewable energy sources that are sustainably used. IRENA is to provide resource persons who can pass on knowledge about successful policies and practical applications as well as technological know-how in the field of renewable energy.

As early as on 27 January 2009, one day after the IRENA founding conference, the signatories set up a Preparatory Commission. The Preparatory Commission will act as an interim body until IRENA's Statute enters into force after ratification by the 25th party. After that, IRENA's first regular Assembly will be held and the Preparatory Commission will be dissolved. IRENA will then consist of an Assembly, a Council and a Secretariat.

In the period until then, the Preparatory Commission will be developing the organization. Application procedures for countries wishing to host the Agency and for persons interested in assuming the post of Interim Director-General have already been launched.

At its second meeting, which will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh on 29-30 June 2009, the Preparatory Commission will take a decision on IRENA's seat and determine an Interim Director-General. The Interim Director-General will immediately proceed with the development of the organization.

The Agency's budget will be financed through mandatory contributions. In addition, specific activities will be financed from voluntary contributions and project-related voluntary contributions. In the start phase, the budget will be based on voluntary contributions from the signatories.

The Agency's tasks will include, among others,

- working with its member states to improve the policy environment for the use of renewable energy,
- engaging in cooperation on technology transfer issues in the area of renewable energy, and
- supporting capacity building measures in the field of renewable energy.

The Agency will advise its member states using an integrated, practice-oriented approach that takes account of country-specific circumstances.

To that end, IRENA will pursue specific activities:

- policy advice,
- advice on financing and technology issues, and
- processing and provision of information, including reliable scientific data.

IRENA's focus comprises all forms of renewable energy.

For further information about IRENA, visit www.irena.org.