
INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

Seventh session of the Assembly

Abu Dhabi, 14 – 15 January 2017

Report of the Director-General on secondment and related matters

1. The present report on secondment and related matters is submitted in response to paragraph 9 of the Assembly decision A/2/DC/5 requesting the Director-General to report to the Assembly at its third session, and thereafter on a biennial basis, on the implementation of its decision. This report provides an update on how the arrangements for secondment and loan have been implemented since the last report on this matter was presented to the Assembly at its fifth session in January 2015.

A. Implementation of the secondment arrangements

2. The secondment regime approved by the Assembly in decision A/2/DC/5 contemplates two types of arrangements.

3. Under the first such arrangement (detailed in paragraphs 25 and 26 of document A/2/9), an *individual* who is employed by a government, public sector entity or an international organisation is selected for a vacant position in the Agency and is appointed as a staff member of the Agency, with the same rights, duties and obligations as any other IRENA staff member, on the understanding that, at the end of the secondment period, this individual will return to the entity that released him or her for service with IRENA. IRENA Staff Regulations contemplate that such secondment arrangement be evidenced by the letter of appointment of the individual on secondment signed by the individual and by or on behalf of the Director-General, and relevant supporting documentation of the terms and conditions of the secondment agreed to by the seconding entity and by the individual.

4. During the reporting period, one staff member was appointed under such arrangement from April 2013 to April 2015. At present, there is no staff member seconded under such arrangement.

B. Implementation of the voluntary contributions mechanism for the appointment of staff members

5. Under the second type of secondment arrangement (set forth in paragraphs 6 and 7 of decision A/2/DC/5), governments, public sector entities or international organisations which have agreed to participate in the corresponding programme, typically the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) or Associate Expert programme, make voluntary contributions to the Agency to finance the full cost of hiring and administering qualified staff members for periods of one to three years to perform services that are: (i) consistent with the objectives of the work programme and (ii) require resources not provided by mandatory contributions by Members. The selected individuals are appointed as staff members of IRENA with the same rights, duties and obligations as any other IRENA staff member.

6. During the reporting period, two staff members were appointed under such arrangement pursuant to the agreement between IRENA and Germany concerning the employment of Associate Experts at IRENA. After the first such arrangement ended in January 2016, one staff member was appointed under this programme to serve with the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC). Another individual, also seconded by Germany under this programme, is expected to join before the end of 2016.

7. The Director-General is aware that some Members may not be in a position to make the voluntary contributions required to participate in this secondment programme and wishes to recall that there are other opportunities and mechanisms for nationals of all countries to participate in the work of the Agency, including selection for vacant positions and internships under established procedures, the programme for junior professional associates, and loan arrangement as mentioned in paragraphs 8 and 9 below. The participation of several interns in IRENA's work has thus been supported by the Republic of Korea.

C. Implementation of the loan arrangements

8. In its decision A/2/DC/5, the Assembly encouraged the Director-General to conclude loan arrangements from a broad range of sources of personnel, including governments, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and any other entity having demonstrated expertise in the field of renewable energy and other relevant fields, including universities, research institutions, as well as not-for-profit and for-profit entities, provided that certain safeguards, as outlined in document A/2/9, are put into place.

9. Five loan arrangements were concluded with three Members during the reporting period and four individuals are currently serving the Agency in different positions thereunder. One loaned officer from Japan is working with the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) based in Bonn and another from China is expected to join IITC during the month of September 2016; and two are loaned from the United Arab Emirates working with the Strategic Management and Executive Direction (SMED) based in Abu Dhabi.

10. The Secretariat will continue its engagement with Members in discussing strategies to receive individuals under secondment and loan arrangements.